Freelancing, Exhibiting & Community Arts
Some students on creative courses know from the outset that they wish to work on a freelance basis. For others, the decision to work on a freelance or self-employed basis is made because freelancing is the industry norm or it is essential to have a track record built up through freelance work to be considered for advertised jobs.

Those interested in developing their practice in the community may well need to become ‘social entrepreneurs’ to secure essential funding.

Working in any of these ways means you will be setting up in business. You have to consider:

- What is motivating you to do it?
- What are you intending to do?
- What is your **USP or ‘unique selling pitch’**?
- Is there a market for your work?
- What is the best way of advertising to that market?
- What business structure would be best to trade under?
- Can you produce your work on time and in volume if necessary?
- Who are your main competitors? What are they charging?
- How much should you charge for your work - and when - in order to cover your costs and give you a living wage?
- Where will you work?
- Will you work on your own or in collaboration with others?
- How much tax will you have to pay and when?
- Are there business expenses that you can claim back – and how?
- How much money can you invest in starting up?

In addition, there are some specific arts-related aspects that creatives need to explore, including:

- Do you need to exhibit or enter competitions to get your name known?
- If so, which ones should you invest your time, effort and money in?
- Are you a member of the networks that will help you develop more links and provide useful feedback on the way you are developing your practice?
- Do you have all the expertise and equipment that you will need?
- How do you protect your work from being copied?
- Are you aware of all the possible sources of funding that you could tap into, including scholarships and residencies?
- Will you need a sponsor or referee to secure funding? If so, how do you get one?
- Do you need to sign up to an agent or on-line gallery to get your work to market? Or could you rely on developing your own web site and selling through sites such as Etsy or Not on the High Street?
- Will you need to undertake other paid work alongside your artistic or design practice? How do you ensure the right balance between these different activities?

[www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/when-i-started-out-i-wish-i-had-known-tby-10-successful-creative-business-owners-and-advisers](http://www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/when-i-started-out-i-wish-i-had-known-tby-10-successful-creative-business-owners-and-advisers) provides an excellent summary of the key issues faced by creatives when setting up on their own.
Support at Manchester Metropolitan University

There are a number of excellent web-based resources that can help you think through the issues of going freelance and begin to plan ahead. These are listed in this handout but before exploring them, it is useful to know about the range of advisory services available within Manchester Met. These will help to reassure you that you are making informed decisions and help you to identify the experts who can advise on key aspects of your plans and mentor you in those early days of starting out:

1. The careers guide ‘Working for yourself’ at www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides. In addition, books on creative start-up are available on reference in the Careers & Employability Hub on the ground floor of the Business School.

2. The Careers & Employability Service offers ‘Working for Yourself - Getting Started’ workshops every term (see www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/events). These explore the motivation, skills and networks you might need, the need to plan and the opportunity to meet the staff who run Innospace and Market Place Studios, Manchester Met’s very own graduate incubators, and hear about the support that they provide.

3. ‘Going freelance’ workshops and master classes are organised through the Unit X Enrichment Programme and individual course programmes in The School of Art every year. These will help you understand better the world of the freelancer or creative business owner. More can be learned through visiting speakers, private views, involvement in local exhibitions and competitions, opportunities to showcase your work in pop ups etc. For details, ensure you check messages on Moodle and join the Manchester Met Creative Manchester Facebook group.

4. Manchester School of Art’s Design Lab http://www.artdes.mmu.ac.uk/designlab/ further develops professional practice in design and contemporary crafts through live projects with the region’s major public organisations, companies, small design studios, agencies and individual practitioners.

5. Market Place Studios www.art.mmu.ac.uk/marketplace
Opened in autumn 2015, the studios offer two floors of incubation studio space for Manchester School of Art graduates together with business support tailored towards succeeding in the Creative Industries.

6. Innospace www.innospace.co.uk
Manchester Met’s first graduate business start-up incubator offering office space, a range of business services plus extensive start up support and mentoring. There are different affordable rent packages depending upon residency type (see web site for details). Creatives working as freelancers or seeking to establish a social enterprise are welcome tenants. If you are beginning to develop your work and selling it whilst you are a student at Manchester Met, you can join as an associate and participate in the programme of activities.

Innospace also run free two day Start-up Bootcamps. Highly interactive and delivered by external facilitators who are all experts in their field of business start-up, Bootcamps enable students and graduates to explore the initial building blocks of starting their creative freelance practice or new business providing support, resources, guidance and mentoring.

7. Digital Innovation Centre is located alongside Innospace, enabling collaboration between Innospace tenants and those piloting new applications of digital technology.

8. Manchester Met’s Student Enterprise Society www.facebook.com/groups/mmuentrepreneur Lists events, competitions, business simulations and funding
streams for students and graduates interested in starting their own businesses. The Society is linked to Innospace and Manchester Entrepreneurs (for student entrepreneurs in Manchester) http://manchesterentrepreneurs.org.uk/. Manchester Entrepreneurs are part of the National Consortium of University Entrepreneurs (NACUE) www.nacue.com

Online Resources and Creative Start-up Toolkits

The following organisations specifically support students and graduates setting up a creative business or intending to freelance in the creative sector:

**The Design Trust** [www.thedesigntrust.co.uk](http://www.thedesigntrust.co.uk)

The online business school for designers and crafts people. It offers a wealth of services, many of which are free, including:

- business guidance through blogs, reviews, podcasts and videos
- business events, webinars and group coaching
- specialist business advice, training and support for small design and craft businesses
- details of funding streams together with marketing opportunities such as consumer and trade shows, commissions, competitions and residencies
- recommendations of helpful books and courses - [www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/the-design-trust-5-favourite-books-on-business-planning-for-design-crafts-businesses](http://www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/the-design-trust-5-favourite-books-on-business-planning-for-design-crafts-businesses)

**Creative Skillset** [www.creativeskillset.org](http://www.creativeskillset.org)

Provides extensive advice for new graduates seeking to establish themselves in film, television, radio, fashion and textiles, animation, games, visual effects, publishing, advertising and marketing communications. They offer a Freelance Toolkit [http://creativeskillset.org/who_we_help/creative_professionals/freelance_toolkit](http://creativeskillset.org/who_we_help/creative_professionals/freelance_toolkit) and an online freelance community, The Hiive, [https://app.hiive.co.uk/](https://app.hiive.co.uk/)

**Creative Boom** [www.creativeboom.com](http://www.creativeboom.com)


**Artquest** [www.artquest.org.uk/how-to](http://www.artquest.org.uk/how-to)

Comprehensive library of 'how to' guides covering every aspect of professional art practice.

**The Crafts Council** [www.craftscouncil.org.uk](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk)


**Freelance UK** [www.freelanceuk.com/become/index.shtml](http://www.freelanceuk.com/become/index.shtml)
Useful guides on setting out as a freelancer in design, photography, journalism, copy writing, marketing and public relations.

**Creative & Cultural Skills** [https://ccskills.org.uk](https://ccskills.org.uk)
Useful blogs about freelancing by area of practice together with their survival kit [http://business-survival-toolkit.co.uk](http://business-survival-toolkit.co.uk)

**Women in Rural Industries** [www.wireuk.org](http://www.wireuk.org) *(includes rural crafts)*
Offers a package of practical business support that includes access to the 50 WiRE networks across the UK.

**NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts)**

**Funding**
Staff at Manchester Met’s Market Place Studios and Innospace offer advice on the appropriate funding streams available for creative business start-ups. These include:

- **Creative Industry Finance** [www.creativeindustryfinance.org.uk](http://www.creativeindustryfinance.org.uk)
  An Arts Council England initiative offering business development support and access to finance for creative industry enterprises.

- **Arts Council** [www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding)

- **Creative England - Funding for Film** [http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/film-and-tv](http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/film-and-tv)

- **Creative England - Funding for Games** [http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/games](http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/games)

- **Deutsche Bank Awards for Creative Enterprise (DBACE)** [www.db.com/unitedkingdom/content/en/deutsche_bank_awards.html](http://www.db.com/unitedkingdom/content/en/deutsche_bank_awards.html)

- **IPSE (The Association of Independent Professionals and The Self-Employed)**
  Freelance Awards [www.ipse.co.uk](http://www.ipse.co.uk)

- **Start Up Loans** [www.startuploans.co.uk](http://www.startuploans.co.uk)
  A government-funded scheme to provide loans and mentors for entrepreneurs aged between 18 and 30 who are creating a business.

- **The Business Growth Hub** based in the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce [https://www.businessgrowthhub.com](http://www.businessgrowthhub.com)

- **Shell Livewire** [www.shell-livewire.org/awards](http://www.shell-livewire.org/awards)
  Monthly £5,000 Smarter Future Awards. Winners are automatically considered for the annual £25,000 Shell LiveWIRE Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. (NB: Upper age limit of 30 applies)
• **Princes Trust** [www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business](www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business)
  Supports people aged 16-30 who are working fewer than 16 hours a week or are unemployed.

• **Crowdfunder** [www.crowdfunder.co.uk](www.crowdfunder.co.uk)
  Still a relatively novel means of raising funds but many creatives including filmmakers and artists have successfully raised funds and fostered awareness of their work through crowdfunding. Essentially crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising monetary contributions from a large number of people, often through internet-mediated registries, but also through methods such as benefit events and mail-order subscriptions.

• It is also worth checking out two global American platforms that support creative start-ups – **Kickstarter** [www.kickstarter.com](www.kickstarter.com) and **Indiegogo** [www.indiegogo.com](www.indiegogo.com)

• **The Design Council** [www.designcouncil.org.uk](www.designcouncil.org.uk)
  Reports on research into design innovation, current networks and possible sources of funding.

**Competitions and Exhibitions**

As a creative, you should also consider entering competitions and exhibitions. Many offer cash prizes as well as bringing your work to a wider audience. Opportunities are occasionally posted to the Creative Manchester students group on Facebook. Dedicated listings include:

• **Arts Thread** [www.artsthread.com/competitions](www.artsthread.com/competitions)

• **Mall Galleries/Federation of British Artists** [www.mallgalleries.org.uk/call-for-entries/emerging-artist-opportunities](www.mallgalleries.org.uk/call-for-entries/emerging-artist-opportunities)

• **Painters Online** [www.painters-online.co.uk/competitions.htm](www.painters-online.co.uk/competitions.htm)

• **National Open Art** [www.nationalopenart.org](www.nationalopenart.org)

• **Making A Mark** [www.makingamark.blogspot.co.uk/p/major-uk-art-competitions.html](www.makingamark.blogspot.co.uk/p/major-uk-art-competitions.html)

• **Art Rabbit** [www.artrabbit.com/artist-opportunities](www.artrabbit.com/artist-opportunities)

Fine artists should also check the additional funding sources listed in our guide ‘**Fine Art - Useful Resources For MSOA Students**’

**Social Enterprise**

Social enterprise is an alternative and increasingly significant means by which artists and designers work in their local communities using their practice to tackle social problems and improve communities, people's life chances or the environment. You still need to run such projects on a business footing, including making an operating surplus from selling goods and services in the open market. However, the surplus is reinvested back into the enterprise or the local community it serves.

For further information see:
Sources of funding include:

- **UnLtd** [https://www.unltd.org.uk/](https://www.unltd.org.uk/)
  Range of competitive awards, some of which are specifically targeted towards students and recent graduates

- **The Social Investment Business** [www.sibgroup.org.uk](http://www.sibgroup.org.uk)
  Raises and connects capital to achieve to provide finance for social enterprises in the form of loans, grants and other investment products.

- **Funding Central** [www.fundingcentral.org.uk](http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk)
  Online funding directory covering the voluntary and community sector, including social enterprise

- **Manchester Community Central (MACC)** [www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/funding](http://www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/funding)
  Funds available to social enterprises, community groups and charities in Manchester.

- **Bolton Nerve Centre**[www.thenervcentre.org.uk/category/funding](http://www.thenervcentre.org.uk/category/funding)

- **Crowdfunder** [www.crowdfunder.co.uk](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk)

- **Power To Change** [www.thepowertochange.org.uk](http://www.thepowertochange.org.uk)

**Finances, Tax and VAT**

It is vital you track and manage your finances from the outset. This includes registering for tax and VAT.

- **Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs** [www.hmrc.gov.uk/selfemployed](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/selfemployed)
  A range of useful resources about going freelance/starting a new business with a focus upon financial and business registration aspects. HMRC also offer information by video [www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmrc-webinars-email-alerts-and-videos](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmrc-webinars-email-alerts-and-videos)

- **Creative Skillset** [http://creativeskillset.org/who_we_help/creative_professionals/freelance_toolkit/tax_and_finances](http://creativeskillset.org/who_we_help/creative_professionals/freelance_toolkit/tax_and_finances)


- **FreeAgent** [www.freeagent.com](http://www.freeagent.com)  
  Offers a free field guide to finances for freelancers [www.freeagent.com/fieldguide](http://www.freeagent.com/fieldguide). They also produce online accounting software designed specifically for freelancers and small business owners.

**Protecting your work**

As a creative, it is vital that you protect your work whether it be a design, product, brand, logo, software, photograph, website, film or copy. This is termed **Intellectual Property (IP)**
and you have a number of options including:

- trade marks for brand identity
- registration of a design for product appearance
- copyright for literary and artistic material
- patents for inventions
- registration of company name

The Innospace team can advise you about the best form of IP protection for you but you can also undertake research online at:

- **Design and Artists Copyright Society** www.dacs.org.uk
- **UK Copyright Service** www.copyrighthome.co.uk/
- **Get Safe Online** www.getsafeonline.org.uk
- **Nominet** www.nominet.org.uk (For web domain registration)

**Online Support Networks**

Freelancing can be a very lonely road. As a result, many freelancers join both online and offline networking groups to ensure they have access to supportive communities.

**Startacus** www.startacus.net

An online community for students and recent graduates who are interested in working for themselves. Works with CrowdFunder to offer members of the community a unique free package of crowdfunding campaign support.

**Arts Axis** www.axisweb.org

An online space for artists, makers, creators and producers to showcase their ideas and talent, find opportunities, develop new audiences and build networks. Professional membership is from £2.50 per month, with those eligible for Early Career status receiving a 50% discount.

**UK Young Artists** www.ukyoungartists.co.uk

Supports an online creative community with blogs, advice columns, interviews and a space for artists to connect, collaborate and create. Further develops the practice of artists from all art forms through cross art form opportunities (residencies, commissions, workshops and get-togethers) and showcasing at national and international festivals.

**The-Dots** https://thedots.co.uk

Offers profile-hosting space plus a newsfeed to get instant updates on new work, projects, jobs, courses, workspaces and events. The-Dots occasionally run free workshops for School of Art students.

**The Hiive** https://app.hiive.co.uk

A networking, collaboration and job-finding tool for UK creatives, powered by the
industry skills body Creative Skillset, and inspired by the Creative Industries Council.

**The Association of Independent Professionals and the Self Employed**
www.ipse.co.uk

IPSE offers tax and legal support, insurance advice, networking and events as well as a free *Guide to Freelancing*, They also run an annual freelance award competition

**The Guardian**
www.theguardian.com/culture-professionals-network
www.theguardian.com/small-business-network

Insightful articles, news and case studies.

More informal network groups can be found on LinkedIn and Twitter

**Support Networks in Manchester and the North West**


Regular free e-newsletters with updates of events both at the Waterside Arts Centre in Sale and at other venues in the region. CIT offers a professional development programme of workshops, master classes, events and networking opportunities (usually costing no more than £15) to support artists and creatives i.e. ideal for those just starting their creative career and living on a tight budget.

**CuratorSpace**  [www.curatorspace.com](http://www.curatorspace.com)

A new toolkit for curators, organisers, galleries, and artists managed by CIT. With a heavy emphasis on opportunities in the north of England, it provides details of events, exhibitions, residencies and competitions, together with details of how to submit applications.

**Castlefield Gallery**  [www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk](http://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk)

The network for NW-based artists providing information, skills, opportunities, resources, promotion and critical dialogue providing:

- The *Associates programme*  [www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/associates](http://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/associates) offers mentoring support and master classes plus *Launch Pad*, a test bed for emerging talent. Annual membership costs £60.
- The *Art Guide*  [www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/the-art-guide](http://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/the-art-guide) listing art events and exhibitions in the North West
- The *New Art Spaces* scheme  [www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/associates/newartspaces](http://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/associates/newartspaces) provides information on new art spaces and exhibitions.

**Blank Media Collective**  [www.culture24.org.uk/am50432](http://www.culture24.org.uk/am50432)

A not-for-profit arts organisation that strives to support emerging creativity by providing platforms and opportunities to share it with the wider community.

**East Street Arts**  [http://eaststreetarts.org.uk/](http://eaststreetarts.org.uk/)

(Based in Leeds but near enough to be of interest.)
Community Arts North West http://can.uk.com

The CAN media arts programme http://can.uk.com/current-artistic-programme/media-arts/ offers enhanced training to artists who are already using digital technology for a wide range of artistic and cultural purposes.

Creative Lancashire www.creativelancashire.org

Most authorities are no longer able to direct support to creative initiatives but may offer start-up units and studios for rent. Check the current situation in your local authority area by going to the arts and cultural services areas of their web sites.

Other creative networks include:

- Manchester Fashion Network www.manchesterfashion.com
- Stitched Up www.stitchedup.coop
- Redeye (NW photographers) www.redeye.org.uk
- Future Artists http://futureartists.co.uk
- Manchester Jewellers Network www.manchesterjewellersnetwork.org
- North West Craft Network http://nwcraftnetwork.blogspot.co.uk
- Drinkn’ Doodle www.meetup.com/DrinknDoodle
- Draw North West kosmonaut.co/event/draw-north-west-creative-meet-up/
- Art with a Heart www.artwithaheart.org.uk
- Arts For Recovery (ARC) http://arc-centre.org/
- Manchester Digital www.manchesterdigital.com
- Mad Lab https://madlab.org.uk
- Creative Industries Network Group www.meetup.com/C-I-N-G/
- Northern Digitalis www.meetup.com/blabtalks/
- Geek Up (Web designers and developers) www.geekup.org
- Manchester Publicity Association www.mpa.org.uk
- Meet Up groups www.meetup.com

A number of informal groups for creative practitioners, freelancers and new business start-ups are based in Manchester. They meet regularly to share ideas, develop practice and collaborate.

GLUG www.meetup.com/GlugManchester is part of a well-known group that has events taking place throughout the UK.

For more groups, check out www.meetup.com/topics/business-support/gb/18/manchester and www.meetup.com/cities/gb/18/manchester/arts-culture

As groups are set up on a frequent basis (or cease to meet), it is always worth googling for new ones or set up a group of your own. Manchester School of Art graduates and students have, with ever greater frequency, been forming groups or linking to already established groups through Creative Manchester on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/149502408413575/permalink/1140576312639508/

Selling Your Work

- Studios in Manchester

Manchester boasts a number of studios and galleries that welcome enquiries from new graduates (although rent and commission will be levied).
Market Place Studios [www.art.mmu.ac.uk/marketplace](http://www.art.mmu.ac.uk/marketplace)

As the School of Art’s own studio space in Stockport, Marketplace Studios provide creative start-up support to our graduates. The studios are based in a refurbished 3 storey building in Stockport’s Market Place and offer two floors of incubation space. The ground floor provides a shop/gallery and project spaces to run courses for the general public. Expressions of interest are currently being invited from graduates interested in delivering short courses, workshops and masterclasses in all aspects of creative practice.

For further information about the Studios or to arrange a visit, contact c.knox-bentham@mmu.ac.uk

Other galleries include:

- [Islington Mill, Salford](http://www.islingtonmill.com)
- [Mirabel](http://www.mirabelstudios.co.uk)
- [AWOL, Hope Mill](http://www.awol-studios.co.uk)
- [Bankley Gallery and Studios](http://www.bankley.org.uk)
- [Paper Gallery](http://www.paper-gallery.co.uk)
- [COLLAR](http://collar-mcr.com/)
- [Paradise Works](http://www.paradise-works.com)
- [Artwork Greengate Atelier](http://http://artworkgreengate.co.uk/)
- [Rogue Artists Studios and Project space](http://rastudios.co.uk/)
- [Caustic Coastal](http://www.causticcoastal.biz/)
- [Kraak](http://kraak.org.uk/)
- [The Penthouse](http://thepenthousenq.com)
- [Change Co-op](http://change.coop)
- [Twenty Two](http://www.twentytwentytwo.co.uk)
- [Zion Arts](http://www.z-arts.org/hire-spaces)
- [Manchester Craft & Design Centre](http://www.craftanddesign.com)
- [Clay Studio](http://www.claystudio.co.uk)
- [Scaffold Gallery](http://www.scaffoldgallery.com)
- [Caustic Coastal](http://www.causticcoastal.biz/)
- [Local Creation](http://https://www.facebook.com/LocalCreation/)
- Occasionally, posts to [Creative Manchester](http://www.facebook.com/groups/149502408413575/permalink/1140576312639508/) on Facebook advertise available studio spaces.

Online Galleries

Once you are ready to start selling your work, you can utilise any of a number of online galleries and showcases. Most online galleries will charge you a membership fee and/or collect a percentage fee on point of sale.

For a useful guide to how these may help you establish your work see [www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2014/may/10/artworks-for-sale-online-gallery-market-talent](http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2014/may/10/artworks-for-sale-online-gallery-market-talent)

A sample selection are listed in the careers guide “Getting Work in the Creative”
Arts Thread www.artsthread.com
Originally focussed upon textiles and fashion but now expanded to cover all aspects of design. Arts Thread offers a dedicated area for students and graduates to profile their work. Arts Thread also works in conjunction with New Designers www.newdesigners.com

Selling Artwork http://art-support.com/
Although created for fine art photographers, this site contains useful information for any creative wishing to sell work

Online Shops

A number of established sites are now being used successfully by makers and designers, see: https://ccskills.org.uk/careers/develop-your-career/article/how-to-set-up-an-online-shop and www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/top-tips-to-sell-your-crafts-online/

The most popular sites are:
- **Etsy** www.etsy.com
  Their handbook www.etsy.com/uk/seller-handbook offers tips and advice on showcasing and selling your work.
- **Not on the High Street** www.notonthehighstreet.com
- **Folksy** https://folksy.com
- **Misi** www.misi.co.uk
- **Hidden Art** https://hiddenart.co.uk

Pop Up Shops

For pop up spaces in Manchester: www.appearhere.co.uk/destinations/manchester
Helpful articles on how to organise a pop up include:
www.theguardian.com/small-business-network/2013/sep/17/best-advice-pop-up-shops
www.shopify.co.uk/guides/ultimate-guide-to-pop-up-shops/why-run-a-pop-up

3space www.3space.org/about

This charity works in partnership with property holders to make otherwise empty commercial space available free of charge for a limited period for community use - sharing space to build local networks and to provide infrastructure for innovation by social entrepreneurs. The spaces can be used by charities and other non-profit organisations, social enterprises and early stage start-ups free of charge for a range of temporary projects.

Markets & Trade Shows
More options exist than ever before. For events in the North West, useful sites include:

www.timeout.com/manchester/blog/five-great-manchester-markets
http://northernquartermanchester.com/makers-market-comes-to-the-northern-quarter
www.ukcraftfairs.com/craft-fair-list/1/region/north-west
www.stallandcraftcollective.co.uk/craft-fairs-in-north_west-lnd-co
http://compassliveart.org.uk/compass

The Manchester Youth Market http://manchesteryouthmarket.co.uk and the Teenage Markets https://theteenagemarket.co.uk, which take place in Stockport and Bolton are for anyone aged 12 to 25 who makes products and wishes to sell.

For events across the UK, a useful starting point is: www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/the-design-trust-59-favourite-contemporary-design-trade-fairs-and-craft-shows

Sites Hosting Short-term Commissions

The number of sites that advertise short-term commissions, especially in design, have grown dramatically in recent years. They provide an online global market place that is often referred to as ‘The Gig Economy’. These can be useful for testing out whether freelance work really is for you as well as helping you earn some cash whilst you are completing your professional portfolio.

Most also provide guidance on pricing your work and making your pitch. The 10 sites described in www.creativeboom.com/resources/10-essential-websites-to-help-you-find-more-freelance-work are a good starting point:

- Upwork www.upwork.com
- Freelancer www.freelancer.com
- Guru www.guru.com
- Smashing Magazine http://jobs.smashingmagazine.com
- It’s Nice That http://ifyoucouldjobs.com
- Art Wanted www.artwanted.com
- Authentic Jobs authenticjobs.com
- iFreelance www.ifreelance.com
- People Per Hour www.peopleperhour.com
- 99Designs 99designs.co.uk

In addition, general sites that offer commissions for creative students and recent graduates are:

- Talent Cupboard www.talentcupboard.com
  Links students and recent graduates to short commissions in digital
- Student Gems www.studentgems.com
- Enternships www.enternships.com
- Cargo Collective cargocollective.com
  Offers a personal publishing platform aimed at creating accessible tools and a networked context to enhance your exposure on the Internet.