

CareerEco Virtual Fairs – Frequently Asked Questions for Students

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, University Career Services

What is a Virtual Fair?

Virtual fairs are online versions of a traditional in-person career or info fair event. They utilize specialized websites, such as CareerEco, to connect employers and students for employment opportunities through a one-day online career fair/networking event for students. The employers represent a range of career fields, just like at an in-person event, but you can attend the fair from anywhere!

How do I Participate?

Participants need only a computer and internet access to participate. Webcams, avatars, and photos are NOT required. Interactions between employers and participants will be primarily through text chatting. Here are two tutorial resources that may help acclimate you to the CareerEco platform:

- CareerEco Video Tutorial https://player.vimeo.com/video/106122434 (4 minutes)
- CareerEco FAQ https://www.careereco.com/Fair/RenderPage?fairPageId=9f56e643-b0c4-45ad-8590-a3de014e3ad1
- PhD & Masters Virtual Career Expo FAQ's (from the Spring 2020 Fair)
 https://www.careereco.com/Fair/RenderPage?fairPageId=da5f9917-0b54-421b-aa73-aa7600d749cf

Attire and Appearance

We encourage students to dress and be groomed appropriately for any event where they may meet an employer through video chat. However, we do want to acknowledge the current situation we are in, and as such, have asked our employers to give grace to our students who may not have the resources to purchase appropriate attire or grooming. UCS has emphasized diversity, equity, and inclusion to our employers and asked them to consider that any students' perceived shortcomings may not be a sign of a student's attitude, seriousness, or professionalism. If you have concerns, do reach out to a career counselor who can assist you with a strategy, and direct you towards resources.

Technology, Surroundings, and Physical Space

For the best experience, participants should log on using an up-to-date version of Google Chrome (preferred) or Firefox from a desktop/laptop; these are required to be able to view/hear any multimedia broadcasts presented by employers. The most up-to-date versions of Safari and Internet Explorer will also work; however, you will not be able to see presentations or participate in one-to-one video chats.

Students may request 1:1 video chats with an employer, but only employers can initiate the video -- these requests must be accepted by the recipient. We encourage students who participate in video chats at the virtual fair to try your best to find a quiet space when you do so. We have also encouraged our employers to consider our current circumstances when making judgements related to a student's surroundings and physical space when utilizing the video feature on CareerEco. The same perspective is also encouraged for a student's technical capabilities and internet bandwidth. You want to make your first impression a good one, so if you are unable to video chat, or the option is not a good one for you at the time of the request, do let the employer know. Remember:

- Your skills and experiences speak volumes compared to a slow internet and a "not so quiet" space.
- Consider asking for contact information in case your internet connection is lost.
- Suggest a phone call if you are uncomfortable with having a video chat session due to physical space, family circumstances, computer reliability, etc.

If I have a Technical Question about the Fair, Whom should I Ask?

If you have a technical question about the fair, please go to the CareerEco chat room, which will be staffed by people who can quickly help you navigate the event.

If I have a Question about Making the Most of the Fair, Interviewing Advice or Follow up Strategies, Whom should I Ask? UCS and several department-based career services offices will have chat rooms available in the virtual fair. If you have a question about best practices for working with employers on aspects of your job search, including etiquette during the event, please visit the career chat room of your choice.