

Getting into 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.

Creative CVs and Portfolios

Before you start approaching employers for work experience, employment or a commission, you will need to evidence your creative ability. Traditionally, this has been through a CV together with a portfolio and a number of sites offer great tips for creating these: -

The University of the Creative Arts www.ucreative.ac.uk/careers

The University of the Arts in London www.arts.ac.uk/careers.htm

Skillset www.skillset.org/careers

The Perfect Portfolio www.digital-web.com/articles/the_perfect_portfolio

Online portfolios www.noplasticsleeves.com

Job Hunting Tips: Art and Design Students www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

Current MMU students can also refer to '*The Creative CV Guide*' – available in the Careers & Employability Service offices at All Saints and Crewe or available from the University of the Creative Arts at

<http://community.ucreative.ac.uk/index.cfm?articleid=27834>

However, new technology is offering much more scope for imaginative and novel approaches and these days an application is just as likely to take the form of a blog, show reel or film clip.

For further information, see the MMU Careers guide '*Using Social Media for Job Hunting*' at www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides and the '*Social Networking Your Way into Work*' tutorial in the Employability Online programme on Moodle.

Securing Employment and Work Experience in the Creative Industries

There are many jobs boards and specialist recruitment consultancies relating to the creative industries (see the next section of this guide), but most focus upon roles for experienced artists, designers and performers. Occasionally internships, residencies and project work for students and recent graduates are also advertised on the web sites of the relevant professional bodies or online networks but you also need to consider making speculative applications to maximise your chances of securing the type of work you are really interested in.

Professional bodies and trade associations in the creative sector often provide online listings of consultancies and other organisations that may be willing to provide work experience or consider speculative approaches for freelance assignments or paid employment.

Some of these directories offer broad coverage – for example: -

The Design Directory www.designdirectory.co.uk

The Craft Directory www.craftscouncil.org.uk/craft-directory

The Marketing and Creative Handbook www.mch.co.uk

Knowledge Online (for Film, TV and Video) www.theknowledgeonline.com

The Artists and Writers Yearbook www.writersandartists.co.uk

Others only relate to one very specific area of practice - for example, the listings provided by The Textile Institute and The Goldsmiths Company. Links to these can be found in the appropriate occupational profile on **Graduate Prospects** www.prospects.ac.uk/links/occupations

An alternative way of getting relevant work experience is to volunteer with local community arts groups: -

Arts Net Manchester www.artsnetmanchester.co.uk

Arts Net organisations are listed on the **Manchester Community Central Directory** at www.onecentralplace.org

Volunteering MMU www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/coves

Offers a database of voluntary opportunities including a number with creative groups.

Voluntary Arts Network www.voluntaryarts.org

For general opportunities, see the national database of work placements in **Graduate Prospects** www.prospects.ac.uk/links/workexp and the MMU careers guide '**Getting Work Experience**' in www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

Portfolio Galleries and Creative Jobs Boards

The following sites provide showcasing opportunities specifically for newly graduated artists and designers: -

Arts Thread www.artsthread.com

Originally focussed upon textiles and fashion but now expanded to cover all aspects of design. Arts Thread also works in conjunction with **New Designers** www.newdesigners.com

Jotta www.jotta.com/jotta

A weekly online journal provided through the University of the Arts, London, offering a full range of services for any graduate wishing to profile their work and network with others in the arts and design communities

Create My Art www.CreateMyArt.com

Online gallery of work for sale with a specific area featuring new and emerging artists

A large proportion of the professional associations representing the creative industries host jobs boards. Links to those specific for your particular area of practice/performance will be found in the relevant **Graduate Prospects occupational profile** at www.prospects.ac.uk/links/occupations.

The following sections will be of particular relevance: -

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

Many commercial sites also advertise vacancies and freelance opportunities and/or host online galleries for artists and designers to showcase their work. Some will charge a membership fee.

Whilst many of these opportunities will favour the established creative practitioner, the sites can still be extremely helpful for graduates to browse. They can give you an insight into the types of work typically on offer and the job requirements, whilst the online galleries can give you ideas about how you might present your own work whilst also often providing helpful guidelines on how best to create an online portfolio.

The following sites are offered as examples: -

Arts Jobs – the Arts Council England’s free mailing list service www.artsjobs.org.uk

Galleries Online www.galleries-online.co.uk

My Art Space www.myartspace.com

Found Myself www.foundmyself.com

Hidden Art www.hiddenart.com

Jump Forward www.jumpforward.co.uk

Voodoo Chilli www.voodoochilli.net

Art Industri www.artindustri.com

Creative Protégé www.creative-protege.com

Arts Jobs Online www.artsjobsonline.com

Full Circle Arts www.full-circle-arts.co.uk

NW based disability arts organisation that compiles a good range of current opportunities, both paid and unpaid, in the arts.

Creative Review Handbook www.chb.com

Arts Hub - The UK Arts Portal www.artshub.co.uk/uk

Coroflot www.coroflot.com

Design Week www.designweek.co.uk

Marketing, Advertising and Design www.mad.co.uk

Design & Design www.designanddesign.com

Arts Culture Media Jobs www.artsculturemediajobs.com

Careers in Design www.careersindesign.com

Creative Recruitment www.creativerecruitment.co.uk

Creative Pool www.creativepool.co.uk

Profiles Creative www.profilescreative.com

Arts Admin (for performing artists) www.artsadmin.co.uk

Artis (offers short term teaching through performance assignments)
www.artiseducation.com

Freelance www.freelance.com

Broadcast Freelancer www.broadcastfreelancer.com

Arts Professional (for arts administration and curatorship)
www.artsprofessional.co.uk

See also the related MMU careers guides:

'Careers Information for Creatives'
'Networks for Creatives'
'Job Hunting Tips: Art and Design Students'
at www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

For general guidance on job hunting, see ***'Finding a Job'***
www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/finding-a-job.php