

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FINDING WORK IN THE CREATIVE SECTOR

HOW WE CAN HELP



UNIVERSITY OF
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TO THE
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DID YOU KNOW?

'IN THE CREATIVE ARTS INDUSTRY, THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE SELF-EMPLOYED, WHILST IN THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY, OVER 15% OF EMPLOYEES WORK AS A FREELANCER OR SOLE TRADER'

GRADUATE PROSPECTS, prospects.ac.uk

What do you know about the Creative Sector?

- The UK publishing industry is the second largest in Europe.
- The design industry employs the highest proportion of ethnic minorities.
- 70% of those employed in broadcast television have at least an undergraduate degree.

Source: Graduate Prospects prospects.ac.uk

It's not what you know, but who you know

In the creative industries, networking and gaining (and staying in touch with) contacts is very important.

Here are some things to try:

- Get the word out – tell friends and family you're looking for work, as there could be someone you know who could provide a lead to a great opportunity.
- Attend trade shows and events – These give you access to lots of organisations, are a great way to get contacts and find out about what is going on in the sector.
- Join professional organisations – These often feature events, opportunities to improve/update current knowledge and vacancies. For details of these, see the Occupational Files section on our website: www.wmin.ac.uk/page-20679

Find out more online

Check creative networking sites – these include:

Creative Choices
creative-choices.co.uk/network

Work In Fashion
workinfashion.com

Want to work for yourself?

If you are thinking about self-employment or freelance work, then have a look at:

- If you have an idea for a business, see our Enterprise Academy page and Enterprise Resources www.wmin.ac.uk/page-18691
- Creative Boom's blog and useful articles creativeboom.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

'IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT AS MANY AS 70% OF JOBS ARE 'HIDDEN' I.E. NOT ADVERTISED PUBLICLY.'

careers4graduates.org, 2011

Finding advertised vacancies

Applying for vacancies advertised may seem the most obvious way to find work and you may feel that you have exhausted this option, but don't give up! Remember to check:

- Trade publications, such as Broadcast, The Stage, Televisual, Drapers, The Knowledge and The Journalist (The NUJ's magazine).
- Our vacancy listings on our website and set up email job alerts. westminster.ac.uk/careersvacancies
- Artyfacts – a monthly publication full of jobs, residencies and exhibitions (available from the Harrow Careers Information Room).
- Websites – such as Creative Choices www.creative-choices.co.uk/opportunities

A Creative Approach to Creative Job Seeking?

Some companies may not openly advertise, so you will need to approach them.

- Do research on the sorts of companies you'd like to work for and find the name of the best person to target in each company. Send a CV and a covering letter telling them what you can do for them and why they should employ you.
- See the 'Speculative Applications' page on our website, which has information and tips on applying speculatively: www.wmin.ac.uk/page-3016

Volunteering

Volunteering can be a good way of getting valuable work experience on your CV. Take a look at:

- Community Media Association www.commedia.org.uk
- Community Service Volunteers (CSV) – Who also run training for media professionals. www.csv.org.uk/volunteering
- Our volunteering website westminster.ac.uk/volunteering

Need help with your applications?

Make an appointment with one of our Careers Consultants. We have 20 minute one to one 'Quick Query' sessions which are perfect for initial application assistance. To book, just call 0207 911 5184 or access the online vacancy and event booking system on the day you would like to attend.

And finally...

Remember to look at:

- Reference books in our Harrow and 101 New Cavendish Information Rooms
- The Career Development Centre Blog blog.westminster.ac.uk/careers
- Industry Insights and CV example handouts in Harrow Careers Information Room.
- Skillset – has related careers information skillset.org
- The University of the Arts website arts.ac.uk/student/careers/handouts.htm

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Internal ref: CDC0051/3/11/JM

