EXPLORING OPTIONS IN...

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The sectors that most English graduates are drawn to include: Publishing, Journalism, Media and Internet, the heritage and Art and Cultural sectors. Charities and the Voluntary sector also appeal to many English students’ values. Beyond these highly relevant areas you may find yourself venturing into Marketing or Advertising, Retail and often Education.

ROLES

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters and links to further, pre-assessed useful information.

- Advertising Copywriter
- Archivist
- Broadcast Journalist
- English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- Editorial Assistant
- Higher Education Lecturer
- Lexicographer
- Librarian
- Marketing Executive
- Media Planner
- Newspaper Journalist
- Public Relations Officer
- Publishing Copy-Editor/Proof-Reader
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Writer

FINDING OPPORTUNITIES

Many of the above roles are often competitive, but not impossible to access especially if you plan early, gain relevant work experience and network! To work in media, publishing or a career using your writing skills will require you to have evidence of writing outside of your degree e.g. leaflets for charities, Spark*, Junction 11, local radio and work experience in publishing companies. Writing your own blog would also count.

To work in teaching you will need to gain relevant experience of volunteering in schools whilst you have been at university. The University runs a Students in Schools scheme which will place you in a local school for a couple of hours a week for 10 weeks. Museum Education Officers, Arts Administrators and Public Relations officers do not require a relevant postgraduate qualification, but having one, plus experience, will make you more competitive. If you plan to become an academic, then a PhD is essential and you can get experience of research outside of your degree through the University Research Opportunities Programme (UROP).

Commercial roles such as buying and marketing also do not require a postgraduate qualification, but seeking out work experience during your degree is important and you may study for a professional qualification once you start your job, to help you progress.

To secure work experience, permanent work or a relevant postgraduate qualification head to the following sites and remember that you will often need to use a creative job hunting approach to find opportunities.

The Public Relations Consultants Association (PRCA) provides careers information about PR and advertises internships and graduate jobs.

The Institute of Advertising Practitioners (IPA) also provides excellent information about the different

reading.ac.uk/careers
Job roles within advertising, advice on how to get in and current vacancies.

- **The Society of Young Publishers (SYP)** has information and advice for people wanting to break into publishing and job vacancies.
- **The National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ)** has excellent information regarding working in journalism and the different roles available as well as accredited training courses.
- **The Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC)** has information about multiplatform journalism training including information about training bursaries and awards.
- **The Museums Association** provides careers information and jobs listings.
- For speculative applications access lists of potential museums and galleries using the **Museums and Galleries** Yearbook.
- Budding Archivists should use the **Archon Directory** for speculative applications and the Archives and Records Association’s ‘Guidance on Work Experience Placements’ for listings of opportunities and also for listings of approved postgraduate courses.
- For academic roles look at **FindaPhD.com** for possible PhD opportunities and related advice and eventually **Jobs.ac.uk** for academic posts and post doc opportunities.
- Look for marketing roles try **MAD** and **Marketing Week** and for buying roles try **In Retail** and **Retail Week**.

**FURTHER READING**

- There are many colleges offering TEFL training one is **Cambridge English**, but you can also look at **TEFL.org** and **TEFL.com**.
- **The Arts Council England** provides access to lots of highly relevant information.
- **Creative Choices** gives access to lots of detailed information about career options in the creative industries.
- For aspiring authors have a look at **The Society for Young Publishers** which supports individuals with little or no experience of getting their work published. It also advertises relevant job vacancies.
- To explore the professional training required to become a Speech and Language Therapist, have a look at the **Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists**.
- **TargetJobs** - another comprehensive graduate vacancies website.
- The **Civil Service Recruitment** website has several links through to both its graduate fast stream pages and more generalist opportunities. For other public sector jobs see the **National Local Government Development Programme (NGDP)** and the **NHS Graduates** websites.
- **Jobs.ac.uk** - vacancies in Higher Education, teaching and research.
- For information on museums and galleries head to the Arts Council website and the Museums Association. To find out about volunteering at the University’s museum try contacting MERL; MERL has also produced a series of YouTube videos on careers in museums and archives.
- For jobs within charities, public sector and NGOs try **JobsGoPublic**.
- **Publishers** is a great website to find publishers to approach for work experience or vacancies.
- **The Law Society** gives a great overview of legal careers
- Finding ethical jobs at **Ethical-Jobs**.
- Finding jobs in international development at the **Third Sector**.
- To find media jobs (particularly media sales) look at **Media Week Jobs**.