

# How to...get started with your career research

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**Not sure what you want to do?**

**Getting started with your career research:**

## **Self awareness/What jobs might appeal to you?**

- [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/pplanner](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/pplanner) - asks you questions about what you want from a job and generates job ideas.
- [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/Options](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/Options) - options with different degree subjects. What career paths do people studying for your degree often follow? (Remember, many people do not use their actual subject directly in a job.)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/personalitytests](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/personalitytests) - Numerous studies have shown that it is important to consider your personality when thinking about job choice.
- [www.windmillsonline.co.uk/interactive](http://www.windmillsonline.co.uk/interactive) - well known self assessment tool.

Think about what might be important to you in a career. What are your main work/life priorities? Who do you want to be working with? What sort of environment do you see yourself in?

## **Career Research/What job roles are out there?**

- [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/Occupations](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/Occupations) - explore types of jobs. This occupational database gives in-depth job profiles of different graduate roles. You can find out about entry requirements – would you need to do further study or could you go straight into it? Look at the personal qualities listed for each role – do they reflect yours?

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- <http://careersadvice.direct.gov.uk/helpwithyourcareer/> click on *Job Profiles* on left margin. This is a very useful database of over 700 job profiles which also encompasses non-graduate careers.
- Increase your commercial awareness. Read background sector reports about different career areas [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/sectorbs](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/sectorbs)

## What else could I be doing?

Make yourself as “employable” as possible. Look at:

- [www.mmu.ac.uk/goportal](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/goportal) for some practical suggestions for increasing your employability – ideas for students and graduates, or:
- [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students-and-graduates/making-yourself-employable.php](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students-and-graduates/making-yourself-employable.php)

Use our MMU handouts in the Careers Centre for lots of other useful information e.g. look at “*How to find local vacancies*” These are also available online:

- [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students-and-graduates/resources/guides/](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/students-and-graduates/resources/guides/)

Get your CV checked in a “quick query” appointment at the Careers Centre.

Check the Careers Service website regularly:

- [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers) for general information, fairs, news etc.
- [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/coves](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/coves) - graduate and part-time jobs and placements.