Career research interview

The career research interview is a way of finding out what a job is really like and to talk to someone who is actually doing it. The more people you talk to, the better picture you will have of different roles and workplaces.

Step 1- What you need to do

- Interview someone working in an occupation or industry you are considering, preferably someone with at least 5 years experience.
- Use your networks to locate a prospective interviewee (see RMIT FACT Sheet on Networking- Career Research)
- Contact them by phone or email and ask them if they can spare 20-30 minutes of their time to help you in your career research.

Step 2 - Questions to ask

Try to cover the following questions:

- Where are past graduates of your course working?
- What skills are needed to work in the industry?
- What do you like about the job?
- Is there anything you dislike?
- What are the opportunities and what are the likely trends and changes in the field?
- Who are the major employers in the field?
- What strategies should be used to find a job in the field?

Step 3 - Use the information

Using the information from the interview ask yourself these questions:

- In what ways do your personality, interests, value and skills match this field? (See the About Me section in Career Track)
- What skills, abilities and experiences will you need to further develop or acquire to be able to move into the field?
- How can you begin building networks in this field?
- Can you find related work experience before leaving RMIT?
- Are there career opportunities outside your specific vocation?
- What does your research suggest about the management of your career?
- Does this career fit in with your other lifestyle goals?
- Will this job allow you to express your creative abilities?
- Can you identify a career path structure in this industry or occupation?
- Would this job allow you to achieve your future career goals?
- What more do you need to know or try out?