Careers Information for Creatives
Many web sites covering the creative industries exist so this handout aims to feature the best sites for students researching a career in the sector. They typically include industry overviews, job outlines, trends in graduate employment, making applications and starting out as a freelancer. They can also signpost you to more specialised sites that will help you focus on your preferred area(s) of practice.

**Graduate Prospects prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles**

is an excellent starting point for all areas of art, design, media, practice and performance. The occupational profiles in the following sections will be of particular relevance:

- Creative Arts and Design
- Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations
- Media and Internet

Each *Prospects* profile contains regularly updated information for graduates on:

- The responsibilities within the role
- Salaries, working hours and other job features
- The qualifications and skills required
- Getting work experience
- Typical employers, professional development and career prospects. (These sections feature links to relevant professional bodies, employer directories, trade journals and recruitment consultancies specialising in that area of creative practice.)
- Related* jobs and courses

For information on careers in crafts and making, browse the *National Careers Service* website: nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/artscraftsdesign.aspx

**Related jobs**

It is not easy establishing yourself in full-time practice or employment straight after graduation and many students either undertake other work roles alongside portfolio preparation or look to other fields of work where they can apply their skills.


Your degree will have given you many more skills than you probably realise - skills that are increasingly valued by employers of graduates outside of, as well as within, the world of Art and Design.

As we now live in a world of constant communication with media technology pervading many aspects of our social and working lives, it has become vital for organisations to convey information not only in writing but also in a visual and interactive way. Therefore, they look increasingly for graduates who are intrigued by the benefits that digital technology can bring and can apply them imaginatively but effectively in a working environment.
In addition, your degree will have developed other skills that employers rate highly. For example:
- working to client briefs or commission specifications which will have developed high levels of commercial awareness
- background research
- developing ideas and solving problems in a creative way
- project management
- time management
- working collaboratively with others
- networking
- attention to detail
- professional presentation of work, both verbally and visually
- creative thinking
- resilience

Presented in an appropriate way, these skills can make you a very attractive candidate for employment areas not traditionally linked to your area of practice. For example, with the move to digital technology, interactive visual and content creation is vital in just about every economic sector. As a result, creatives are keenly sought to work in project teams. You may be the lead in terms of your area of expertise, for example graphics, visualisation, animation, content writing or film. However, you will also be expected to contribute ideas to the other aspects of projects such as financial control, client interface and market research and you may find you enjoy and are good at these too!

If you wish to find out more, the following portals contain useful information for creatives interested in the sector:
- **Bubble Jobs**: bubble-jobs.co.uk/career_portal/
- **Orchard**: orchard.co.uk/careerkickstart.aspx
- **All About Careers: Internet, Digital & Interactive Media**: allaboutcareers.com/careers/career-path/internet-digital-interactive-media

### The Creative Industries – Online careers information

The following sites contain comprehensive and detailed information on the many job options open to art and design graduates including sources of jobs, internships and residencies, networking effectively, making creative applications, starting out as a freelancer and additional sources of information.
- **The University of the Creative Arts** uca.ac.uk/creative-careers/
- **The University of the Arts in London** arts.ac.uk/student-jobs-and-careers/get-jobs-advice/
- **Creative Skillset** creativeskillset.org/creative_industries
- **Artquest** artquest.org.uk/ (includes details of events and opportunities with a particular focus on London)

In addition, there are many specialist web sites together with on-line journals. Subscriptions are payable for a number of these but whilst you are a student, you can access them free of charge through Manchester Met’s Library libguides.mmu.ac.uk/subartdes
Some of the most useful are:

- **A-N Artists Newsletter a-n.co.uk**
- **Axis Web axisweb.org** Online gallery and resource for contemporary artists
- **The Arts Council artscouncil.org.uk** The national development agency for the arts. Lists potential sources of funding.
- **The Crafts Council craftscouncil.org.uk** Support, exhibitions, competitions and training for makers, curators and crafts professionals.
- **Creative Choices creative-choices.co.uk** Industry insights, advice, job profiles and opportunities
- **Creative and Cultural Skills ccskills.org.uk**/ Extensive links to the advertising, crafts, cultural, design, music and the performing, visual and literary sectors.
- **The Creative Review creativereview.co.uk** Online magazine for anyone working in visual communications.
- **Creative Boom creativeboom.co.uk** An online magazine with tips, inspiration and resources
- **The Creative Industries thecreativeindustries.co.uk**
- **The Design Council designcouncil.org.uk** Promotes best use of design with links to other creative sites and online networks. Useful section highlighting resources and practical guides for designers – e.g. starting a business.
- **Design Week designweek.co.uk**
- **Department for Culture, Media and Sport culture.gov.uk** DCMS sets national policy and provides a range of information on the arts, broadcasting, digital, leisure and sport.

**Useful sources of further information at the Manchester School of Art**

Tutors and technicians possess a lot of knowledge about their sector and have a wealth of contacts, many of them previous graduates of Manchester School of Art.

Arts-based networks and collaborations are another great source of careers information and useful contacts. Watch for exhibitions, events, competitions, festivals, community happenings, residencies, commissions etc. where you could meet people ‘in the know’. At the moment, the networking opportunities in Manchester just keep growing!

Manchester School of Art’s two Facebook groups are very helpful starting points:

**Creative Manchester on Facebook** [facebook.com/groups/149502408413575/](https://facebook.com/groups/149502408413575/)

Collates opportunities for MSoA students and graduates interested in the creative, cultural and digital industries. These can range from placements, graduate jobs and competitions to master classes and exhibitions - and anything else felt relevant to MSoA students. A significant number of the opportunities for collaborations are contributed by MSoA students and recent graduates.

**Engage Arts & Humanities Facebook Group**

Publicises work experience opportunities to complement your degree and future career in the form of internships, placements and competitions.
Getting Work in the Creative Industries

Additional careers guides in our Creative Industries series can be found on our careers guides page:

- Designing a Creative CV
- The Fine Artist’s CV
- Getting Work in the Creative Industries
- Getting into the Media Industries
- Useful Resources for Manchester School of Art Students

Freelancing and Self Employment in the Creative Industries

A wide range of information is also available to help you develop as an artist in practice or freelance designer. Please refer to our guide ‘Freelancing, Exhibiting and Community Arts’ available online at: mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

Innospace offer advice and support to students and graduates planning to set up their own business. Look out for the 2 day Boot Camps which cover a wide range of topics including how to market your business, managing your finances and intellectual property. www.innospace.co.uk

Careers & Employability Support

The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

- Careers Adviser appointments: Book a 30 minute appointment to discuss your ideas and for advice on planning your next steps.
- Careers Events: Meet employers and enhance your employability by attending our workshops, employer events and careers fairs.
- Ask a Careers Question Online: Get online advice through My Career Hub, ask your question at any time and receive support via email.

For more information visit mmu.ac.uk/careers