Employability is at the heart of **Southampton Solent University**.

The University is committed to make its courses count in the job market through integrated work experience, contemporary relevance and professional body accreditation. Our lecturers have practitioner expertise and links to industry that bring work experience, live briefs, guest lecturers, networking opportunities and professional mentors to our courses.

But more than this, we offer an **exciting package** that combines support and opportunity while you are with us **AND** after you leave.

1. Real world experience and placements

Our courses offer live projects and work experience integrated into coherent academic pathways that offer excellent preparation for the world of work. You might undertake a product design brief from furniture giant IKEA, a project on sport fitness therapies for the disabled, produce a promotional DVD for a local company, a report on first-class cricket at the Hampshire Rose Bowl, or build a test-tank model of a container ship. Strong industry ties mean we offer unique opportunities for hands-on professional practice, like management work for a Southampton cruise company, or broadcasting from Glastonbury Festival.

2. Graduate opportunities and jobs

The Jobs Dashboard is the University's exclusive site for all local and national jobs, placements and graduate work, found on our student portal.
Graduate Jobs South promotes excellent regional work for graduates and students (1,650 graduate opportunities and 250 placements in 2012-13)
Every year Campus Jobs offers extensive paid work on campus (over 1000 students undertook work in 2012-13) enabling students to contribute to the University community in a wide range of temporary and long term positions.
Solent Creatives is the University's creative agency and offers opportunities for students from over 30 disciplines to gain experience of working for real clients, of being freelance and to develop entrepreneurial skills.
Solent Productions is the University's media production centre specialising in providing film, broadcast, editing and post-production services to corporate clients and the voluntary sector. Through this, students and graduates gain real life learning experience. Clients include Cowes Week, Southampton City Council and Ordnance Survey.

3. Paid graduate associateships or internships

Our paid graduate associate programme is designed to help students get onto the graduate jobs ladder. It offers graduate entry level work on vital projects within the University and regional businesses for up to one year, all paid, professionally designed and properly supported.

4. Business start-up

We offer a variety of accredited and non-accredited courses on how to 'start-up your own business', subsidised 'incubation' space and financial, mentoring and training support for the best ideas (creating 40 - 50 new student and graduate businesses each year). Supported by our students' own entrepreneurs society, 'Solent Sparks' and entrepreneurial alumni groups, there is a particular focus on creative subjects where free-lancing and self-employment provide rewarding career options.

5. Voluntary and Social Enterprise activities

In addition to start ups, over 500 students each year join our extensive programme of voluntary action, which includes projects in the community and sports coaching in schools. In December 2010 our recycling initiative, Eco Ernie won a prestigious *Times Higher Education* Award. In 2012 our new SIFE team (Students in Free Enterprise) won the award for the best national citizenship scheme. In autumn 2012, we opened a new Centre for Student Involvement as a focal point for these activities, in a joint initiative with our Students' Union. Through the Curriculum Plus programme, students can gain academic credit for extracurricular study and achievements , including learning languages, volunteering, sports coaching and business planning.

6. Mentoring schemes

Another powerful option is the University's well-developed range of Mentoring schemes. Students learn a variety of professional and personal skills through contact with a professional mentor, a graduate mentor or from a more experienced student. These mentoring relationships are vital to prepare students for the business world, and make them aware of their options and networks. Employers have included the BBC, Captec Ltd, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Hampshire Constabulary, Skandia, Carnival UK, E3 Consulting, Pan's Lodge Interior Design Ltd, Plug and Play.

For further information: www.solent.ac.uk/student-life/employability-enterprise/home.aspx