Hi, I'm Helen Pierce from the School of Divinity History, Philosophy and Art History, which we often abbreviate to DHPA. Within the school I am the Student Engagement and Employability Lead, and I'm very pleased to have Julia Leng with us today, who's from the Careers and Employability Service.

**So, Julia, can you tell me something about your role?**

Yes, I can. So my name is Julia Leng, I'm the careers adviser for the school of Divinity, History, Philosophy and Art history and also School of Social Sciences. So at the Career Service, we help students to explore options, develop key skills and connect with employers. And of course, we can talk a little bit about that in this video.

What that means for you is I can help you decide what you want to do after leaving university,

be that a graduate job or further study, or actually taking time out as well. Whilst you're a student, if you're looking for a part time job or an internship work experience, some way to develop your skills, I can help you find opportunities to do just that.

**So Julia, can you tell us a bit more about what the careers and employability service can help students with?**

Yes, absolutely. So we offer a range of services to suit your needs. We have our guidance appointments, so if you did want some advice, as I was talking about just now, you could book a guidance appointment with myself. We would sit down just as Helen and I are just now and we would talk about whatever was on your mind. Any thoughts, queries, concerns you might have. These are informal discussions.

You don't need to do any preparation beforehand, and that's just really something that you can come to any point in first year, fourth year or after you've graduated as well. So we are open to students for life after graduation to access careers advice. We also have our CV and cover letter appointments where you can get feedback if you're applying to a part time job or an internship or graduate job. As I said in these appointments, we can also look at application forms, LinkedIn profiles and personal statements, if you're looking to apply for Masters.

We also run co-curricular programs I mentioned that help you to develop your skills. And we've got several that are going on and we're always looking to improve and renew some of our co-curriculum programmes so they're always up to date. These are done alongside your studies, so it's co-curricular. We understand your student. You don't want to spend hours volunteering or you don't have time to do that, you're very busy, obviously, with all your assignments so these are really built to suit your schedule and help you develop those key skills that employers look for.

**Fantastic. And what about your engagement with actual employers? I can see that you have a lot of contact with students. But what about the employers who have the jobs?**

Yes, of course. I mean, that's the most important, really. What do employers want? What do they need? What do students need to know about the world of work?

So we do have an employer liaison officer. She works very closely with employers both to Aberdeen area and actually further afield in the rest of the UK, as I said, trying to figure out how we can help students be best prepared for the world of work after university.

**If let's imagine if I were a student and I were to book an appointment with you, what would I expect from that? Let's say I have no idea what I'm expecting to be doing and having a conversation with you about my career. What will that be all about?**

So it's advice and guidance and information that we can offer. So you would come in, as I said, sit down. I would ask you quite a lot of questions. Probably good, but nothing too difficult, hopefully, more about how you feel, what your thought process is, you know, what you enjoy about your degree, if you've done any research at all.

We will sit down, I'll ask you some questions and if it is more a guidance or advice, I can offer that. And actually, if you just say, give me some websites, where can I go, look on my own time. I can provide a whole list as long as your arm, give you lots and lots of homework. But you can go away in your own time. I should say as well, you're welcome to book more than one appointment. We'd say probably one at a time, but you know, we can have a starter conversation, here's some resources, here's what you've identified as something you're potentially interested in, go away, have a think on your own time, come back and we can take it from there.

**Fantastic. Seems there’s a huge amount of stuff happening at the moment. Is it all happening on campus?**

Yes. So we are very excited to be back on campus. Our office is on the second floor of the Students' Union Building. So if you're coming for your lunch, you can pop upstairs and see us. You can have all your appointments in person. And our careers fairs are in person from now on. If you prefer online you're also very welcome to book an online appointment or over the phone as well if you prefer to give us a call.

**So if a student is interested in coming to see you and wants to make an appointment, when are you actually open and available?**

Good question. We are open 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday. When I say open, the service will be open on the second floor of the Students’ Union Building, you can come in, speak to a member of staff there. We book all of our appointments that’s done on CareerConnect, which you can access with your University login details. Also, CareerConnect is where you’ll find events and other resources. So in terms of resources, we do have a lovely library on the top floor of the Students’ Union Building with books and leaflets, brochures about all sorts of career related topics. And we do have resources available 24/7 on our website. We have over 3000 resources, everything from CVs, personal statements as I said, psychometric tests, career planning resources, it goes on and on and on. So the website is a good place to start. If you’re looking for the website it’s abdn.ac.uk/careers

**Well, thank you very much for explaining to us something of what you're able to offer students within in school.**

Thank you very much. Thank you for having me in your lovely office. Thank you.