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Sunderland**

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**University of  
Sunderland**



Canterbury  
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# Employability from Computer Forensics Programmes

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# Objectives

- Consider employability for computer forensics graduates in computer forensics and in other computing jobs
- Share case studies from graduates to indicate range of opportunities
- Discuss impact on curriculum

# Why Consider Employability ?

- As we move towards Sept 2012 indications are that students and potential students will be much more focussed on employment opportunities
- Getting employability right will lead to a virtuous spiral with more students coming onto our programmes

# Potential Issues to Consider

- Are students in a position to work in computer forensics environment ?
  - Curriculum coverage
  - Practical experience
- Security clearance
- Types of student jobs
  - Awareness
- “Different” expectations from employers
- Saturated job market

# Other Employability Considerations

- Are there computer forensics jobs out there for graduates?
  - Large firms, SMEs, set up own company ?
- Does it matter
  - Pragmatically ?
  - Morally ?
- Are computer forensics employers ready for graduates ?
- Balance between education and experience
- Accreditation ??
- Are computer forensics students in a position to do other computing jobs ?

# Student 1 – Forensic Job

- Starting applying in Autumn of previous year for the 'Milk Round'
- Working for Law Enforcement HTCU

# Student 2 – Security Job

- Starting applying in Autumn of previous year for the ‘Milk Round’
- Working for Security Services
  - Should we even be sharing this information ??
  - Can we use in publicity ??



# Student 3 – KTP Associate

- Graduate employed as associate for KTP
- Built on long standing relationship with employer

# Student 4 – Further Study

- Applied in March for a funded place for further study
- Funded MSc

# Student 5 – ‘Career Change’

- Applied in March for a funded place for further study
- Funded PGCE Place
- Now teaching
- Has asked about MSc study!

# Student 6 – Widened the Search

- Didn't apply at the right time for anything but decided to go for a general computing job
- PC Support at a school

# Top reasons not to get a job/further study

- Not applying at the right time
- Not widening the search to encompass all computing jobs
- Not widening the search to encompass all jobs requiring “graduateness”
- Not understanding the application/testing/interview process

# What have we done about it?

- Employability and Careers Service sessions on applications/testing/interviews
- Good Links with PGCE guys at CCCU
- MSc at CCCU
- Recommendations for other postgraduate study ([findamasters.com](http://findamasters.com) and [findaphd.com](http://findaphd.com))
- Let me know about your own postgraduate programmes! 😊

# Summary

- There are issues particular to computer forensics in identifying employment opportunities
- Need to work closely with computer forensics employers to allow for graduate pathway
  - In understanding job requirements
  - Getting employers to engage in curriculum design / delivery