# Graduate Student Career Plan

## 1st Year
- Attend **resume review** sessions in RTH 218
- Register with Viterbi’s Job Board—Viterbi Career Gateway, at viterbi.usc.edu/careers
- Check the graduate student blog at gappblog.usc.edu
- Attend Company Information Sessions to understand industry profiles
- Attend workshops to prepare you for your job search and Career Fairs
- Attend the Viterbi Career Fairs and campus-wide Career Fairs
- Apply in fall for summer internships via Viterbi Career Gateway
- Get involved; talk with faculty, students, and alumni. Join a student organization

## 2nd Year
- Update your resume and Linked-In profile
- Apply for positions through Viterbi Career Gateway
- Meet with a career counselor and attend workshops to fine-tune your job search
- Attend the Viterbi Career Fairs and campus-wide Career Fairs
- Continue to develop your network
- Take on a leadership position within a student organization
- Attend career workshops on how to negotiate the job offer.

## PhD
- Attend resume review sessions in RTH 218 if your plan is to work in industry
- Check the graduate student blog for PhD announcements at gappblog.usc.edu
- Register with Viterbi Career Gateway at viterbi.usc.edu/careers
- Attend Company Information Sessions
- Attend the Viterbi Career Fairs and campus-wide Career Fairs
- Talk with faculty about potential academic careers
- Connect with faculty in your field by attending professional conferences
- Apply for post-doctoral positions

## INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS:
- Visit the Office of International Services (OIS) to learn about Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  - CPT and OPT are for international students who have completed at least one academic year in the U.S.
  - CPT provides work authorization that allows international students to work before graduating in off-campus internships within their field of study
  - OPT is used primarily after graduation, providing international students the ability to gain employment experience in their field of study. Students should apply three months prior to graduation.
  - PhD students registered in dissertation units are eligible to complete full-time CPT for up to a total of 12 months
- Visit the Viterbi Office of Graduate and Professional Programs if you would like to earn credit for your internship
- Research companies hiring international students through www.H1visajobs.com and by reviewing company lists prior to each career fair.

**CONTACT VITERBI CAREER CONNECTIONS FOR HELP WITH YOUR CAREER PLAN:** [Vcareers@usc.edu](mailto:Vcareers@usc.edu) | [viterbi.usc.edu/careers](http://viterbi.usc.edu/careers)