FINDING A JOB IN 2021 FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATES

Elizabeth Wilkinson, Careers Consultant for Postgraduates
Today’s session

The current job market
Recruitment this year
- What changed?
- What’s continuing as normal?
- Resources to help your job/PhD search
Smart tactics to uncover more jobs or PhDs

The University of Manchester Careers Service
QUESTIONS?

Will answer questions in blocks, and at the end

NEW - PILOT
Postgraduate Open Careers Meeting
Wednesday 21st October, 12 noon - 1pm
Zoom:
Must use your authenticated UoM Zoom account for entry
(your.name@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)
The current job market

It’s down, but patchy - dig deeper!

Graduates and postgraduates in a better position than non-graduates

Look for facts and evidence (not newspapers or Twitter!)
How confident are employers?

Confidence in hiring is pretty low - but not as low as some pre-COVID points

REC – Recruitment and Employment Confederation
Are job adverts going up or down in the UK?

Weekly job postings trend
This chart shows how the number of job adverts in the UK has been changing over the past few months.
Are job adverts going up or down in the UK?

Job postings on Indeed UK
7 day moving avg through 02 Oct, indexed to 01 Feb

-46% decrease

Source: Indeed.
Are job adverts going up or down in the UK?

Figure 2: Total number of vacancies by week

Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of Adzuna vacancy data
How we all behave affects the jobs available

We’re changing the world - and the jobs needed
Recruitment

What’s different this year?

Job and PhD adverts
What’s changed this year?

March
Everyone held their breath
Recruitment paused
HR staff often furloughed

June
Tentative return in some sectors

September
Many graduate schemes now recruiting
Smaller employers waiting
Some sectors struggling
Jobs being advertised now

“Graduate Schemes”
- Big name recruiters
- Jobs generally start this time next year
- About 10% of graduate jobs
- Early application essential
- May accept any degree subject

Where do you find them?
- Adverts on main graduate job sites
- see Careers Service website
- Careers fairs – 19th, 20th, 22nd October
- CareersLink - www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink
Job ads to look out for at any time

Direct entry/immediate hire
- Any size recruiter
- Jobs start as soon as they hire
- Vast majority of jobs for postgrads
- Start to apply ~3 months before you need a job

Where do you find them?
- Adverts on general & specialist job boards
- CareersLink
- Recruitment & employment agencies
Job ads to look out for at any time

International jobs
– Check local job hiring practices
– Generally need relevant degree
– European & global graduate roles may require Masters entry
– Internships may be more common than in UK
  - but may be unpaid

Keep up to date
– Read local news: which industries are most affected by COVID 19?
– Use local contacts for news and “inside information”
Some International jobs sources

**Prospects**
Information for over 30 countries around the world

- [Work in India](www.prospects.ac.uk)
- [Work in Ireland](www.prospects.ac.uk)
- [Work in Italy](www.prospects.ac.uk)

**Gradlink**
For international students studying in the UK

- [www.gradlinkuk.com](www.gradlinkuk.com)

**Passport Career**
Information for over 80 countries around the world

Register using your UoM registration code

[QR Code](#)
Should you look for an internship?

Internships
– In the UK, mainly aimed at undergrads
– Fewer internships and placements this year
– International: check if you’re paid - or if you pay them!

Alternative - create your own internship!
- Look for temporary or contract work
- Use the job to gain the skills & experience you need
- Consider speculative applications
- Present yourself as a short term solution to a problem
  (not “looking for training or experience”...)
What about PhDs?

Universities holding their breath ...

- Focus on financial future
- Student numbers not yet clear
- Charitable/alumni funding unknown

Year on year comparison - Jobs.ac.uk

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<tr>
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<th>October 2019</th>
<th>October 2020</th>
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<td>PhD adverts</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>177</td>
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But

- FindaPhD.com - 1,290 UK funded PhDs
- UK Government funded PhDs going ahead
- Postgraduate loans still available
The secret to career success?

Be curious
Be connected
Be courageous
Smart tactics to uncover jobs or PhDs

The University of Manchester Careers Service

- Passive
  - Agencies
  - Online profile

- Active
  - Online search
  - Engage with employers

- Proactive
  - Let others know you’re looking

Uncover hidden jobs
Be curious

Find employers you’ve never heard of

How?
– CareersLink Organisation Directory
– Professional associations
– Trade associations – member directories
– Business & science parks

What next?
– Where do they advertise?
– Can you upload a CV?
– Follow them on LinkedIn?
– Speculative approach?
Be connected

For jobs, be findable
On LinkedIn or other professional networks
– Complete your profile
– Connect with others (friends, students, family)
– Be active
– “Follow” employers, join groups
– Check out our resources & webinars

For PhDs
Make sure potential supervisors know you’re available
Be courageous

Dare to share
Tell everyone what you’re looking for
- Social media, LinkedIn
- Alumni & employer events
- Professional association networks
- Friends and family

Ask questions
- Learn from others

Offer support to others
- Being helpful is a great way to get known
Your Careers Service Support

Events?
200+ online employer & careers events coming up this year
  – Choose wisely!

Resources?
All new PGT online resources & PG careers talks
International webinars & resources
Social media to keep up to date
  – Explore the Careers Service website
Your Careers Service Support

Support?
Real people to help you - but in demand
–Use our events & resources, but if you’re stuck, we’re here!

Good luck,
Elizabeth
& the rest of the Careers Service

PG Open Careers Meeting
21st Oct 12-1pm