

Tips for a Successful Virtual Career Expo

Tip 1: Use a Stable Device

Since you will likely be in a video chat with an employer, consider using a laptop or desktop that is resting on a desk or table. This ensures that your screen does not move while you are talking to the employer. If you decide to use your mobile device, find a way to prop it up so you don't need to hold it. Whatever device you choose to use, make sure the camera works, and that you are either plugged in or are fully charged, with several hours of battery life.

Tip 2: Check Your Wi-Fi or Internet Connection

For the best experience at the Career Expo, you will need a steady and reliable Wi-Fi or internet connection with download and upload speeds of at least 2 Mbps to support video chats. Wired internet connections are often more stable and reliable than wireless.

Tip 3: Inspect Your Background and Lighting

Before video chatting with employers, remember to quickly scan your surroundings to make sure that things are orderly. If possible, use a quiet place where you can concentrate and not be distracted. Lighting is also an important consideration. If there is a bright light behind you, your face will not show up well on camera. Avoid having bright sunny windows directly behind you. Try to have some light on you, so that the employer can see you when you are talking. Bright sunlight directly behind your screen is another thing to avoid.

Tip 4: Dress Professionally

Since a virtual career fair enables employers to see you on camera, professional attire will help you make a good first impression. Many experts advise dressing as if you were attending an interview. Your goal is to have the employer focus on you as a person and not be distracted in any way by what you are wearing.

Tip 5: Turn Wagner Career Directory Notifications On

When you join a queue to chat with an employer at the Virtual Career Expo, you will receive an alert when they invite you to chat. Make sure these [Alert Notification Settings](#) are correct!

Tip 6: Turn Outside Notifications Off

While you are in the live Virtual Career Expo, you will want to focus your attention on connecting with employers. To avoid being distracted, consider turning off notifications for social media, news, and other applications.

Tip 7: Have Your Resume on Hand

While you may have already uploaded your resume for employers to see, you should also have a copy of your resume nearby. An employer may start your video chat by asking you something specific on your resume, and you will want to be able to speak to it without missing a beat. Video chats are short and timed, so you want to make the most of every minute you have with an employer.

Tip 8: Group Chats vs. 1-on-1 Chats

Both group and 1-on-1 chats can be great ways to interact with an employer. Group video chats are a helpful way to learn about an organization, ask general questions, and hear the responses to other students' inquiries. For any organizations you are particularly interested in, 1-on-1 video chats are the best way to make connections with their representatives and speak with them about specific opportunities.

Tip 9: Research and Plan Ahead of Time

Similar to in-person career fairs, you can get more out of the experience if you have researched in advance the employers who will be in attendance, their profiles, and jobs that they are offering. Use

that research to create a prioritized list of organizations with whom you would like to speak, so you know exactly which employer queues to join when the event opens.

Tip 10: Arrive on Time

Similar to an in-person fair, it's best to arrive on time to be the first in line. Unlike an in-person fair, you can join multiple queues at once, so arriving when the event begins means you will get top spots for the employers on your prioritized list.

Tip 11: Take Notes

When you have finished a video chat with an employer, make sure to take notes. You may talk to many representatives over the course of the Career Expo, and you'll want to remember specific information about each conversation for follow up afterwards.

Tip 12: Apply to Jobs

If you enjoyed your video chat with an employer, then check out the organization's job postings (both on the Wagner Career Directory and their own website). Go ahead and show your enthusiasm by applying to jobs right after the Career Expo. After all, finding that great opportunity is why you attended the event!

Tip 13: Send Thank You Notes

After the Virtual Career Expo is over, you can retrieve the names of employer representatives, emails, and notes that you have taken. Use this information to send follow up thank you notes to the representatives, expressing your interest and gratitude for taking the time to video chat with you. Making this extra effort can help the representatives remember you in a positive light.

A final thought

While a virtual career fair may seem quite different at first, in the most important ways, it is just like a regular in-person fair: the employers are still there to find great candidates and you are there to find a great job. While meeting people online is certainly different from the in-person experience, it is still a fantastic way to find an opportunity, as long as you understand the differences and use them to your advantage.