CAREER INSIGHTS & GUIDANCE



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THE MAIN CHALLENGES FACING GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY TODAY

In my view, the main challenge facing graduate employability today is the gap between academic preparation and industry expectations. While many graduates possess strong theoretical knowledge, they often lack practical skills, adaptability, and effective communication. Beyond technical competence, issues related to *adab* (manners), attitude, discipline, and work ethics are increasingly highlighted by employers. A positive mindset, willingness to learn, and respect in the workplace are just as important as qualifications. Strengthening industry exposure and character development is therefore essential to enhance overall graduate readiness and employability.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS IN PREPARING FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREERS

Understand what you learn, put it into practice, continue learning, be sincere and honest, and uphold good manners as a person of integrity.

ONE CAREER LESSON LEARNED THE HARD WAY

One career lesson I learned the hard way is that competence alone is not enough. Early in my career, I focused heavily on delivering results but underestimated the importance of communication, relationship-building, and managing expectations. I also realized the value of continuously learning knowledge beyond my own field, as interdisciplinary understanding broadens perspective and adaptability. That turning point reshaped my approach, reminding me that growth requires both professional expertise and lifelong learning.

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