

Architecture - Finding Jobs & Work Experience

The Careers Service has lots of information to help you find jobs, work experience or part-time jobs. This publication details some of the most relevant sources for Architecture students. Also see the Careers Service webpages for Architecture at www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/arc

Finding Work Experience or Part-Time Jobs

For the best chance of finding jobs and work experience, spread the net as widely as possible. Making direct approaches to architectural practices is the way most students get experience but there are other strategies to use, including social media networks, and talking to people who can give you advice, or may know of possible employers. This includes talking to postgraduate students in the School of Architecture who have worked in practice.

If you're looking for relevant experience, **don't just limit yourself to architectural practices** – remember the areas related to architecture, e.g. organisations in the built environment sector - contractors or construction companies, and landscape and urban design/regeneration practices; as well as other 2D or 3D and spatial design specialisms such as interior design and graphics, or other areas where you can practise architecture-related skills. Remember that all work experience is a valuable way to develop your skills.

Note, when contacting firms to find out about work, don't just write and ask for a job. Employers are more likely to offer work to someone they know, so try to establish a relationship with them first. Research the practice, get a named contact there, and then get in touch with them to find out more about the firm. Once you've got yourself known you can send them your CV and a covering letter. The Careers Service has advice on making approaches to employers for jobs at www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs/creative. Your application for a job or work experience needs to be well-designed and present you in the *best possible light*, so get advice on your applications from tutors and from the Careers Service. See www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob where you can also get help with interviews.

Where to Look For Opportunities in Architecture in the UK

Sources of information on individual practices

The following practice listings have **details of employers** you can contact to enquire about jobs/work experience:

- **RIBA Directories** - www.architecture.com/FindAnArchitect/FAAHome.aspx for RIBA's online UK practice directory. Useful for identifying employers for speculative applications
- **Architects Registration Board** – <http://architects-register.org.uk> to search for registered architects
- **Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland** - www.rias.org.uk has a Directory of Scottish practices
- **Royal Society of Ulster Architects** for Northern Ireland - www.rsua.org.uk/findarchitect.aspx
- **www.buildingconservation.com** - has a Directory of firms (including several architects) involved in the conservation & restoration of historic buildings

Jobsites

As well as **jobs advertised by your department** and applying speculatively to employers, you can use the following:

- www.ribaappointments.com - jobs on the RIBA website
- www.architecturejobs.co.uk – jobsite with part 1 and part 2 jobs section
- www.dezeenjobs.com – the jobs pages of Dezeen magazine
- www.bd4jobs.com - Building Design journal's official recruitment website
- www.careersinconstruction.com – general construction industry jobsite and jobs page for 'The Architects' Journal'
- Public sector – www.publicsectorcareers.org and www.jobsgopublic.com

Recruitment consultancies which specialise in architecture include:

Anderselite www.anderselite.com, Hays www.hays.co.uk, and Hunter Dunning www.hunterdunning.co.uk

Note: Agencies tend to mainly have jobs for experienced architects but can include entry-level jobs too.



Working in other countries

Some of the above sites advertise vacancies outside the UK, and you can also use internet searches for jobs and practices abroad. You can also check the websites of professional bodies for architecture in the country where you want to work, as these may have details of member practices and jobs listings.

Wikipedia has a list of architecture associations en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_professional_architecture_organizations. The Careers Service can provide details and links to jobsites in a number of other countries for architecture and other careers (see the 'International careers' section of www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/inter).

Information on Careers in Architecture and Related Areas

- **Careers Service** – 'Careers with my degree' www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/arc
- **RIBA** – RIBA's careers information www.architecture.com/RIBA/Becomeanarchitect, plus the latest employment trends in the Future Trends Survey www.architecture.com/RIBA/Professionalsupport/FutureTrendsSurvey.aspx
- **RIBA Appointments** - Career Support section www.ribaappointments.com/article/Career-Support
- **Salary information** – a number of websites have information on salaries, which can help you gauge your potential earnings in different parts of the UK. One you can try is adremgroup.com/guidance/uk-architecture-salary-guide
- **Architects Journal** – Professional journal with latest architecture news www.architectsjournal.co.uk Includes the latest architectural 'Competitions'
- **The Architecture Students Network** - theasn.org is a national architecture student association

Using social media to find jobs

Social media is fast becoming an essential way to find jobs and raise your profile in your chosen career.

See the Careers Service's advice on using social media sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob/media

LinkedIn Over 800 Sheffield Architecture graduates are on the professional networking site LinkedIn. Professional interest groups on LinkedIn include include RIBA, Architect, Architects Journal, Architecture Career Forum, and Death by Architecture. These are excellent places to make contacts, find jobs and get careers advice BUT your Profile and approach must be 'professional' and you should follow the usual rules of 'netiquette' when emailing potential contacts. If in doubt about how to use LinkedIn, ask the Careers Service and see the short tutorials on students.linkedin.com.

Facebook and Twitter - follow practices and architects that interest you to find out about the latest information/jobs etc. Join in discussions, re-tweet interesting tweets, and generally get yourself known.

General resources for all types of jobs and work experience

Career Connect: The Careers Service publicises lots of jobs and placements on **Career Connect** including graduate jobs, internships, part-time work and volunteering. You can find Career Connect on MUSE, where there are details of careers events, and appointments with careers advisers. The Service provides Sheffield students support with finding work and placements, plus help with exploring other career and study options outside architecture.

Careers Service www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/infotree - use the online 'Information Resources' to find information for a wide range of different careers and postgraduate study.

National graduate careers sites: e.g. TargetJobs - targetjobs.co.uk and Prospects – www.prospects.ac.uk.

Please note: the above information was correct at the time of publication. Although care is taken to check external agencies and their websites, inclusion should not be taken as an endorsement of the agency by the Careers Service