

Freelancing in the Creative Industries

Careers & Employability Service

www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides



**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

This document is available in alternative formats – Please contact careers@mmu.ac.uk for details.

Many creatives have to work on a freelance basis either because it is the industry norm or because the only way to be considered for advertised jobs is to have a track record built up through freelance work.

In many ways, working on a freelance basis is the same as setting up in business but there are additional considerations for those in the creative arts as well as, on occasion, highly specific sources of funding including scholarships and residencies that can enable you to develop your work. A number of web sites therefore provide detailed information to support freelancers in the creative industries.

There are also many sites providing online showcases, galleries and freelance postings. These are listed in the MMU careers guide “*Getting into the Creative Industries*” at www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides. This guide also covers sites that offer advice on creating a portfolio or online profile that will help you to sell your work more effectively.

Freelancing and Creative Business Start Up

Skillset

www.skillset.org/careers/guide/#freelancer
plus ‘Be a successful freelancer in 26 steps’
www.skillset.org/uploads/pdf/asset_6879.pdf?l

The Design Trust Business Start Up Guide

www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/pdf/BSUG_2008.pdf

The Fashion Council Business Start up Guide

www.nesta.org.uk/library/documents/NESTA-CFE-Fashion-toolkit.pdf

NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts)

www.nesta.org.uk

People Per Hour www.peopleperhour.com

Carries short term commissions, especially in design, and offers guidance on making a pitch

Professional Contractors Group www.pcg.org.uk

The professional association for UK freelancers, contractors and consultants

The Launch Pad www.thelaunchpad.org.uk

Business support service for the creative, media and digital sectors in the north of England.

The Toolkit www.thetoolkit.net

Aimed at individuals and groups who are developing creative enterprises and community arts projects in Manchester.

British Arts www.britisharts.co.uk

Offers lists of competitions, commissioning agents and funding sources.

Careers-Creative-Living

www.careers-creative-living.co.uk/events_opportunities?showall

An alternative listing of events and exhibitions specifically for students and graduates maintained by the University of the Arts, London.

Selling Artwork <http://art-support.com/>

Women in Rural Industries (including rural crafts) www.wireuk.org

As a creative, it is also vital that you protect your work, including any materials you place on line: -

Intellectual Property Advice for the Creative Sector www.own-it.org

Design and Artists Copyright Society www.dacs.org.uk

Get Safe Online www.getsafeonline.org.uk

Intellectual Property Office www.ipo.gov.uk

Copyright Service www.copyrightservice.co.uk/

For further information, including a specific section on the creative industries, see the MMU careers guide '**Becoming Self-Employed**' at www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

Useful sites covering business start up in general include: -

National Council for Entrepreneurship in Education

www.ncee.org.uk/students_and_graduates

Encourages graduate business start-up through its Flying Start Programme

www.flyingstartonline.com whilst offering information and practical resources on getting started at www.mihmentoring.com

Prospects www.prospects.ac.uk/links/selfemp

Shell Livewire www.shell-livewire.org (NB: Upper age limit of 30 applies)

Princes Trust www.princes-trust.org.uk (NB: Targets young people who have been unemployed for over 6 months)

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs www.hmrc.gov.uk/startingup

Business Link www.businesslink.gov.uk/northwest

Support for Freelancers and Business Start Up at MMU

Innospace www.innospace.co.uk

MMU's graduate business incubator offering you office space, a range of business services plus extensive start up support and mentoring for £495 a year.

Students are also welcome to join networking events which focus upon ideas creation together with specific aspects of running your own business or freelancing in depth throughout the year through the North West Enterprise Champions programme

www.mmucfe.co.uk/services/providing/enterprise-champions

MMU's Design Lab www.artdes.mmu.ac.uk/designlab

Develops professional practice in design and contemporary crafts through live projects with the region's major public organisations, companies, small design studios, agencies and individual practitioners. This is complemented by **The Media Lab** –

www.media-arts.mmu.ac.uk

M.Enterprise www.artdes.mmu.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/menterprise

Enables creative practitioners to propose and develop their ideas within a commercial environment.

Local Authority Support for Freelancers and Business Start Up

Master classes for all areas of the creative industries together with other forms of support, which may also include start up units and studios, may be offered through local authority units that support the creative industries. Trafford, Cheshire and Lancashire have traditionally been very active in their support of the Arts and Creative Industries: -

Creative Industries Trafford – www.creativeindustriestrafford.org.

Cheshire East www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure_culture_and_tourism.aspx

Cheshire West and Chester

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/sport_and_leisure/arts_and_festivals.aspx

Creative Lancashire www.creativelancashire.org

However, due to the recent cuts in public spending, local authorities may reduce their levels of support in the future.

You can check the current situation in your local authority area by going to the arts and cultural services areas of their web site.

Arts events and master classes in the region are advertised through online networks such as **NW Creative Times** www.creativetimes.co.uk and the **NW Design Initiative** www.designinit.org.uk as well as being circulated among relevant groups on LinkedIn and Twitter.

Creative start up spaces in Manchester include:

Manchester Craft Centre www.craftanddesign.com

The Hive www.thehivemanchester.com

More information about working as a freelancer in your chosen sector including helpful case studies is available in Graduate Prospects at www.prospects.ac.uk/links/occupations. Occupational profiles in the following sections will be of particular relevance: -

- Creative Arts and Design
- Media and Broadcasting
- Performing Arts
- Publishing and Journalism