

## Career Management Skills at the University of Southern Denmark

The University of Southern Denmark (SDU) has incorporated a course in Career Management Skills in its study programmes. The course prepares students for life after graduation by providing them with the knowledge and understanding of how to better relate their competencies to the needs of the labour market.

From the autumn of 2014, the University offered a pilot course to students on four different Master's programmes. Since then, the course has been expanded to a large number of study programmes in all of the University's faculties so as to include elements that focus on future careers in the students' education. The tuition of Career Management Skills is offered as an elective or is coupled to an internship, both on the bachelors and masters level. The University is the first in Denmark to incorporate Career Management Skills as an ECTS-accredited course.

Jacob Krummes, the Head of Department at SDU Research and Innovation Organisation (SDU RIO), states that "many students do not voluntarily take advantage of the offers concerning career guidance that we have, so we made it mandatory for all students to have to reflect on these aspects at one point in their education."

The course focuses on how students can use their academic knowledge and competencies on the labour market, for example during internships, and teaches them how to network, to create a good LinkedIn profile and to write CVs and job applications. The course challenges the students to use their knowledge in a practical setting, particularly with a focus on problem-solving. In this way, the



course better connects the students, who learn how to relate and articulate their competencies, with the labour market.

Line Krogh-Nielsen, a former student of Career Management Skills, noted that the course "helped me as a student to translate the theory I have learnt into practice [and] provided me with the tools to identify what I can offer a company – based on what I have learnt in my study programme".

According to Kim Bæksgaard Hansen, the Academic Coordinator for SDU's Career Counselling Services, largely all other universities in Denmark have looked to the University for inspiration and some universities are now beginning to offer similar courses.

*Watch a video by SDU and hear more about the course in Career Management Skills:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwF\\_PNcabzk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwF_PNcabzk)

### Sources

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