PH.D. STUDENT CAREER PLAN

Viterbi Ph.D. students are eligible to access resources, programs and services provided by the Viterbi Career Connections (VCC) Office in addition to the USC Career Center. For many of you, obtaining the necessary skills and experience to improve your career opportunities was an important component to attending Viterbi. The VCC office recognizes the need to provide career programs and services that are tailored to the unique circumstance and complexities related to graduate students. The following information will help you get started in planning and developing your career plan, so you can obtain the necessary skills employers seek in today’s global workforce.

GETTING STARTED
- Login to Viterbi Career Gateway at https://shibboleth-viterbi-usc-csm.symplicity.com/sso and complete the Professional Integrity and On-Campus Recruitment (OCR) contract. You should also utilize this online job portal to apply for jobs and internships, view the workshop schedule, and RSVP for Trojan Talks (company information sessions).
- Utilize the Experience Viterbi App Career Pathways or Career Success Navigator at viterbigrad.usc.edu/careersuccess to help you draft a resume and cover letter and connect on campus with various student and academic organization to enhance your networking skills.
- Access resources and services from the USC Career Center by visiting their website at https://careers.usc.edu. All Viterbi students have access to both the main USC Career Center and VCC resources and programs. Both offices provide separate counseling sessions, info sessions, workshops, career fairs and career-related events. It is important for you to utilize both resources to maximize your career opportunities.
- Open both newsletters from VCC and the VASE Student Affairs to stay connected about upcoming events and opportunities to engage with employers.
- Attend career-related workshops to help you prepare for internships, networking, interviewing and many more career topics. You are eligible to attend workshops provided by VCC and the USC Career Center. To check for workshop listings visit viterbicareers.usc.edu/workshops and careers.usc.edu/events/
- Attend Trojan Talks (Company Info Sessions) to learn more about specific employers and how to obtain job opportunities from their organizations. Login to both Viterbi Gateway and ConnectSC to RSVP for events.
- Attend Drop-in Career Advising to explore either academic or industry opportunities, improving your CV, and any career-related topics unique to PhD students.
- Discuss with faculty about potential academic careers and or industry contacts to explore the various career opportunities for PhD students.
- Attend professional conferences in your field to connect and network with faculty, industry professionals and other PhD students.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
- Review information at Office of International Studies (OIS) to learn about Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and optional Practical Training (OPT) by visiting their website at ois.usc.edu/employment.
- PhD students registered in dissertation units are eligible to complete full time CPT for up to a total of 12 months.
- Visit the VCC website to obtain information on earning academic credit for your internships by visiting https://viterbicareers.usc.edu/internships/.
- Attend OIS Workshops and Programs to connect with other international students and improve your English language skills.