Options With Your English Degree
Studying for a degree in English provides you with a wide range of skills that are highly valued by employers.

Unlike vocational courses you are not being trained for a specific job; there are many career options suited to English graduates and this booklet will give you some ideas to help you think about your future possibilities and career goals.

The demand for graduate level skills remains high. However, the face of the economy is changing and a key element to your future employment success is to understand the sectors that are growing and those that are in decline. For example, the digital media industries and professional services are growing rapidly, particularly in Greater Manchester. New technology has changed the way people access and pay for information. This has effected employment patterns in careers that have been traditionally popular with English graduates such as the media, publishing, writing, journalism and librarianship. A recent report commissioned by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in conjunction with LinkedIn found that those proficient in social media marketing, events coordination, data mining, and analytical problem solving skills were much more likely to find employment.

We have followed up graduates from your course and this booklet is packed with real examples of how Manchester Met students like you have used their degree as a platform to build a career.

Questions to consider when you are reading this:

- What are your strengths?
- What matters to you about work? Your interests, priorities and values
- Who do you want to work with? E.g a certain type of client?
- Which organisations are doing the type of work that interests you?
- What are the ways in? Do you need further qualifications or relevant work experience?
- Have you logged into My CareerHub to search for vacancies?
- Have you made an appointment to talk through your ideas with a Careers Consultant?
How will my English degree make me employable?

Studying English provides graduates with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills that are highly valued in many jobs. This includes the ability to articulate knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories, and analyse and communicate ideas in an understandable, balanced and well thought-out manner.

Other marketable skills include:

- **Talent for clear expression, both oral and written, commanding a broad range of vocabulary and critical terminology** - a crucial skill in any job, but especially primary and secondary teaching, HE lecturing, creative writing or journalism (broadcast, magazine, newspaper or digital).

- **Putting forward ideas and arguments in a concise and persuasive manner, picking out the essential points from texts** - useful if you consider training as a solicitor or barrister, working in marketing, sales or advertising accounts management.

- **Basing conclusions on research and generating ideas** - essential skills for all types of researcher roles e.g. in TV and radio, public policy, conference production, business research, market research and management consultancy.

- **Gather, evaluate and interpret information** - opens up possibilities for working in data analysis, information management, intelligence gathering (MIS), law enforcement, risk management (insurance, financial advice), and the legal and accountancy professions.

- **Have empathy, insight and ability to take on board others’ views** - crucial in any job but essential skills for advice and guidance, health and social care and counselling roles.

- **Think creatively, critically and independently, identifying, absorbing and sifting complex information** - highly valuable in public and policy and research roles.

Skills gained from studying at university level:

- prioritising and managing your time effectively;
- initiative and self-motivation, drive and determination to get things done;
- planning and researching written work, finding relevant information from a range of resources;
- understanding and explaining complex theories and arguments;
- critically analysing and evaluating evidence and arguments;
- ability to work independently;
- recording and summarising information efficiently;
- gain a good understanding of the uses of information technology and develop a range of IT skills;
- lead and participate in discussions and develop confidence in your own opinions.
- Project management;
- use judgment when weighing up different options and alternative perspectives;
- work towards a solution using negotiation skills;
- work with others when presenting ideas, information and practical work;
- making presentations/public speaking.
Job options related to your English degree

Jobs directly related to your English degree could include:

- Digital Copywriter
- Editorial Assistant
- English as a foreign language teacher
- Lexicographer
- Journalist
- Teacher (Primary, Secondary or Further Education)
- Writer
- Publishing copy-editor/proof reader

Jobs an English degree would be useful could include:

- Academic Librarian
- Advertising Account Executive
- Advertising Copywriter
- Arts Administrator
- Information Officer
- Marketing Executive
- Public Relations Officer
- Records Manager

To find out more about the above roles and to explore other job titles follow Prospect’s ‘What can I do with an English Degree?’

Other employment sectors to consider

All the suggested careers found in this guide are open to English graduates and there are many more besides.

For many opportunities, you will find that employers don’t specify any particular degree subject. Therefore, it’s key when career planning not to limit your thinking to jobs that only relate directly to your degree. For example, sectors like engineering have roles for non-engineers in management, logistics, project management etc.

Below gives you an overview of other possible sectors to consider. You can also research different job sectors on the Prospects website.

- **Accountancy and consultancy:** you’ll need a good GCSE in maths and a competency with numbers. For example, RSM Tenon are a professional services firm offering risk management, tax, recovery, financial management and business advisory services. They advertise a variety of graduate roles across the financial sector. For some roles there’s a minimum entry requirement of *240 UCAS points (the UCAS tariff has changed so check with UCAS) and 2:2 degree projected in any subject.
• **Advertising, marketing and PR**: entry is very competitive but digital marketing and writing copy for blogs and social media is a growth area. Heamar, a supplier of specialist military specification tooling and components to the military, aerospace, medical, motor sport and mass transit industries, recently advertised for a Digital Marketing Trainee on My Career Hub. Whilst the applicant needed to demonstrate a reasonable understanding and experience of digital marketing activities, they also considered candidates with a strong background in creative writing / copywriting and/or with exceptional English language skills.

• **Banking and finance**: AON is an insurance broker based in Manchester and recruits graduate trainees from any discipline for some of its roles. To apply for their Health & Benefits Broking and Consulting Stream, you must be educated to degree level with a 2:1 or equivalent qualification in any discipline. You should also be enthusiastic, creative and ambitious.

• **Business and management**: many of the UK’s largest companies offer graduate schemes where you can specialise in different areas of business. Bentley Cars based in Crewe, have a Graduate Development Programme offering trainee roles in sales and marketing, HR, finance, purchasing and logistics.

• **Community and Voluntary Sector**: although there are relatively few graduate trainee posts, you could train as a youth and community worker, or move into paid administrative or fundraising roles (usually when you have experience gained in other industries or have already been a volunteer).

• **Government and public administration**: although this sector has seen a reduction in jobs, the public sector is still a big recruiter and encompasses jobs in the Civil Service, regional and devolved government, NHS management, local government, law enforcement and intelligence services. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme prepares recruits for management roles in HR, finance and general management.

• **Health and social care**: this is a huge sector, which is changing rapidly in the way it is structured and the job roles within it. It’s important to keep up-to-date with current issues if you are considering entry. Jobs include social worker, specialist community support workers, residential care management, counselling and work within charities.

**Further Study**

Postgraduate study has the potential to enhance your career prospects and may be essential for some career choices. With a variety of postgraduate qualifications available, it is important that you research your options before starting your applications. Read our [Postgraduate Study and Funding guide](#) for detailed information on available courses and funding options. You can search for courses on these websites:

• Find a Masters
• Find a PHD
• Prospects - postgraduate study
What have Manchester Met’s English graduates done?

The following information represents some of the things that Manchester Met English graduates have gone on to do:

- Published Author
- Freelance Writer
- Trainee Accountant with a logistics company
- Administrator in local government
- Online community manager with a charity
- Client liaison officer with a law firm
- Data Analyst
- Digital Media Assistant in a university department
- Digital communications manager at Transport for London
- Archive Assistant in a government ministry
- Editorial Assistant with a magazine
- News Editor for regional newspaper
- Fraud Investigation Adviser with a bank
- Festival Coordinator
- Proof Reader with a market research company
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Lecturer in Creative Writing
- MA English Studies
- MA Creative Writing
- PGCE Secondary English
- PGCE Primary
- TEFL
- MSc Public Relations
- MA Classics & Ancient History

Why not see what current English students and recent graduates have to say about making the most of their time at Manchester Met: www2.mmu.ac.uk/english/profiles

Resources to research career areas

- **After English**: helping you with your future as an English graduate.
- **Creative Choices Careers in Literature**: articles, job profiles, industry insights and advice for those interested in a career within literature.
- **Prospects**: what can I do with my English degree? Research areas such as job options, further education, skills to add to your CV and typical employers for English graduates.
- **Prospects Career Planner** ask questions about what you want from work and generates some job ideas.
- **Target**: what can I do with an English degree? Talks through skills you can gain, job options, and famous people who have English degrees.
- **Our guides** provide detailed information on a wide range of careers topics and are downloadable from our website: www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides.
Finding graduate opportunities

Careers & Employability provide information and advice on job searching and we advertise hundreds of part-time opportunities, vacation work, placements, internships and graduate job-vacancies throughout the year on My Career Hub. To access these vacancies simply login with your Manchester Met Student ID number and password.

Graduate recruitment schemes have many different names, but most are offered by larger organisations, from multinational companies to opportunities in the NHS, civil service, and local government. Graduate schemes typically last for around two years, although this can vary and may allow you to experience different placements within the organisation to gain an understanding of how it operates, explore your interests and decide what type of work/role you are most suited to.

Here are some examples:

**Civil Service Fast Stream** is an accelerated graduate scheme, designed to prepare graduates for senior managerial positions.

This is the main Civil Service gateway listing all levels of vacancies, including graduate vacancies not recruited via the Fast Stream, searchable by region. You can also create email alerts for jobs that may interest you.

**NHS Graduate Training Scheme**

Other jobs in the NHS

**National Graduate Development Programme**: A graduate training scheme run by the Local Government Association.

**Other types of Graduate Jobs**

Only a small proportion of the UK job market is made up of graduate schemes. Most graduates will be employed directly into individual positions within organisations. Recruitment for these jobs is less structured in timing and promotion than graduate recruitment schemes, meaning vacancies can be harder to find. Many companies choose to advertise in industry specific journals, magazines and websites, on their own company websites or via specialised, recruitment agencies. You need to familiarise yourself with the sector you are interested in. To help with this look at the ‘organisations’ and ‘resources’ pages on My CareerHub and the ‘job sectors’ pages on the Prospects website.

**Ad Job Wall**- An intern, placement and job site for the creative industry.

**Arts Council**- Job site by Arts Council England, wide ranging – all internships are paid unless part of a further or higher education course.

**Arts Hub**- Large listing of arts and creative jobs including internships and work experience.

**Arts Job Finder** - Part of Arts Professional - Wide range of jobs across the arts sector.

**BBC Careers** - Includes information on trainee schemes and apprenticeships.

**Creative Access**– Provides opportunities for paid internships in the creative industries for people from under-represented black, Asian and other non-white minority ethnic backgrounds.

**Creative Skillset**– The industry skills body for the Creative Industries, which works across film, television, radio, fashion, animation, games, visual effects, textiles, publishing, advertising and marketing communications. Includes a comprehensive listing of job roles available in film.

**RSA** - (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce)
GradTouch
Guardian Jobs (Arts and Heritage)
Indeed
Prospects.ac.uk
Target Jobs
The Job Crowd Arts & media graduate careers.

Working for yourself

Some Manchester Met graduates have also successfully started their own business/social enterprise. Read our 'Working for Yourself' careers guide for information on self-employment, freelancing and starting your own business.

Innospace - Manchester Met’s business incubator for start-ups and new enterprises.

UNLtd, the foundation for social entrepreneurs, provide packages of support and funding for people who want to make a difference. They support individuals with entrepreneurial solutions to social issues.

How else can you make yourself employable ?

Make the most of your time at university and take advantage of the many opportunities on offer by taking part in Careers and Employability events ranging from talks and workshops to employer events.

The Manchester Met’s Future Skills Award provides opportunities to enhance your university experience and learn how to articulate these skills to an employer.

Think about doing some volunteering

Take any opportunity to get work experience even if it’s not directly related to what you might want to do longer term; employers will value it for the transferable skills developed and for the general experience of the world of work.

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.
- **Jobs Hub drop-in:** Available Monday-Friday 1pm-4pm, our Careers & Employability Assistants are available to offer job seeking and application advice.
- **Career Consultant Appointments:** Meet with a Careers Consultant to discuss options with your English degree.

For more information visit our website