

Useful Websites for Mature Students

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.

Information for Mature Students

(1) Whilst you are studying

Social Life

www.burlington.manchester.ac.uk - Manchester's social society for postgraduate and mature students – membership open to MMU and Manchester University students.

www.msu.org.uk – Mature students Union - The Mature Students Union (MSU) is an apolitical, self-funding campaign and support organisation dedicated to the equal inclusion of all students classified as 'mature'

www.antshe.org –International Association for Non-traditional students in Higher Education (US based)

Finance Issues

The Student Union Welfare Centre will help you with any finance issues and applying for benefits, access to learning funds etc.

www.mmunion.co.uk/advice

3rd Floor Students Union
99 Oxford Road
Manchester M1 7EL
Telephone: 0161 247 6533

www.mmu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/money-matters/ - for a general overview of finance available.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/ - National site – links to local offices.

www.nationaldebtline.co.uk - Provides free, confidential and independent telephone advice and support to people in debt in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The site includes an information pack, a repayment calculator a personal budget sheet, sample letters, FAQs and debt advice

Family/Childcare Issues

www.childcarelink.gov.uk -National/local childcare information.

www.nationalpartnership.org -National Partnership for Women and Families

(2) Looking for Work

Legal Issues

In October 2006 the government legislated to outlaw age discrimination in the work place. It is now unlawful to discriminate directly or indirectly in the workplace on the grounds of age.

Graduate recruiters are covered by the legislation and must use acceptable business arguments within certain guidelines if they wish to apply either an upper or lower age limit to a graduate scheme.

Employers can still ask you about your age at interview or on application forms, but many graduates now choose not to disclose their age on CVs.

For more information about the legislation, and government initiatives to work with employers to encourage a diverse mixed-age workforce see:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/age-positive/>

Although change takes time, many employers have embraced the ideas behind the legislation and designed “age neutral” application forms and positive marketing literature.

If you feel that you have come across ageist recruitment literature in your search for a job please bring this to the attention of the MMU Careers Service in the first instance. (Telephone 0161 247 3483).

Other useful websites regarding your rights:

www.acas.gov.uk – ACAS – Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service

www.caade.net – Campaign Against Age Discrimination in Employment

www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/dvsequi - Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

www.equalityhumanrights.com - Equality and Human Rights Commission. This body brings together the work of the 3 previous equality commissions.

www.equality.ie - The Employment Equality Agency (Eire)

www.agebusters.co.uk/ - formerly known as the third age employment network. Provides a range of information about age discrimination laws.

Marketing Yourself

www.prospects.ac.uk/links/mature - gives useful hints and tips about marketing yourself – making the most of the additional skills/life experience that your maturity brings you.

Consider booking a careers interview (0161 247 3483) or attending a Careers workshop (advertised on www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/coves) for tips on how to market your skills.

“Age-Friendly” Employers

Maturity is valued in many professions – particularly, “people-centred” roles in the public sector, local government, teaching, the NHS, social and caring professions. See the MMU handout “*Opportunities in the Public and Not for Profit Sector*” for useful websites to identify such vacancies - available in the Careers Information Room.

The Employers Forum on Age (EFA) www.efa.org.uk is an independent network of leading age-friendly employers. It has over 240 members – check their website for lists of members.

www.diversitymilkround.com/FindEmployers.aspx?section=Age – carries a list of employers placing an emphasis on age diversity

Job-Search Sites

See also MMU handout: *Graduate Vacancy Websites*

www.40plusrecruitment.co.uk – an agency which has in the past, particularly specialised in the placement of more mature applicants, though all age groups have been welcomed. They deal with a whole range of vacancies from factory operatives to senior management.

www.wiseowls.co.uk - provides both information about older people and workers alongside a comprehensive 'one stop shop' for both employers with vacancies and individuals who are looking for work.

www.wrinklies.org – recruitment and employment agency specialising in placing older candidates.

<http://www.skilledpeople.com/> - carries a Jobs Board covering details of current vacancies with organisations that welcome age diversity and particularly recognise the benefits that experienced workers can bring.