



CAREERS IN ENGLISH

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CAREERS IN ENGLISH

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3. **Influencing:** Advertising, Marketing, Public Relations, Retail Management, Sales
4. **Helping:** Social Work, Youth Work, Probation Work, Nursing, Housing, Charity Officer
5. **Professions:** Law, Human Resources, Banking, Accountancy, Insurance
6. **Information:** Librarian, Archives, Curator, Information Officer, Bookseller, Lexicographer
7. **Public Sector:** Administration, Civil Service, Health Service, Local Government, Police/Armed Forces
8. **Postgraduate Study:** MA, PhD, Journalism, Film, Business, Computing courses

Although some of the jobs listed above might not be first jobs for many graduates, they are among the many realistic possibilities with an English degree, provided you can demonstrate you have the attributes employers are looking for. Bear in mind that it's not just your degree discipline that determines your options. Remember that many graduate vacancies don't specify particular degree disciplines, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed here.

WHERE TO FIND JOB ADVERTS

English graduates find opportunities with many different employers. Public and private sector organisations such as the National Health Service (NHS), educational institutions, local and national government, financial and legal firms, and voluntary and charitable organisations employ English graduates in a range of roles, including administration, research, finance and general management.

Other typical employers of English graduates include publishing companies, advertising, marketing and public relations agencies and media organisations. Retail, leisure and tourism also typically recruit English graduates.

Jobs will be advertised on any good websites, or, specifically, you can try individual companies and institutions.

ENGLISH DEGREES

Courses can be competitive so high grades are often required. Details of any creative writing work you may have done are useful on application forms. Short verbal and written tests are sometimes set for entrance.

Top universities for English (The Good University Guide) include:

1. Cambridge
2. Oxford
3. London School of Economics
4. St Andrews
5. Durham
6. Imperial College London
7. Warwick
8. Bath
9. University College London
10. Exeter

(check UCAS website for entry requirements for these universities: www.ucas.com)

GRADUATE PROSPECTS

40% of vacancies advertised specifically to graduates do not specify degree subject, so English graduates can enter a wide range of careers with their transferable skills. These include: how to argue a point, how to think independently, to summarise and précis, to write and speak well, to write reports, to present information effectively, to analyse writing, and to work as part of a team.

More skills include:

- an ability for clear expression both oral and written
- putting forward ideas and arguments in a concise manner
- gathering, investigating and assessing material
- condensing facts, ideas and arguments
- basing conclusions on research
- synthesising ideas
- organising material in a logical and coherent way

In 2010, a HESA survey of 2009 graduates indicated that six months after finishing their course around 52% of English graduates had entered employment, with a further 8% combining further study and work. Many were in temporary jobs, mostly clerical, retail or catering, to be used as a stepping stone to gain experience for their longer-term aims.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Find out about work experience and internship opportunities by visiting: www.prospects.ac.uk/work_experience.htm. Don't forget, volunteering is an invaluable experience. Contact local shops and companies to see if they offer volunteering opportunities.

UK

- Arts Culture Media Jobs - www.artsculturemediajobs.com
- Book Careers - www.bookcareers.com
- Future Publishing - www.futureplc.com
- Hold the Front Page - www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk
- Journalism - www.journalism.co.uk
- Jump Forward - www.jumpforward.co.uk
- Media UK - <http://media.info/uk>
- Channel 4 Talent - www.4talent.channel4.com
- BBC - Writers' Room - www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom
- Creative Skillset - <http://creativeskillset.org>
- Oxford University Press (jobs section) - <http://global.oup.com>
- HarperCollins - <http://corporate.harpercollins.co.uk/careers>
- PR Week Jobs - www.prweekjobs.co.uk/jobs
- Arts Jobs - www.artsjobs.org.uk
- Creative Pool (advertising, creative, design, digital, media, new media and web jobs) - <http://creativepool.com>
- Mediargh (includes paid internships) - www.mediargh.com
- Brand Republic Jobs (advertising, creative, marketing and media jobs) - <http://jobs.brandrepublic.com>

PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers - www.alpsp.org/Ebusiness/Home.aspx
- Broadcast Journalism Training Council - www.bjtc.org.uk
- Institute of Paper, Printing and Publishing - www.ip3.org.uk
- National Council for the Training of Journalists - www.nctj.com
- National Union of Journalists - www.nuj.org.uk/home
- Newspaper Society - www.newsmediauk.org
- Periodical Publishers Association - www.ppa.co.uk
- Publishers Association - <http://publishers.org.uk>
- Society for Editors and Proofreaders - www.sfep.org.uk
- Writers' Guild of Great Britain - www.writersguild.org.uk
- Society of Authors - www.societyofauthors.org
- Authors Licensing and Collecting Society - www.alcs.co.uk

- National Association of Writers in Education - www.nawe.co.uk
- Society of Indexers - www.indexers.org.uk
- Society of Young Publishers - <http://thesyp.org.uk>
- Women in Publishing - www.womeninpublishing.org.uk
- Public Relations Consultants Association - www.prca.org.uk

CELEBRITIES WHO STUDIED ENGLISH

Reece Witherspoon / Stephen Fry / Ian Hislop / Sting / Renee Zellweger / Emma Thompson

