

# Career Ideas for English Graduates

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Although across the UK over 60% of graduates enter employment which is open to 'any discipline', many English students are keen to explore career areas which relate more directly to their degree subject. The aim of this handout is to help you identify areas of interest and to signpost you to resources which will enable you to investigate further.

## What do English graduates do?

For a broad overview of the career choices open to you, a good starting point is to refer to 'Options with English', which you can download from the Prospects website:

[http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options\\_english\\_your\\_skills.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_english_your_skills.htm)

Each year the University of Sheffield Careers Service is required to undertake a first destinations survey of all undergraduate and postgraduate students. From an examination of this data it is possible to see a number of patterns emerging in the areas of employment entered by English graduates. Firstly, those who are keen to use the content of their degree as directly as possible are likely to consider work in the field of education – in schools, colleges, universities, or even in some instances abroad, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). Most of these areas will initially require some form of postgraduate study. English graduates are also drawn to types of work where their written and verbal communication skills form a crucial part of the job. This will lead them into professions such as journalism (newspaper, magazine or web media), the media (TV, film / video or radio), publishing, PR and, when coupled with creative flair, areas such as advertising. Those who are particularly interested in creative writing may also explore screenwriting, or writing through other genres such as short stories or novels, which will primarily mean freelance work. If you'd like to use your subject but in a more therapeutic way, areas like drama therapy may also be worth considering.

Work within the creative industries also has strong appeal. This could include arts administration, community arts work, festival organisation and even film, video and TV production.

## How to Find out More

There are a range of web based resources which you can refer to, that will provide more detailed information about the areas of work and occupations outlined above. A good starting point is to refer to the 'Industry Insights' on the Prospects website, especially those for Advertising, Marketing and PR; Creative Arts and Culture; Media; Teaching and Education; Publishing. These will provide you with an overview of each employment sector and an idea of the range of graduate roles available, as well as links to a comprehensive range of additional resources:

<http://www.prospects.ac.uk/industries.htm>



You will also find occupational profiles on this site for over 400 graduate professions which give a flavour of what each role involves, an indication of the entry requirements, an idea of the typical employers and vacancy sources and further useful contacts:

[http://www.prospects.ac.uk/types\\_of\\_jobs\\_browse\\_all.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_browse_all.htm)

For further advice on teaching, refer to the Prospects website. If you are interested in working within an educational setting but not as a teacher, the AGCAS publication 'Education Alternatives' would be a useful resource to refer to:

[http://www.prospects.ac.uk/teaching\\_advice.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/teaching_advice.htm)

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education/330569-alternative-careers-in-education>

'Making English Work' is a streamed DVD featuring English graduates who have established a variety of entrepreneurial careers. For access to hundreds of streamed career stories, you might also like to refer to the 'I Could' website:

[http://www.english.heacademy.ac.uk/archive/mediaplayer/player.html?directPlay=making\\_english\\_work1\\_1](http://www.english.heacademy.ac.uk/archive/mediaplayer/player.html?directPlay=making_english_work1_1)  
[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

The National Careers Service 'Job Profiles' give you an insight into the work and training involved for a wide range of occupations. This website also has a useful search facility, so for instance you could identify job titles which related to 'TV' or 'Theatre':

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Careers Service Resources for English Students**

You'll also find that there are a number of useful resources on the Careers Service website for English students. These include 'Careers with my degree', which highlights skills developed through studying English and some information on destinations:

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/lit>

You can also search the 'Graduate Case Studies' database, which includes case studies and podcasts of English graduates:

<http://www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/casestudies/>

## **Don't Know Where to Start?**

If at this stage your future career plans are unclear, download a copy of the Careers Service publication 'See the Bigger Picture: Planning Your Career' and refer to some of the resources listed at the end of this handout:

[http://www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/bigger\\_picture/see\\_the\\_bigger\\_picture.pdf](http://www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/bigger_picture/see_the_bigger_picture.pdf)

After using this you might also like to arrange to talk to a Careers Adviser Tel: 0114 222 0910.

## **Arts and Media Related Careers**

Although not comprehensive, below is a list of some of the most directly related websites:

Archives and Records Association <http://www.archives.org.uk>

Arts Hub <http://www.artshub.co.uk/uk/>

Arts, Culture and Media Jobs <http://www.artsculturemediajobs.com/>  
Arts Council of England <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>  
Arts and Humanities Research Council <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk>  
Association of Authors Agents <http://www.agentsassoc.co.uk>  
Association of Online Publishers <http://www.ukaop.org.uk>  
Booksellers Association of UK & Ireland <http://www.booksellers.org.uk>  
Brand Republic Jobs <http://jobs.brandrepublic.com/>  
The British Academy <http://www.britac.ac.uk>  
British Arts Festivals Association <http://www.artsfestivals.co.uk>  
British Association of Drama Therapists <http://www.badth.org.uk/>  
British Film Commission <http://www.britishfilmcommission.org.uk/>  
British Film Institute <http://www.bfi.org.uk/>  
BBC Jobs <http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs>  
BBC Work Experience Placements <http://www.bbc.co.uk/careers/work-experience>  
British Interactive Multimedia Association <http://www.bima.co.uk/>  
BBC Writers Room <http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/>  
Channel Five Careers <http://about.five.tv/careers>  
Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals <http://www.cilip.org.uk>  
Chartered Institute of Marketing <http://www.cim.co.uk/home.aspx>  
Creative Choices <http://www.creative-choices.co.uk/>  
Creative Pool <http://www.creativepool.co.uk/>  
Creative Review <http://www.creativereview.co.uk/>  
Creative Skillset <http://www.creativeskillset.org/>  
The Cultural Industries Development Agency <http://www.cida.co.uk/>  
Department for Culture, Media & Sports <http://www.culture.gov.uk>  
Digital Marketing jobs <https://jobs.econsultancy.com/>  
Documentary Film Makers Group <http://thedfg.org/>  
Drama UK <http://www.dramauk.co.uk/>  
Film Distributors Association <http://www.launchingfilms.com/>  
Get Into Marketing <http://www.getin2marketing.com>  
Institute of Practitioners in Advertising <http://www.ipa.co.uk/>  
ITV Jobs <http://www.itvjobs.com/>  
Media Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media>  
Media Week <http://www.mediaweek.co.uk/>  
National Council for Training of Journalists <http://www.nctj.com>  
National Literacy Trust <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk>  
Periodicals Publishing Association <http://www.ppa.co.uk>  
Poetry Society <http://poetrysociety.org.uk/>  
Publishers Association <http://www.publishers.org.uk>  
Publishing Training Centre <http://www.train4publishing.co.uk>  
Radio Now <http://www.radio-now.co.uk/>  
Screen Yorkshire <http://www.screenyorkshire.co.uk/>  
Sector Skills Council for the Creative Industries <http://www.ccskills.org.uk>  
Sky Jobs <http://workforsky.com/>  
Start in TV <http://www.startintv.com/resources/whichtvjjobforme.php>  
Society of Authors <http://www.societyofauthors.org/>  
Target Jobs Profiles <http://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/a-to-z-of-careers>  
Women in Film and Television <http://www.wftv.org.uk/>  
Writers and Artists Yearbook <http://www.writersandartists.co.uk/>  
Writers Guild of Great Britain <http://www.writersguild.org.uk>