Environmental Jobs
Overview

There are a number of roles which lie within the environmental sector including:

- Environmental Consultancy
- Environmental Manager
- Waste Management
- Energy Manager
- Environmental Education Officer
- Sustainability Consultant

For an overview of all of these roles and others in the sector, look at the Prospects website: prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/environment-and-agriculture.

What skills are employers looking for?

Employers in this sector come in all shapes and sizes including industry, government, voluntary and consultancies. All of these employers are looking for graduates who can hit the ground running, so aim to highlight the following skills in your applications:

- Technical and Scientific knowledge (from your degree)
- Practical experience relevant to your area of interest e.g. lab skills, mapping, fieldwork, data analysis etc.
- IT skills e.g. GIS, Excel
- Communication – around presentation, negotiation, persuasion and the ability to present complex technical and scientific data in a form that is intelligible to non-specialists
- Organisation – for project management work
- Teamwork
- Commercial awareness - important for roles in consultancy.

Curiosity = Drive

Knowing about current issues and legislation is a key way to show deep interest in the environment so ensure you read the environmental publications, including:

- Edie - edie.net
- ENDS Job Seach - endsjobsearch.co.uk
- Environmental Analyst - environment-analyst.com/

And read E-news and blogs such as:

- Business Green - businessgreen.com/
- STT - sustainabletechnologyforum.com/
- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) - undp.org
Postgraduate Story

In a globalised job sector, you may find that a relevant postgraduate qualification could increase your chances of securing a graduate role. Some are conversion courses open to all graduates; others require you to have a relevant first degree or prior work experience. To determine whether a course is right for you, ask the admissions tutor about the career destinations of past students. They can also advise on any available funding. Check out:

- **Manchester Metropolitan University** - MSC Environmental Management and Sustainable development
- **Manchester Metropolitan University** - MSC Geographical Information Systems, GIS Technologies and Applied GIS Systems
- **Forum for the Future** - Leadership for Sustainable Development - forumforthefuture.org/masters-course
- **Prospects** - Searchable database of taught courses and research in the UK prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses
- **Career Guides** - Access the guides and resources on Further Study mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

Finding Jobs and Work Experience

**Adverts**

The **pros** - you know there is a job to be filled.

The **cons** - as anyone can see the advert, competition will be high.

In this sector, jobs are often advertised as they arise, opposed to an annual recruitment campaign so make sure you check these websites frequently.

**Speculative applications**

Taking the direct approach by targeting organisations that interest you, researching their current opportunities and then contacting them speculatively.

The **pros** - fewer applicants so more chance of getting the job (and if there are no available jobs at the present, they may keep your details and contact you in the future)

The **cons** - finding a job takes more time and work

You can make a strong speculative application by researching who is doing what and where – here are some ideas how:

- **Look** at the industries based in Manchester Science Park to see if any are involved in environmental work. Check out UK Science Parks Association for links to Science Parks across the UK ukspa.org.uk
- **Scan** related job adverts to identify companies you could approach. The advert may include a department or contact name, so you know where to direct your enquiry.
- **Read** the Career Guide ‘Researching Employers’ mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides
Linkedin linkedin.com

- Join groups relevant to your interests. This will let you see where other group members work. You can search companies by keyword and filter by location.
- Look for names of people who are name checked in publications/online. If you Google a company name, LinkedIn profiles often appear in the search results.
- Search for Alumni from your course.

For more information, read our guides on LinkedIn and Using Social Media for Networking mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

Make Contact

Write to them with a targeted CV and a covering letter focused on why you are interested in them and why they should be interested in you.

Network

Talk to the people who do the job and use this information to help you spot opportunities and target your applications more effectively.

Different ways to network

Employer Cafes and Careers Fairs

Organised by the University, these events are student friendly and a supportive way to dip your toe into the networking experience. Some key events to attend include:

- Science and Environment Employer Café in January
- The Graduate Job and Placement Fair in November
- Employer presentations – ad hoc
- Employer stands in the Street and Business School Foyer ad hoc

For details of upcoming events go to mmu.ac.uk/careers/events
Check Moodle and Manchester Met Geography and Environment News for more events.

Join a local Group

Local talks and events may bring you into contact with professionals as well as other people who share your interest. Some examples are:

- Groundwork - Supports sustainable communities groundwork.org.uk
- EN4M (Environment Network for Manchester) - A collective of organisations working to improve the environment of Manchester. Runs events and training and supports environmental groups in their work merci.org.uk/en4m

Join a Professional Institution

Student membership (fees are often heavily discounted for students) can provide access to regional events and meetings, where you could be in direct contact with professional
environmental staff.

- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health - cieh.org
- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment - iema.net
- Institute of Environmental Sciences - the-ies.org
- Society for the Environment - socenv.org.uk
- European Network of Environmental Professionals - efaep.org
- LANTRA (UK Sector Skills Council for land-based and environmental industries) - lantra.co.uk
- British Ecological society - britishecologicalsociety.org
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management - cieem.net
- The Student Conservation Association (SCA) - thesca.org
- International Union for Conservation and Nature (UCCN) - iucn.org
- Forestry Commission - forestry.gov.uk
- The Woodland Trust - woodlandtrust.org.uk
- The Rivers Trust - theriverstrust.org
- Water UK - water.org.uk
- OFWAT (Water Services Regulation Authority) - ofwat.gov.uk
- Energy & Utility Skills - euskills.co.uk
- Chartered Institute of Wastes Management - ciwm.co.uk

Job Websites

General Websites

- New Scientist Magazine - newscientist.com
- Natural Environment Research Council - Includes information on awards, events, studentships, careers and job vacancies nerc.ac.uk
- Environment Jobs - Jobs organised by employer e.g. business, charity etc environmentjobs.co.uk
- Environmental Jobs - environmentaljobsuk.com
- environmentjob - environmentjob.co.uk
- Earth Works - earthworks-jobs.com
- EDIE Environmental Data Interactive Exchange - Environmental news, jobs and training edie.net
- ENDS Job Search - endsjobsearch.co.uk
- Environmental Analyst - environment-analyst.com
- Countryside Jobs Search - countrysidejobs.com
- G E jobs - greenenergyjobs.com
• Change Agents - changeagents.org.uk
• Green Jobs - greenjobs.co.uk
• Green Jobs (Ireland) - greenjobs.ie
• Green Jobs Online - greenjobsonline.co.uk
• Renewable Energy Jobs - renewableenergyjobsuk.com
• Solar Jobs - solarjobsuk.com
• Waste Jobs - wastejobsuk.com
• Water Jobs - waterjobsuk.com
• Wind Jobs - windjobsuk.com
• One World - environment and sustainable development oneworld.org/jobs
• ELDIS - Jobs, volunteering and research opportunities relating to development and environmental issues worldwide eldis.org
• Environmental Services Association (ESA) - esa.uk.org
• Nature Jobs - includes a section on environmental science nature.com/naturejobs/science
• The Guardian - all the latest news and jobs in the environment sector theguardian.com/uk/environment

Commercial and Industrial
• Environmental Data Services - Directory of environmental consultants and job vacancies ends.co.uk
• WRc International - Independent research based organisation wrcplc.co.uk
• Green Pages - comprehensive directory to the full spectrum of environmental products & services, publications, organisations and events eco-web.com
• Amec Foster Wheeler - Global company with environment opportune is in UK and overseas careers.amecfw.com

Government Agencies and Linked Organisations
• Environment Agency - Lots of information about their work, current issues and job vacancies. environment-agency.gov.uk
• DEFRA (The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) - Responsibilities include environmental protection, waste and recycling, climate change, marine biodiversity, rural affairs, sustainable development, wildlife and countryside. gov.uk/defra
• Scottish Environmental Protection Agency - information and news. sepa.org.uk
• The Carbon Trust - Independent experts with a mission to accelerate the move to a sustainable, low carbon economy. Info about their work and vacancies. carbontrust.co.uk
Local Government

Local Government is a big employer of environmentalists. To get an overview of the jobs available, look at:

- Local Government Jobs - lgjobs.com
- Jobs go Public - jobgopublic.com
- Local government websites - gov.uk
- Natural England - naturalengland.gov.uk

Recruitment Consultants

Some may require candidates to already have relevant work experience.

- Environmental consultants - a database of environmental consultancies endsdirectory.com
- Allen & York - Sustainability Recruitment Consultancy allen-york.com
- AEAT Environment - a large UK sustainability environmental consultancy aeat.co.uk
- ADAS - The UK’s largest independent provider of agricultural & environmental consultancy, rural development services and policy advice. Runs a graduate scheme. adas.co.uk
- Eden - Recruit experienced environmental professionals edenrecruitment.ie/
- Kelly Services - Recruit for a range of sectors kellyscientific.com
- Evergreen - Environmental recruitment consultancy evergreen.org.uk
- Match Tech - Graduate and environmental vacancies matchtech.com
- Monarch IT - Vacancies in the oil and gas sector monarchit.co.uk
- Acre - Vacancies in corporate responsibility, sustainability, environment, health & safety and energy acre.com/jobs
- Anders elite - Technical recruitment consultants anderselite.com
- Environment Sector - range of work experience and graduate-entry jobs environmentjobs.co.uk
- WSP - Professionals in the built and natural environment wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-UK/Who-we-are
- ERM - The world’s leading sustainability consultancy erm.com/en/careers
- AECOM - aecom.com/careers
- Mott MacDonald - Engineering, management and development consultancy mottmac.com
- Atkins - Engineering consultancy careers.atkinsglobal.com
- CIWM jobs - specialist jobsite for those looking to work in the waste management and environmental sectors ciwmjobs.co.uk
- Green Roles - greenroles.co.uk
- Oil and Gas - members directory, including oil companies and consultancies (look on
Sector Specific Job Websites

Recycling

- **CRNS** - Community Recycling Network Scotland crns.org.uk
- **Lets Recycle** - Recycling and waste management news and information site for industry, local authorities and the third sector letsrecycle.com
- **MRW** - Provides recycling and waste management news, key market reports, data and trends from across the industry mrw.co.uk
- **Recycling and Waste World** - Universally acknowledged as the authority on recycling and waste recyclingwasteworld.co.uk
- **LARAC** - Represent the emerging voice of local government recycling officers larac.org.uk

Environmental Protection

- **Environmental Investigation Agency** - An independent campaigning organisation committed to bringing about change that protects the natural world from environmental crime and abuse eia-international.org

Renewable Energy

- **International Solar Energy Society** - ises.org
- **Biofuel information** - biofuel.org.uk
- **Renewable Energy Association** - Members directory r-e-a.net

Water

- **Water Guides (Guides Network)** - Find out all the information you need to know about the UK water industry and the companies operating within it water-guide.org.uk
- **OFWAT** - About the work of the water regulator, with current vacancies and a graduate scheme ofwat.gov.uk
- **Water UK** - Links to all UK water and wastewater suppliers water.org.uk
- **United Utilities** - North West water company unitedutilities.com
- **Canal River Trust** - Charity entrusted with the care of 2,000 miles of waterways
canalrivertrust.org.uk

- **Cefas** - A world leader in marine science and technology [cefas.defra.gov.uk](http://cefas.defra.gov.uk)
- **Marine Scotland** - Responsible for the integrated management of Scotland’s seas [gov.scot/topics/marine](http://gov.scot/topics/marine)
- **Scottish Water** - [scottishwater.co.uk](http://scottishwater.co.uk)
- **Northern Ireland Water** - [niwater.com](http://niwater.com)

**Sustainable Development and Urban Regeneration**

- **Homes and Community Agency** - Gives information about their work and vacancies [homesandcommunities.co.uk](http://homesandcommunities.co.uk)
- **New Start** - Magazine for making better local places [newstartmag.co.uk](http://newstartmag.co.uk)
- **Great Places** - works in regeneration and urban renewal in the North West and has a jobsite [greatplaces.org.uk](http://greatplaces.org.uk)
- **Planning Resource** - Regeneration and planning jobs, plus careers advice [planningresource.co.uk](http://planningresource.co.uk)

**Economic Development Consultancies**

- **AMEY** - [amey.co.uk](http://amey.co.uk)
- **ECORYS** - [uk.ecorys.com](http://uk.ecorys.com)
- **ICF** - [icf.com](http://icf.com)
- **PACEC** - [pacec.co.uk](http://pacec.co.uk)
- **OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development Environment Directorate)** - [oecd.org](http://oecd.org)

**Careers & Employability Service Support**

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

- **Detailed careers guides**: Access our full range of careers guides on our website.
- **Ask a Careers Question Online**: Get online advice through My Career Hub, ask your question at any time and receive support via email.
- **Careers Consultant Appointments**: Book a 30 minute appointment to discuss preparation for upcoming teacher training interviews or review your performance with a Careers & Employability Consultant.