Getting into the Media Industries
The media industry is made up of many sectors – TV, radio, film and video, games, newspapers and magazines, publishing, advertising, public relations, digital communications and marketing. These industries employ significant numbers of graduates in creative roles such as journalists, copywriters, account executives, media planners, media buyers, researchers, web designers, coders, animators, account managers, media sales, editors, producers, graphic designers, art directors, scriptwriters, filmmakers, camera operators and photographers.

This handout provides a selection of local and national web sites that offer information about the structure of the media industries and how graduates can gain employment and/or freelance contracts under the following headings:

- Employment Trends in the Media
- Getting Work Experience in the Media
- Paid Work Experience Schemes
- Making Speculative Approaches for Work Experience
- Unpaid Internships
- Getting Paid Employment in the Media Industries, including Freelancing
- Media Directories and Online Recruitment Sites
- Key Directories for Manchester
- The Value of Networking
- Relevant Networking Groups in Manchester

Plus sector specific links for:
- Animation and Gaming
- Film
- Television
- Radio
- Digital/Interactive Media
- Journalism and Writing
- Advertising and PR – Branding and Communications
- Publishing

**Employment Trends in the Media**

**Graduate Prospects** [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles)

Browse the following sectors for relevant job profiles:

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

Each profile contains a detailed job description, salary information, entry and training requirements, typical employers and vacancy information for graduate roles in the following sections.
Skillset www.creativeskillset.org
The industry body that supports skills and training for people in the UK creative industries. Specific sections cover radio, TV and film, computer games, interactive media, animation, photo imaging, publishing and advertising, fashion and textiles and visual effects.

The Guardian Media Network www.theguardian.com/media-network
Insights, comment and networking for professionals working in global media and technology.

Media UK media.info/uk
News analysis plus vacancies for graduates interested in newspapers, magazine publishing, radio or TV.

Essential facts for graduates about internet, digital and interactive media careers.

Mediargh mediargh.com
Offers advice, resources and support to people interested in media production.

Creative England www.creativeengland.co.uk
National agency for film, TV, games and digital.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport www.culture.gov.uk
Background information on the media industries, some of which is regional.

Online Newsletters

Many sectors publish regular online newsletters. These provide very helpful industry insights, with a number offering job sections. Examples include:

Creative Review www.creativereview.co.uk
Advertising, design and visual culture

Broadcast Now www.broadcastnow.co.uk

Prolific North www.prolificnorth.co.uk
News and events for media in the North.

Radio Mag Online www.radiomagonline.com
Aimed at all levels of staff from broadcast assistants to programming directors working in radio stations, outside studios, voiceover companies etc.

Press Gazette www.pressgazette.co.uk
Essential reading for journalists in every sector – national and regional press, broadcast journalism, magazines, digital communications and B2B.

Campaign www.campaignlive.co.uk
Marketing, advertising and brand optimisation

The Drum www.thedrum.co.uk
Focuses on the advertising and marketing industry.

Gamasutra www.gamasutra.com
Free online version of Game Developer Magazine.
Getting Work Experience in the Media

Previous work experience combined with talent and passion evidenced through a ‘creative’ profile (which typically will include a blog, portfolio, video clips or digital presentation etc.) and some involvement with relevant networks will be virtually essential for entry into any role.

(See also Designing a Creative CV and Getting Work in the Creative Industries www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides for advice and top tips on developing your creative CV and building your networks.)

It is advisable to start whilst you are a student. You could consider working for a community magazine or radio station, or volunteering for promotional or campaign work in the Students Union or a charity. You can check possibilities locally via:

MMUnion www.theunionmmu.org/your-opportunities/volunteering
Manchester’s Volunteer Centre www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/volunteer-centre-manchester
or nationally, at Do-it www.do-it.org.uk

Paid Work Experience Schemes

A small number of organisations offer high quality schemes - for example:

The BBC www.bbc.co.uk/careers/work-experience
ITV www.itvjobs.com
Channel 4 http://4talent.channel4.com/get-involved/work-experience

Advertising, PR and marketing agencies may also offer interesting opportunities. Details will be posted on their careers web, Facebook and Twitter pages.

SEO Creative Access www.seo-london.com
Sources paid internships in the creative industries for young people from under-represented black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds who are interested in film, advertising, performing arts, publishing, journalism, TV and radio.

Your Creative Future www.creativefuture.org.uk
Supports people who lack opportunities due to mental health issues, disability, identity or other social circumstances to access training, mentoring and the chance to publish or exhibit, including via an on-line gallery.

SharpFutures POD http://sharpfutures.org.uk/pod/

POD is a pool of entry level, eager to gain experience, new entrants with the ability to provide important, flexible support to fledgling and fast-growing businesses in the creative digital sector.

Competition for all of these is intense so it is vital you apply early in the year.

Manchester Met’s Careers & Employability Service occasionally receives opportunities. These are posted to:

- My Career Hub www.mmu.ac.uk/mycareerhub
- Creative Manchester Students www.facebook.com/groups/149502408413575/
Making Speculative Approaches for Work Experience

An alternative way of securing work experience is to use media online directories, jobs boards and online newsletters. (See the Getting Paid Work in the Media Industries section below) together with social media. LinkedIn, Twitter, Vimeo and You Tube in particular are also increasingly used by senior staff to spot student talent coming through.

LinkedIn www.linkedin.com

The professional version of Facebook enabling you to link with a range of media groups e.g. Salford Quays Media Forum. LinkedIn offers a means of posting visual content on your personal profile too – see mashable.com/2013/05/01/linkedin-visual-profile/

To make optimum use of LinkedIn go to: students.linkedin.com/uk

Twitter www.twitter.com

Learn more about using Twitter in your job search at: en-gb.facebook.com/notes/reading-university-students-union/how-twitter-can-help-you-land-a-graduate-job/10150219088194777

Vimeo https://vimeo.com

You Tube https://www.youtube.com/?gl=GB

If you are new to these media, read the ‘Using Social Media for Job Hunting’ guide at www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

Unpaid Internships

As paid schemes are few in number and are so highly competitive, relevant work experience in broadcasting and film in particular can often only be obtained through working as an unpaid intern - most typically as a runner. www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/runner-broadcasting-film-video

These roles can add relevant experience to your CV as well as enabling you to make useful contacts who may be willing to recommend you to organisations where they know longer term, paid opportunities are available. However, there has been increasing concern in recent years about the plight of a significant number of graduates who have accepted internships only to find they are not getting good quality experience or mentoring, together with little or no possibility of a paid entry role at the end.

If you decide to undertake unpaid work for any length of time, it is important that you check out your rights and the legalities of your likely situation and be prepared to negotiate the best experience possible for yourself. The following sites will assist: -

Government advice www.gov.uk/employment-rights-for-interns
Getting Paid Employment in the Media Industries, including Freelancing

Graduate entry-level roles are advertised only on occasion as many organisations prefer to recruit graduates who have already worked for them or who have been recommended by a colleague in the industry.

However, there are many sector specific recruitment agencies and online professional journals advertising more senior roles. These may be worth looking at to give you an insight into the roles available and the skill requirements.

In film and television in particular, you will find that due to the short-term nature of roles in production, many work opportunities will be freelance. As a result, you will also need to consider posting your profile on the appropriate sites to get your work seen. A member’s subscription is often payable for this service.

For more information about working freelance, see:

Freelancing, Exhibiting & Community Arts — Manchester Met’s Careers & Employability Service guide providing advice on starting out as a freelancer in the creative and media industries www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides

Media Directories and Online Recruitment Sites

NB: Many of these sites offer a mixture of paid employed roles and freelance assignments.

The Freelance Directory www.freelancedirectory.org
Listing of professional media freelancers including writers, editors, sub-editors, designers, illustrators, photographers, broadcasters, scriptwriters, web designers, translators, trainers and researchers

IMDb www.imdb.com
Regarded as the sector leader for filmography data, IMDb Pro https://secure.imdb.com/signup/index.html offers additional features specifically for industry professionals including the posting of detailed career profiles

Production Base www.productionbase.co.uk
Network for people working in the film, TV, radio, theatre and commercial production. Includes freelancers’ directory.

The Knowledge www.theknowledgeonline.com
Directory giving contact information for crew members and UK and international film, TV and commercial production companies and suppliers

Film and TV Professionals www.filmandtvpro.com/uk
Crew opportunities in television, commercials and film

UK Screen ukSCREEN.com
Interactive directory of UK filmmakers, crew, actors, agents, production companies and music bands. In addition, offers film streaming and music downloads.

**The Crewing Company** [www.thecrewingcompany.com](http://www.thecrewingcompany.com)
Media recruitment offices representing freelance talent

**Guardian Media** [https://jobs.theguardian.com/jobs/media](https://jobs.theguardian.com/jobs/media)

**Media UK** [media.info/uk](http://media.info/uk)

**Art Culture Media Jobs** [www.artsculturemediajobs.com](http://www.artsculturemediajobs.com)

**Creative Pool** [creativepool.com](http://creativepool.com)

**Campaign Jobs** [www.campaignlive.co.uk/jobs/all/media](http://www.campaignlive.co.uk/jobs/all/media)

**Response Source** [https://mediajobs.responsesource.com](https://mediajobs.responsesource.com)
Jobs in media, journalism and PR

**Grapevine Jobs** [www.grapevinejobs.com](http://www.grapevinejobs.com)

**Christy Media** [christy-media.com](http://christy-media.com)
Broadcast media recruitment with emphasis on technical roles

**Mandy’s** [www.mandy.com](http://www.mandy.com)
Film and TV production vacancies plus employer directory

**Blueberry Creatives** [http://blueberrycreatives.co.uk](http://blueberrycreatives.co.uk)

**Media Volt** [www.mediavolt.co.uk](http://www.mediavolt.co.uk)
Offers commissions for actors, models and musicians as well as TV/Film production crew.

**KFTV (Formerly Kemps) Film, TV and Commercial Production Directory** [www.kftv.com](http://www.kftv.com)
Lists over 59,000 film, television and commercial production services companies in 149 countries worldwide.

**Kays** [www.kays.co.uk](http://www.kays.co.uk)
Searchable data base of both production service companies and freelance technicians.

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**Key Directories for Manchester**

**Media City** [www.mediacityuk.co.uk/whos-here/directory/](http://www.mediacityuk.co.uk/whos-here/directory/)

**The Sharp Project** [www.thesharpproject.co.uk/community/](http://www.thesharpproject.co.uk/community/)

**Manchester Digital** [www.manchesterdigital.com/directory-listing](http://www.manchesterdigital.com/directory-listing)

**Note:** Manchester Met’s Library subscribes to FAME, a very powerful online company database. This may be useful for conducting a speculative job search. [http://libguides.mmu.ac.uk/](http://libguides.mmu.ac.uk/)

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**The Value of Networking**

It is essential to attend networking events and exhibitions whilst a student so you have the opportunity to talk informally with relevant and potential organisations and build up your
The following three sites carry details of events at MMU, in Manchester and beyond throughout the year:

- **MMU Careers Service** [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/events](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/events)
- **Creative Manchester Students** [www.facebook.com/groups/149502408413575/permalink/1007200462643761/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/149502408413575/permalink/1007200462643761/)
- **MMU HLSS & Manchester School of Art Placement Group** [www.facebook.com/groups/HLSS.MSA.PlacementsGroup/permalink/1026533144026454/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/HLSS.MSA.PlacementsGroup/permalink/1026533144026454/)

A key event for Manchester Met students is **Manchester Digital’s Skills Festival** held every February [https://www.manchesterdigital.com/events/digital-skills-festival-save-date](https://www.manchesterdigital.com/events/digital-skills-festival-save-date)

This enables students to meet employers representing all facets of Manchester’s rapidly growing digital sector – animation and design, web design, coding, campaign and media planning, branding, SEO, content writing.

**Relevant Networking Groups in Manchester**

A number of formal groups may invite students to certain of their events. Usually these will be free or low cost and will enable you meet professionals working in the industry, find out more about the local scene and build your contacts. Examples include:

- **Manchester Digital** [www.manchesterdigital.com/](http://www.manchesterdigital.com/)
- **Manchester Publicity Association** [www.mpa.org.uk](http://www.mpa.org.uk)
  Network of over 2000 people working in the Manchester media, film, creative and digital industries.
- **Future Artists** [www.futureartists.co.uk](http://www.futureartists.co.uk) (For independent filmmakers)
- **Redeye** [www.redeye.org.uk](http://www.redeye.org.uk) (NW photographers)
- **Northern Soho** [www.northernsoho.com](http://www.northernsoho.com)
- **Geek Up** [geekup.org](http://geekup.org) (Web designers and developers)
- **MadLab** [www.madlab.org.uk/events](http://www.madlab.org.uk/events)
- **Meet Up** [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)
  Facilitates many social networking groups that meet locally - for example,
  - **The Creative Industries Network group** [www.meetup.com/C-I-N-G/](http://www.meetup.com/C-I-N-G/)
  - **Northern Digitals** [www.meetup.com/northerndigitals](http://www.meetup.com/northerndigitals)

Search for more groups that meet in the Manchester area at [www.meetup.com/cities/gb/18/manchester/](http://www.meetup.com/cities/gb/18/manchester/) under the following headings:

- Arts & Culture
- Games
- Movies and Film
• Music
• Photography
• Tech

Sector-Specific Links

Animation and Gaming

• Graduate profiles on Prospects
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/animator
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/games-developer
• Aardman www.aardman.com
  Bristol based animation studios, site includes jobs and work experience details.
• Animation Arena www.animationarena.com/animation-career.html
  With careers information.
• Animation Industry Database www.aidb.com
  Animation, visual effects and games related companies located throughout the world
• Association for UK Interactive Entertainment www.ukie.org.uk/
  Trade body for UK’s interactive entertainment industry.
• GI www.gamesindustry.biz
  Extensive employer directory, jobs and industry news.
• Hit Entertainment www.hitentertainment.com
• International Game Developers Association www.igda.org
  News, careers information and links to regional ‘chapters’ including the NW.

Film

• Graduate profiles on Prospects:
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/runner-broadcasting-film-video
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/film-video-editor
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/programme-researcher-broadcasting-film-video
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/production-designer-theatre-television-film
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/lighting-technician-broadcasting-film-video
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/sound-technician-broadcasting-film-video
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/location-manager
• My First Job in Film www.myfirstjobinfilm.co.uk/index.html
  Internships, work experience and runner work as well as careers resources.
• British Film Institute www.bfi.org.uk
  Includes course information and links.
• BAFTA Guru guru.bafta.org
  ‘Inspirational’ content for those in the Film, TV and Gaming worlds.
• Film Distributors Association www.launchingfilms.com
  Includes a careers section and links to main film distributors
• Creative England www.creativeengland.co.uk
  Offers crew and locations databases. Funding may also be on offer for newly emerging talent. www.creativeengland.co.uk/film-and-tv/film-business-support
• PACT www.pact.co.uk
  Represents independent production companies and includes links to media careers sites.
• Regional Film and Video www.4rfv.co.uk
  Comprehensive film and television production directory as well as articles and links to opportunities.
• IMDb www.imdb.com
The Internet Movie Data Base offers IMDbPro – a well-known profile listing for all those working in film.

- **Shooting People** [www.shootingpeople.org](http://www.shootingpeople.org)
  Advice and opportunities to get your film to an audience.
- **Production Guild** [www.productionguild.com](http://www.productionguild.com)
  Membership organisation for film and TV production management professionals.
- **Film Hub North West Central** [www.filmhubnwc.org](http://www.filmhubnwc.org)
  Part of a UK-wide network of Hubs which aims to bring film to UK audiences in new and exciting ways. Support with bursaries and grants.

### Television

- **Graduate profiles on Prospects** (Also see Film above):
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-presenter](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-presenter)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-engineer](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-engineer)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-camera-operator](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-camera-operator)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-floor-manager](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-floor-manager)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-production-coordinator](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-production-coordinator)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-film-video-producer](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-film-video-producer)
- **StartinTV** [www.startintv.com](http://www.startintv.com)
  Information, advice and career opportunities.
- **The Unit List** [www.theunitlist.com](http://www.theunitlist.com)
  Community list for workers in TV and related production platforms
- **BBC** [www.bbc.co.uk/careers/home](http://www.bbc.co.uk/careers/home)
- **ITV** [www.itvjobs.com](http://www.itvjobs.com)
- **Channel 5** [www.channel5.com/vacancies](http://www.channel5.com/vacancies)
- **Sky** [workforsky.com/](http://workforsky.com/)
- **Disney Channel** [http://disneycareers.co.uk/en/our-industries/television](http://disneycareers.co.uk/en/our-industries/television)

### Radio

- **Graduate profiles on Prospects**:
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/radio-broadcast-assistant](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/radio-broadcast-assistant)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/radio-producer](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/radio-producer)
- **Radio Centre** [www.radiocentre.org](http://www.radiocentre.org)
  Advice and information on how to get into radio, relevant training courses and getting a work placement.
- **Radio Academy** [www.radioacademy.org](http://www.radioacademy.org)
  Advice on training, work experience and job vacancies.
- **Local Radio** [www.ukrd.com](http://www.ukrd.com)
  Media group operating local stations across the UK. Includes company news and announcements, plus links to the local stations.
- **Student Radio Association** [www.facebook.com/studentradio?fref=nf](http://www.facebook.com/studentradio?fref=nf)

### Digital/Interactive Media

- **Graduate profiles on Prospects**
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/web-designer](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/web-designer)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/multimedia-programmer](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/multimedia-programmer)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/multimedia-specialist](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/multimedia-specialist)
The British Interactive Media Association [www.bima.co.uk](http://www.bima.co.uk)
Supports and promotes the British digital industry.

**Bubble Jobs** [www.bubble-jobs.co.uk/career_portal/](http://www.bubble-jobs.co.uk/career_portal/)
Digital media jobs consultancy based in Cheshire that hosts an excellent graduate careers portal.

**Orchard** [www.orchard.co.uk/careerkickstart.aspx](http://www.orchard.co.uk/careerkickstart.aspx)
Digital media job vacancies based principally in the north plus details of relevant networking events. Hosts a careers portal aimed at graduates at [www.orchard.co.uk/careerkickstart.aspx](http://www.orchard.co.uk/careerkickstart.aspx)

**Manchester Digital** [www.manchesterdigital.com](http://www.manchesterdigital.com)
The trade association for the ICT and new media industries in the NW with information, events, vacancies, a directory of member agencies and a student zone.

**The UK Web Design Association** [www.ukwda.org](http://www.ukwda.org)
Includes a directory of members.

### Journalism and Writing

- **Graduate profiles on Prospects:**
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/writer](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/writer)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-journalist](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-journalist)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/newspaper-journalist](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/newspaper-journalist)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/press-sub-editor](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/press-sub-editor)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/magazine-features-editor](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/magazine-features-editor)
  - [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/magazine-journalist](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/magazine-journalist)

- **National Council for the Training of Journalists** [www.nctj.com](http://www.nctj.com)
  Careers information including a list of approved courses.

- **Hold the FrontPage** [www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk](http://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk)
  Careers information and job vacancies for the regional press.

- **Broadcast Journalism Training Council** [www.bjtc.org.uk](http://www.bjtc.org.uk)
  Accredits UK journalism courses within higher education. Site offers careers information.

- **Journalism.co.uk** [www.journalism.co.uk](http://www.journalism.co.uk)
  Information on training and jobs.

- **Professional Copywriters Network** [www.procopywriters.co.uk](http://www.procopywriters.co.uk)
  Online community to meet copywriters, find work and get help with charging professional copywriting fees.

- **Writers and Artists** [www.writersandartists.co.uk](http://www.writersandartists.co.uk)
  Industry advice for writers and artists as well as comprehensive range of writing and publication services.

- **The Writers Guild** [www.writersguild.org.uk](http://www.writersguild.org.uk)
  Represents writers for TV, film, theatre, radio, books, videogames and online. Negotiates minimum terms agreements and fights for writers' rights.

- **Creative Industries Trafford** [creativeindustriestrafford.org](http://creativeindustriestrafford.org)
  Offers master classes for writers, usually reasonably priced, at the Waterside Arts Centre, Sale.

### Advertising and PR – Branding and Communications
• Graduate profiles on Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/marketing-advertising-and-pr
• Institute of Practitioners In Advertising www.ipa.co.uk

The professional institute for the advertising industry. Has an A-Z listing of member firms including graduate recruiters.

• Chartered Institute of Public Relations www.cipr.co.uk/
The largest PR institute in Europe. Information on careers and training.

Publishing

• Graduate profiles on Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/editorial-assistant
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/publishing-copy-editor-proofreader
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/commissioning-editor
  www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/publishing-rights-manager
• The Publishers Association www.publishers.org.uk
  The trade association for the publishing industry. Provides information on the industry and job roles.
• Publishing North West www.publishingnorthwest.co.uk/about
  Guide to the North West’s literature scene. Include list of regional presses.
• The Book Seller www.thebookseller.com
  Comprehensive job vacancy listing and links to other recruitment services.
• Society of Young Publishers thesyp.org.uk/
  Connects young people in the publishing field with information, contacts, jobs and training. Includes newsletter, FAQs, lists of resources

Careers & Employability Support

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

• Find Opportunities: We advertise hundreds of part time, graduate and internship roles through My Career Hub.
• Career Consultant Appointments: Meet with a Careers Consultant to discuss options with your degree.

For more information visit www.mmu.ac.uk/careers