USC Viterbi
School of Engineering
Career Connections

Doctoral Student
CAREER PLAN

1ST-2ND YEAR

- [ ] **Login to Viterbi Career Gateway, complete your profile and On-Campus Recruitment Agreement**

- [ ] **Utilize the Experience Viterbi App to review and complete career paths related to Ph.D. students**

- [ ] **Create or update your resume using the online tool kit on the viterbicareers.usc.edu website**

- [ ] **Participate in drop-in career advising to learn how to tailor your resume or CV depending on your career goals**

- [ ] **Attend Trojan Talks, workshops, networking events, and Career & Internship Expo each semester**

- [ ] **Read both VASE and VCC Get Hired Newsletters**

- [ ] **Utilize career resources from both VCC & USC Career Center**

- [ ] **Join a student organization and or professional association**

3RD-4TH YEAR

- [ ] **Participate in mock and on-campus interviews**

- [ ] **Explore and consider opportunities in academia and industry**

- [ ] **Apply for internships in the fall semester (summer start)**

- [ ] **Present and attend professional conferences in your industry or areas of career interest**

- [ ] **Network with employers, faculty, staff, and peers**

- [ ] **Join Viterbi Link to find a mentor**

FINAL YEAR

- [ ] **Develop a list of professional references and request letters of recommendation from faculty**

- [ ] **Finalize your post-graduation plans with a Career Advisor**

- [ ] **Apply to full-time positions on Gateway and other websites**

- [ ] **Attend workshops on reviewing job offers and salary negotiation**

- [ ] **Meet with faculty to discuss career goals and referrals**

- [ ] **Complete the First Destination Survey**

- [ ] **Become a Mentor on Viterbi Link**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Review information at Office of International Studies (OIS) to learn about the process of applying for CPT and OPT

PhD students registered in dissertation units are eligible to complete full time CPT for up to a total of 12 months

Visit the viterbicareers.usc.edu/internships to obtain information on earning academic credit for your internship

- [ ] **PhD students need to apply for OPT at least 90 days prior to graduation**

- [ ] **Research companies that hire international students using Interstride and H-1B Employer Data Hub**