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1. **What advice would you give students wanting to enter a career in GIS?**
   Yes GIS can be a career in it's own right, for example, managing mapping data within government or an organisation. I think rarely is GIS a person's sole interest! So, I would encourage people to look widely at other industries and professions that need those GIS skills which may not have 'map making' or GIS as their main role.   For example in Retail, Heritage, Architectural, and Planning consultancies or others. When I finished my degree in GIS, I ended up getting work within a local government planning department as a planning technician. It wasn't a GIS career but did require use of geospatial knowledge. I was also able bring and different perspective to work place tasks and apply my knowledge. Whilst I am not a strictly speaking a GIS professional, my knowledge of geospatial technologies has enabled me to work on a variety of projects and organisations as a consultant, knowledge of the actual process of mapping is always useful.

2. **Can you suggest anywhere that students might find vacancies/opportunities?**
   This is hard to answer and really depends on what you want to do! I might link back to the first question and encourage you to look at a wide variety of professions and industries. Often social media is a good place to start, and knowing which search terms to use is incredibly useful when searching the web. Start by looking at professional organisations trade/industry bodies first and see who is sponsoring them. The big organisations often do the sponsorship and will have graduate programs and their own job sites. Also LinkedIn is a good place to start, I know it's not for everyone, but it's a good place to demonstrate your work and make connections beyond your local bubble. Many organisations advertise jobs here as well.

3. **If students can't secure a job straight away what advice would you give them that could help them to stand out/be ready to secure a job?**
   This is a tricky one to answer, personally I couldn't find a job in the industry I wanted at the beginning so ended up applying for a related job(sort of). It was demoralising at the time as I had my heart set on a particular career path, but I don't regret that decision now. It was a

great start as it turns out! For me the advice was to be flexible when looking for work, your career path is not written in stone. Plenty of my friends from University do not work in the industry that their degrees suggested they would! So try and be persistent and creative. If you can, look at volunteering, for example, help a local group map their projects. Then look to additional training on software or courses related to your interests, there are plenty of free resources. If it's software many organisations now have 'home licences' so you can continue to craft your skills. Enter competitions if there are any too. Then when someone asks you about a gap in your CV you have an answer for them. I don't think employers mind if you show a willingness to fill your time. Lastly be mindful of your mental health as well because sitting at home waiting for the perfect job can be difficult.

4. **What has been the impact of Covid-19 you have had on your work?**
   Well the biggest impact is in meetings and travel, everyone is doing meetings online via video conferencing software and not travelling! All my professional conferences are now online. My advice is to practice these skills, know where the mute button is. Ensure you are familiar with the controls and functions of video conferencing software. I also think a big future skill is the ability to work remotely without supervision.

5. **What areas of GIS do you think will be the key areas to focus on in the future?**
   The GIS industry is moving faster and faster mostly I think the focus is on integration with the wider world smart cities and IoT. There is big pushes towards, cloud computing with many tools being used online. Artificial Intelligence, game technologies (yes viewing geospatial data in game engines like Unreal Engine and Unity) are some big topics. GIS is even more integrated with industries and you'll see push to 'solutions' rather than software. Lastly the opensource and opendata communities have had a transformational effect on the industry which means GIS is being democratised.