

Graduate Job Search

Update on the graduate job market.

Following a substantial cut in vacancies in 2020, the graduate recruitment market has recovered well. The Institute of Student Employers has indicated that the number of vacancies (as at January 2022) was 20% higher than in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic and that all sectors have returned to pre-pandemic levels of hiring with the exception of jobs in retail and fast moving consumer goods.

The outlook is therefore a positive one, but as always it is good to be flexible in relation to the sectors you might be prepared to consider, and to ensure that all applications are of a high quality. The overall message, as summed up by Stephen Isherwood, chief executive of ISE, is that *“the graduate labour market is and always has been competitive. While students should feel confident about their prospects, they need to apply themselves rigorously to their job search and make every application count.”*

Useful articles can be found on the Prospects website ([Your career and COVID-19](#)) and on target jobs ([Jobhunting during the Coronavirus Pandemic: what you need to know](#))

Advertised Vacancies: Where to Look

The university Job Shop advertises vacancies including full time graduate roles, log into [MyCareer](#) to access these. Use the [“Hunting for Jobs”](#) learning pathway on the Careers Portal to gain insight into various job search strategies and the [job search engine](#) to access vacancies.

Recruitment Agencies and Job Boards: The largest jobs boards include sites such as Indeed, Monster and Total Jobs. Here you can browse opportunities, apply for vacancies, and upload your CV for potential employers to view. Recruitment agencies tend to be more involved in the screening and selection of applicants, selecting the most suitable for progression to interview. Many agencies and jobs boards advertise a wide range of opportunities, others have specialist knowledge of a particular sector, so browse through vacancy listings for a period to help you decide which sites are most likely be of value to you.

See our [“Recruitment Sites”](#) page for information on a selection of online agencies and jobs boards. These lists include some of the largest graduate sites offering permanent and internship roles. In addition, there are examples of sites which specialise in particular areas of work and which may post vacancies suitable for new graduates from time to time.

[Agency Central](#) is a website you can use to search for and identify agencies in specific geographical areas or operating within specific employment sectors.

Company Websites: Most large and medium sized companies have a web page listing career options and/or job opportunities, or they may opt to advertise opportunities on their social media pages.

Your School: Employers wishing to recruit sometimes make direct contact with academic staff. In this case, information may be posted on weblearn or Facebook pages.

Recruitment Events: Recruitment fairs aimed at graduates and/or students are held regularly throughout the year. Check the careers [Eventbrite](#) page and our [careers portal](#) as well as events listings on the [Prospects](#) website.

LinkedIn: Many students and graduates use LinkedIn chiefly as a platform for networking (see below) and sharing information, but in addition significant numbers of vacancies are advertised across a wide range of sectors.

A Creative Approach – the Hidden Job Market

If the sector of interest is particularly popular or dominated by smaller employers who may prefer not to advertise then a more proactive approach to job search is needed:

Networking: Networking may involve face to face contact at careers event or conferences for example, but increasingly social media platforms are important tools in the development of networks. As the main business network, LinkedIn is particularly important in this context and there are lots of resources to help you to develop and make effective use of your profile so that you can grow a network which can then be used to seek careers related advice and information. The University of Leeds careers service produces a series of short [You Tube videos](#) aimed at supporting students and graduates, and [LinkedIn](#) themselves provide some useful tips.

Speculative Applications: This involves approaching organisations by email, telephone or in person to enquire about the possibility of vacancies arising in the future. If you plan to apply speculatively, make sure you research the company carefully so that in your CV and cover letter you can illustrate clearly what you offer as well as why you would like to work for them. To find out about companies which operate in your chosen sector/area, you could use resources such as the [Business Directory UK](#) or [Scoot](#).

Professional Journals and Professional Bodies: Although many of the vacancies advertised here will be for experienced staff, browsing these sites can help you to build your sector knowledge, find out about the types of opportunities on offer, identify potential employers or find out about careers events. Some eg the [Market Research Society](#), provide listings of member companies which can also give ideas as to where to apply.

Resources for international students

London Met has partnered with [Student Circus](#), a niche job search platform which aims to make the hiring of international students a seamless process for students. It includes job listings and is a one-stop-shop for all career needs of international students. Target Jobs also includes a [Guide to job hunting for international students](#) whilst [Gradlink](#) is designed to help international students research and access work opportunities whilst they are studying here in the UK.

For advice on all matters related to visa applications, or about your right to work whilst studying in the UK, students should access the services of the university's [International Office](#).

Virtual Opportunities

Some of the major jobs boards such as [Reed](#) and [Indeed](#) have search filters for remote or home working.

[ProjectSet](#) advertises virtual internships

[RateMyPlacement](#) advertises undergraduate work placement opportunities including virtual experiences

[The Forge](#) advertises a wide range of free virtual work experience programmes across a number of sectors including finance, law, marketing, human resources and tech.

[Bright Network](#) runs the virtual “Internship experience UK” programme which runs for a three-day period over the summer.

Boosting your skills

If you are not able to find a suitable opportunity immediately, you could of course seek a part time or junior role using the resources above, or consider postgraduate study. Another option is to consider engaging with one of the platforms offering a range of **online learning opportunities**, eg

The Open University has a free online course, [Just graduated, what next?](#) which covers looking for work and the transition to the workplace.

[The Skills Toolkit](#) offers free digital and numeracy courses to build your skills.

[National Careers Service](#) provides information and links to organisations offering free online learning

[iDEA](#) promotes free mini courses to help you develop your skills.

[Coursera](#), [Edx](#) and [Futurelearn](#) provide access to some free courses from universities like Yale and Stanford.

[Alison.com](#) is another site offering free online courses including provision of related Certificates and Diplomas.

Similarly if you have relatively limited experience, or perhaps experience unrelated to your career aim, **volunteering** might help to build the skills you need to move forward. You can obviously make direct contact with any organisation which works in your area of interest to enquire about opportunities, or you can search for vacancies using the resources below:

The University volunteering team advertises vacancies on the [mycareer](#) platform

[Do it](#) is a national website advertising openings

[Team London](#) advertises London based opportunities

Search for your [local volunteer centre](#) which may be able to offer support.

Careers resources

Graduates can continue to use the careers service for up to three years following graduation and so have access to:

- 1-1 support, book on [mycareer](#)
- Employer events, webinars, find out more on the [careers portal](#)

- The Graduate Support Network is an online, peer support community that gives recent London Met Graduates access to career opportunities, information and resources. You can join this network via [LinkedIn](#)

Refer to the [website](#), or [email careers](#) for further information.