The New-Grad Networking Starter Kit

Launch your professional network with confidence using this comprehensive checklist. Whether you're building connections on campus, reaching out to alumni, or navigating LinkedIn, these actionable steps will help you create meaningful relationships that support your career journey. Save this guide and check off each milestone as you grow your network authentically and strategically.

Kickstart Your Network

- Connect with at least 10 alumni in your major
- Send a friendly introduction message
- Follow 5 to10 companies you're interested in on LinkedIn

Build Relationships on Campus

- Go to office hours once a month
- Talk to guest speakers after class
- Join one club related to your interests
- Attend at least one event each semester

Reach Out the Right Way

- Ask for advice, not a job Keep your first messages
- short and human
- Mention something you
- genuinely found
- interesting

Have Better Conversations

Ask open-ended questions

Listen more than you talk

Take notes afterward

Follow Up Like a Pro

Send a thank-you message within 24 hours

Share an update a few weeks later

Stay connected by reacting to or commenting on their posts

Grow Naturally

Introduce connections to each other when it makes sense

Share articles, podcasts, or resources someone might appreciate

Support their wins 4 promotions, projects, new jobs

Keep It Real

Be honest about what you're looking for

Don't try to impress anyone

Show gratitude every step of the way

Pro Tip: Networking isn't about collecting contacts 4 it's about cultivating genuine relationships. Focus on being helpful, curious, and authentic. The best connections are built on mutual respect and shared interests, not transactional exchanges.

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