

## Audio script

- Tutor:** OK, Fergus, so we've looked up at your assignment, which was OK. Now, before you go, you know about the jobs fair that's coming up, don't you?
- Fergus:** Yes, it's the week after next, isn't it? The whole week, is that right?
- Tutor:** That's right. Monday through to Friday. I'd suggest making sure you get along there on Tuesday and Wednesday. Engineering companies tend to be more prominent then rather than on Monday or the end of the week.
- Fergus:** Um, yes, I've got the programme for this year. And it looks like those days will be best for me. I'm only in my first year, so I'm not expecting too much from the day. But I've heard you can pick up some valuable ideas for career paths.
- Tutor:** Well, you've still got a few years here, I know, but it's never too soon to make a good impression on potential employers. You've got the programme, so do some research. Have a look at company websites so you've got the basis for a good conversation with the people on the stands.
- Fergus:** Yes, I was looking at one the other day. The boss was being interviewed about their staff development programme, and there are one or two other firms I'm also interested in.
- Tutor:** Mm, that's good. You've made a start already. Remember to think about what you're going to ask people before you turn up. Not how much you're likely to earn, of course! You only discuss salaries at job interviews. No, questions about the skills you need for the job, the kind of personal qualities employers are looking for, that kind of thing.
- Fergus:** Yes, I see what you mean. It's best to go prepared and make the most of the opportunities.
- Tutor:** And I'm sure you don't need telling that it's a good idea to dress correctly for the event. You need to give off a professional air.
- Fergus:** Well, I won't be buying anything special for the occasion, that's for sure. I've got a suit and tie at my parents' but I don't have time to collect it. I'll make an effort, though. A nice pair of trousers and a jacket, nothing too formal.
- Tutor:** I'm sure you'll look the part. By the way, you'll often find companies have more than one representative, maybe someone from marketing handing out free gifts, someone who'll explain the interview process, an ex-student who now works for them, that kind of thing. Try and direct your questions towards the best person.
- Fergus:** Yes, that's a good idea. I'd certainly be keen to talk to any ex-students that are around.
- Tutor:** I'm sure you'll find the whole thing really useful. It's important to go to these events, and we always get great feedback from students who've attended. As long as you go with the right expectations. It's unlikely you'll come away with the promise of a job, of course. It's more about discovering what companies are looking for in potential employees.
- Fergus:** Yes, plus they're a great opportunity to practise things like networking, meeting new people, talking about yourself and what you do, d'you know what I mean?
- Tutor:** Definitely, yes. There'll be several high-profile companies in the engineering sector, and you'll have the chance to get to know some useful people. If they give you their card or contact information, make sure you keep it safe. It's a sign they like you and want you to keep in touch.