CV Writing

Feb 2024





Meet the team – we are here to help



Fiona Telford –Careers Consultant Mondays & Tuesdays



Josh Phillips – Careers Consultant Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Contact us on careers@lshtm.ac.uk

By the end of this session you will learn



- Purpose of your CV ٠
- How long a recruiter takes to • read your CV
- Where a recruiter looks on the • CV
- What makes a good CV ٠
- What makes a bad CV
- The best structure for your CV
- What to write on your CV •
- How to write high impact • sentences
- How to put it all together for a • top performing CV

ALISON BRIGHT

25 Green Street, EC3R 4PG, London, UK Tel: 44 72365278953; email: a.bright02@gmail.com

EDUCATION

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INTERESTS

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REFERENCES ON REQUEST

Dec 2009-Sept 2015

2004-2006

What is the purpose of a CV



- To get you through to the next stage of the recruitment process
- Give recruiters what they want...

How long does a recruiter take to read your CV



7.4 Seconds

Source: Eye-Tracking Study, Ladders 2018

Where do recruiters look on the page



Recruiters scan the left side of the CV evenly, picking out titles and reading supplementary information as necessary





- Clear, simple layouts with clearly marked section and title headers - recruiters spend more time focusing on job titles than on any other element
- Layouts that take advantage of F-pattern and E-pattern reading tendencies e.g. bold job titles supported by bulleted lists of accomplishments
- An overview or **mission statement** at the top of the first page of the resume
- Clear fonts

"Good" Example

Rather, they

necessary.





What makes a bad CV



- **Cluttered look and feel**, characterized by long sentences, multiple columns, and very little white space.
- **Poor layout** that did not draw the eye down the page i.e. little use of section/job headers to catch the eye
- Evidence of keyword stuffing—while this strategy can help for automated resume screening, a successful resume will ultimately have to be read by a real person. So keywords should be presented in context

"Bad" Example





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Core Qualifications & Strengths

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 Proceed / Ocstamer Research (Chashering)
- Roma Strategy 9 Fundle Manager en
 Produit Johnshik Life Oyde Management
 Mass Media (TV, Roda, Print, Dieltol, CCH, Local)
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Verizon - Director of Northeast Marketing (Badalog Ridge, NJ & New York, NY)



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Professional Esperiesse

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Chief Marketing Officer & Chief Product Officer | Attensity, Inc., Fac Altr., CA

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Vice President, Instruction Marketing | SAP (acquired BusinessObjects), Palo Ato, 24

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Strong concentration on relatively few areas likely a coping strategy on the part of the recruiter to deal with the sheer volume of information being presented.

What is the best structure



- Name & Contact Details •
- Mission statement (2-3 • lines, who you are, what you're looking for)
- Relevant Experience (Job • title, Organisation, Location, Dates, Skills gained, Evidence, Quantification, Achievements)
- **Education &** ٠ Qualifications
- Additional skills (e.g. IT, ٠ Software, Languages)
- **Interests** (if they match the • job description and add value)
- **1-2 pages** (max)

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REFERENCES ON REQUEST

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Nov 2006-Aug 2008

Dec 2009-Sept 2015

2004-2006

2006-2009

How do you know what to write on your CV



• Take the job description / person specification...

What we're looking for:

- minimum predicted 2.1 degree in any discipline. Those from numerate disciplines are especially encouraged to apply
- research and analysis skills
- project management skills
- organisational skills to meet deadlines and work under pressure
- presentation and influencing skills
- leadership and teamwork skills

How do you know what to write on your CV



 Reverse engineer the information from the 'person spec' and map it directly onto your CV

Person Specification section of JD

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Your CV

Education

University College London – MSc Management 2017-present

1-year masters course that covers the key areas of accounting; finance; organisational behaviour; decision and risk analysis as well as business strategy.

Kings 🗙 llege London – BA Geography

Achieved Grade 2.1

My degree dealt with the impact of human beings on the environment especially in relation to consumer behaviour and how it can be influenced. **Relevant final year options:** the effect of IT on post industrial economies, quantitative research techniques and project management units. Relevant skills gained:

2014-2017

 research and analysis: compiled a questionnaire and analysed around 200 'in-person' and telephone interview responses. Utilised complex statistical techniques (SPSS) to analyse data as well as creating excel-based pivot tables and graphs. Incorporated supporting results into a 40page dissertation report on issues relating to immigration.

Use This Skills Dictionary



Use the Harvard University Competency Dictionary to identify and showcase your relevant skills

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PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Ability to Influence

Uses appropriate interpersonal styles and techniques to gain acceptance of ideas or plans. Effectively explores alternatives to reach outcomes that gain the support and acceptance of others.

Key Actions

- Opens discussions effectively Describes expectations, goals, or requests in a way that provides clarity and excites interest.
- Develops others' and own ideas Presents own ideas; seeks and develops suggestions of others.
- Builds support for preferred alternatives Builds value of preferred alternatives by relating them to others' needs; responds to differing views by emphasizing value; articulates problems with undesirable alternatives.
- Facilitates agreement Uses appropriate influence strategies (such as demonstrating benefits or giving rewards) to gain genuine agreement; persists by using different approaches as needed to gain commitment.



Skill: Evidence + Quantification

Project management: designed and delivered an impact strategy work package for €4m innovation grant with the European Commission

Putting it all together looks something like this...



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- CVs section on LSHTM Moodle <u>here</u>
 - Example CVs
 Information sheets
 Tip videos
 These workshop slides & recording
- CV Video (UCL Careers): <u>8 Steps to a Spectacular CV</u>
- Skills dictionary from Harvard <u>here</u>

Forthcoming events



- Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) Careers Information Session, Fri 23 Feb 13:00-13:30 (online)
- Alumni panel: working with UN and other international organisations - Mon 4 Mar 17:30-19:00
- Interviews Tues 12 Mar 13:00-13:30, repeated Fri 15 Mar 13:00-13:30

See the Careers Moodle page '<u>Forthcoming workshops and events</u>' for full information.



Please complete the feedback form – the link is in the chat

box! <u>https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oaKtcild7U6xlPh0</u> V3cUnib6FT5JU2IKm1h1jmhk5TFUQ1NBQ1gyMkZNTEdINjBKM0tJQjQ3MINTSy <u>4u</u>

Thank you for your time!

And now let's move to your questions.....

