

Finding Work in Manchester

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Want to work in Manchester but no idea where to start?

Manchester is a big place and as a student you may be living in the town centre, a nearby suburb like Fallowfield or commuting in. Even if you have lived here all your life you may not be familiar with all the areas or industries and what opportunities there are available.

The Greater Manchester area is made up of 10 Metropolitan districts See: https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Greater_Manchester. The geography & history of each area will give it its own character and opportunities for employment or housing. Many people choose to live in one area and commute to another to minimise costs or maximise access to the countryside for example.

Many large graduate recruiters will have offices in the region but they may not be in the centre of Manchester. Cost, accessibility or proximity to other industries may make a company choose to be located in a suburb or district, for example, Didsbury or Altrincham.

Find out who the NW biggest businesses are www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/business/top-200-manchester-biggest-business-13614466

Small to medium size companies will also be distributed throughout the region, look out for business or science parks as well as town or regional centres to find opportunities.

1. Do you know what job or sector you want to work in?

It can be hard to know where to start if you are looking at everything:

If you haven't had time to explore your options yet or simply find it hard to narrow them down here are a couple of things to try first

- Prospects planner
www.prospects.ac.uk/myprospects_planner_login.htm
- See also the “I don’t know what I want to do” guide
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/startingpoints

These planning tools can help identify careers or jobs that you might be suited to. You can then explore these in more detail, and discuss the results with a member of the careers team.

Once you have a few broad ideas start with sector information on the Careers Service website:

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/whichcareer

2. Do you know what types of opportunity are available in Manchester?

Once you know what type of job you are looking for you can find suggestions for getting work experience & graduate jobs in this region and nationally on our Which Careers Pages

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/whichcareer/

Manchester is a big city region but still will have variability in terms of which industries are located here and how many staff they take on in this area.

Manchester Graduate Talent (MGT)

If you want to stay in Manchester, MGT is a great way to get experience and help you find out what type of work you enjoy. MGT vacancies cover a variety of sectors and a wide range of roles. They include both fixed-term contracts and permanent positions in The Manchester region.

Graduate internships are offered within The University and normally last up to 1 year, while a mixture of temporary & permanent contracts are available with local companies large and small.

MGT is exclusively for graduates of The University of Manchester, so competition is much less than for most advertised jobs. Graduates are eligible for MGT only in the academic year after they graduate. So if you choose to travel for a year after your degree you will not be able to apply for an MGT the year after.

Details and vacancies are available on the MGT section of the website:

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/graduatejobs/mgt/

All MGT opportunities are advertised via the normal Careers Service vacancies service: www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink

Popular employment areas in Greater Manchester

Universities and education

Universities often take on graduates in administrative and support roles while PhD graduates may be interested in research and teaching posts. Internships & work experience opportunities may also be available.

The University of Manchester

- Student Experience Internships: Summer internships for 2nd year students.
www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/internships/studentexperienceinternshipsforpenultimateyears/
- Graduate internships are offered via MGT
www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/graduatejobs/mgt
- Academic, support and research roles
www.manchester.ac.uk/connect/jobs

Manchester Metropolitan University

<https://manmetjobs.mmu.ac.uk/jobs>

University of Salford
www.jobs.salford.ac.uk

University of Bolton
www.bolton.ac.uk/HumanResources/Vacancies/Home.aspx

If you are interested in academic and research positions you may need to search nationally on sites such as www.jobs.ac.uk and www.findapostdoc.com

To find schools & colleges in Manchester (other council areas will have similar search tools)

www.manchester.gov.uk/directory/84/school_finder

Schools may advertise jobs on their own websites on Council websites or via the TES <https://www.tes.com/jobs/>

Healthcare

The NHS is the largest employer in the UK. They recruit for a wide range of administrative and support roles in addition to the more obvious clinical opportunities and national graduate schemes.

Explore career possibilities in the NHS at www.nhscareers.nhs.uk
Search for vacancies, you can narrow your search by location and/or job type: www.jobs.nhs.uk

Private healthcare opportunities are also available find out who is operating in the area <https://www.privatehealth.co.uk/hospitals-and-clinics/> then check their websites for job opportunities.

Law

There are options in Manchester for barristers & solicitors – there are numerous searches you can use to find firms:

- Corporate & commercial firms in NW giving some description
www.legal500.com/c/north-west/corporate-and-

[commercial/corporate-and-commercial-manchester](#)

- Solicitors in Manchester use the search on the Law society website <http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk>

To find out who's who and what's new check out the Professionals pages on a Tuesday in the Manchester Evening News.

www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/business/professionals/

Talk to the Legal advice Centre here at the University to see if it's possible to get some experience www.law.manchester.ac.uk/legal-advice-centre .

To observe legal proceedings in court present yourself to the Clerk of Court on arrival

<https://courtribunalfinder.service.gov.uk/courts/manchester-magistrates-court>

Finance

Financial services cover a huge number of professions from Accountancy, through Investment Banking to Tax. It's not that easy just to get a list covering everything as they are regulated by different professional bodies. It's much easier to search for vacancies and narrow your search by type and region. Use our Finance web pages to help you find the right websites to use www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/whichcareer/finance/

Science, engineering & technology

You will find that although there are some big names in the area such as Astra Zeneca & Siemens they are not generally located in the big city areas due to the need for space & connectivity to transport networks.

Many science & technology companies are small and may be located in Science Parks, spinout and incubator sites such as BioHub Alderley Park or Hexagon Tower a specialist science and technology facility located in Blackley.

You can see a list of science parks on the UKSPA website – but many science parks do not list the companies working there on their websites.

More information and links for Science jobs

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/whichcareer/science/

Members directory for Chemical industry in the NW

www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/

Manchester Digital is the independent trade association for digital business in the North West of England. Creative, technical, software, media, telecommunications & marketing. www.manchesterdigital.com/

Civil engineering consultancies may have offices in city and or regional centers depending on the size of the workforce or specialty of the particular team in that location.

Engineering & manufacturing firms are more likely to be located in science parks or outside the main urban areas due to the requirement for space & transport infrastructure. Areas such as Warrington, Trafford Park Birchwood & the airport all have concentrations of industry.

Retail & fashion

The Northwest was historically the centre of the cotton industry and as a result the textile trade flourished in the area. Now there are still a number of businesses based in the area manufacturing specialist textiles, fashion / sportswear or online retail such as Boohoo, Missguided, Adidas (Stockport) etc.

Manchester fashion network can be useful for events and insights

www.manchesterfashion.com/

Large retailers will often advertise part time, seasonal & graduate roles on their website. However, large & small businesses will use social media, posters & word of mouth to find staff quickly, so asking in store can be a good way to find out about openings to gain experience.

- The Manchester Arndale Centre employs people in roles ranging from retail to security and administration. They have a job centre on site, or you can search for current vacancies at:

www.manchesterarndale.com/jobs.aspx

- The Trafford Centre has an onsite job centre or you can search for vacancies at their stores and restaurants at:
www.intutraffordcentre.co.uk/aboutus/jobs

Media, leisure & entertainment

- Granada Studios are based in Salford, Greater Manchester and are one of the main media employers in the area. The jobs section of the ITV website includes information on vacancies and career advice for those considering a career in television.
www.itvjobs.com
- BBC Based at Media City – Salford.
www.bbc.co.uk/jobs
- Join media club for updates
www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/events/themedioclub
- Find sports & leisure centre contact details via your local council website:
www.manchester.gov.uk/directory/47/sports_clubs_and_leisure_centres Also look at private gyms & leisure facilities. Many may be run by the same companies and have a websites where they advertise opportunities; it is still worth dropping by and asking in person though.
- Search online for hotels, theatres, galleries, museums & heritage sites, they all have websites and many will advertise vacancies online.
- Manchester Airport employs staff for roles such as baggage handling, marketing, security and engineering both full and part time. Their dedicated job centre website lists all current vacancies.
www.manchesterairport.co.uk/careers/job-vacancies/

Local government

Councils employ people across a wide range of positions including education, leisure, environment and social services.

Manchester City Council <https://manchesterjobs.engageats.co.uk/>, a portal that allows you to search all GM councils for jobs either by

borough or by role type.

If you live in a different council area and/or are prepared to commute you could also consider some of the other local authorities in the region. Search the website of your council or look at the national jobs site for local government vacancies: www.lgjobs.com

Charity & development sector

There are numerous charities based in Manchester, to search for one that matches the concerns you are interested in use

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/whats-happening-manchester/directory .

Opportunities for international development are more limited but organisations like MAG, British Red Cross & Retrak all have local offices. Join 3rd Sector club for updates

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/events/thirdsectorclub

Small employers in Manchester

99.9% of all businesses in the UK are small or medium sized (250 employees or less). We actively work with small businesses to find opportunities for you so why not see what we have available now: www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink or find out more about working in a small business.

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/whichcareer/smallbusiness/

3. Do you know where to find jobs?

Some jobs are advertised widely others you might have to find yourself (speculative applications).

CareersLink – your careers account

The Careers Service advertises 1000s of job vacancies in Manchester

annually across a wide range of sectors.

The vacancies are available to students and graduates of The University of Manchester only. You may browse vacancies on the website and/ or register for email alerts for the categories of opportunity you are interested in.

www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink

Use our website for other suggested sites for graduate, internship or part time opportunities www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs

Graduate job sites all in one place – add location to your search to find jobs in Manchester.

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/graduatejobs/grad-jobsearch

Recruitment agencies

Agencies can be very useful when seeking temporary or permanent work. Some agencies specialise in certain careers, others deal with more general types of work such as temporary administrative work.

If you wish to target sector specific agencies it is advisable to look nationally as there may only be a few agencies for your particular career that cover the whole country.

- Check out our advice for using agencies and finding one to suit your needs:
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/findjobs/graduatejobs/agencies
- Agencies that have registered with the Careers Service are listed in *CareersLink* in the organisation directory.

Job Centre Plus

A fully integrated work and benefits service. Jobcentres advertise a wide range of local opportunities. www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus Many local jobcentres are active on Twitter and will tweet local opportunities.

<https://twitter.com/JCPinManchester>

Finding your own opportunities – speculative applications

Use our Jobsearch guide to help you – pick up or download a copy:
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/startingpoints .

Use networking sites to find people who work in the industry you are interested in located in a specific area. If you can see who they work for then you know that that employer is in your area. Watch out for networking or industry events where you can meet professionals and ask questions.

- LinkedIn www.linkedin.com
- The Manchester (alumni) Network www.network.manchester.ac.uk

4. Do you know where places are and how to get there?

Even if you are a local it can be hard to know the entire geography of your region. When looking for work it can be difficult to know if it would be practical to get to some locations.

The good news: Manchester has an amazing transport network; buses, trams trains and motorways make it easy to connect. Believe it or not it's cheaper than many places too. BUT some places are better connected than others – the best connected locations tend to have more social amenities but can be expensive to live in.

DO

- Buy an A-Z it gives a much better sense of scale than a satnav or Google maps. It really helps to get perspective and work out routes.
- Use the Transport for Greater Manchester website: www.tfgm.com
The journey planner tells you how to get from A-B and how long it will take and there are useful network maps to help you plan your route.

- Check it out: Before you decide you don't want to work in X location, go on a visit. It may be nicer/nearer than you think.

THINK ABOUT

- How important is where you live vs where you work?
- Are you prepared to move to make your travel easier?
- What is your maximum travel time? Many people travel more than 1 hour each way to get to work. Check how long it will take to drive or bus by actually doing it at rush hour. Many predicted journey times are way off or you may find it's simply impossible to get on a tram at that time.
- How much will it cost? The train may be quickest but the bus might be a lot cheaper – you need to weigh up time vs cost.
- Council tax rates differ in the different council areas. Once you are working there will be no student discounts!
www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200028/council_tax
- You may aspire to leave the city and suburbs behind and find a greener place to live. Just check how often your trains/buses run and what happens when it snows.

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