

Landscape Architecture

Finding Jobs & Work Experience

The Careers Service has lots of information relating to finding jobs and work experience. This publication provides advice for Landscape Architecture students and describes some of the most relevant sources, which include our webpages for Landscape at www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/lsc.

Introduction

Many students find jobs or work experience in landscape architecture by identifying potential employers and enquiring about opportunities with them. You should use a range of approaches to find employers, such as online directories (see below) and talking to people who may know employers you could contact. This includes postgraduate students in your department who have done their year in practice.

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. Do some research into their organisation, get a named contact there, and then get in touch with them to find out more about the business. Once you've got yourself known you can send them your CV and covering letter. The Careers Service has more advice on approaching employers for jobs and work experience at www.shf.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs/creative.

Are you looking for short-term experience (e.g. during the summer of your first or second year)? As well as trying landscape architecture practices, you should also consider the different kinds of work that might relate to the profession, such as landscape gardening firms, garden centres and voluntary/not-for-profit organisations. Remember all work experience is valuable as a way of developing your skills but opportunities which develop the following are particularly valuable

- design/drawing skills including CAD
- teamwork, communication and negotiation
- creative ability, imagination and enthusiasm
- plant knowledge & practical experience
- observation skills and an eye for detail
- understanding of conservation and environmental issues

Making Applications

Applications for any job or work experience need to be well-designed and present you in the best possible light, so take your time over your applications and get feedback on them. You can get advice from the Careers Service as well as your tutors; start with our website www.shf.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob

Looking for Jobs in the UK

As well as **jobs advertised in your department**, use the following for jobs, work experience and advice:

Landscape Institute www.landscapeinstitute.org - The Chartered body for Landscape Architects in the UK.

Landscape Architect Jobs <http://jobs.landscapeinstitute.org>

Directory of Registered Practices at www.landscapeinstitute.org/registeredpractices/search.php

Careers advice www.landscapeinstitute.org/education and the 'Be a Landscape Architect' careers website <http://bealandscapearchitect.com> (includes advice on work experience)

Latest news and the professional journal 'Landscape' www.landscapeinstitute.org/news

Membership Join as a student member <https://members.landscapeinstitute.org/student/>

Membership costs £30 giving you access to professional events, contact with practitioners, latest news, etc.

Regional branches of the LI provide regional events etc www.landscapeinstitute.org/about/li-locations-uk

British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) - www.bali.org.uk has a Membership Directory of firms searchable by service.



Careers Service vacancies –landscape architecture jobs are notified to your department, and publicised on Career Connect in MUSE

www.bd4jobs.com - construction industry jobsite which includes landscape opportunities

www.architecturejobs.co.uk – construction design jobsite. Search for 'landscape architect' to find jobs

www.indeed.co.uk/Landscape-Architect-jobs - mainly features jobs for experienced staff

Jobs in the public sector The Landscape Institute estimates around 20% of Landscape professionals work in local authorities or other public sector bodies. Jobsites for the sector include www.lgijobs.com and www.jobsgopublic.com

Working in Other Countries

Landscape Architecture is a relatively young profession in some countries compared to, for example, others in Europe, North America, and Australasia. Consequently, the number of employers and jobs in the sector can vary greatly, as can the way employers recruit.

National Association websites are a useful starting point for researching opportunities in different countries and many provide information on landscape architecture practices in their respective countries. The International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) lists National Associations at <http://iflaonline.org/> via the regional tabs at the top of the screen. The sites below vary in terms of how comprehensive they are and not all national associations provide lists of member firms.

Asia and Pacific Region

- **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)** www.aila.org.au via 'Find a Landscape Architect'
- **The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects** www.hkila.com/registered.php
- **China** Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture www.chsla.org.cn has links to provincial societies and associations at www.chsla.org.cn/Column/Detail?PID=-1&MID=110000
- **Indian Society of Landscape Architects** <http://isola.org.in> (No member directory listed)
- **Japan** www.japan-architects.com/en/firms/landscape-architects-a-z
- **Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM)**
Click on the 'Consultant Directory' at www.ilamalaysia.org/#!consultants/cp2a for a list of firms
- **Philippine Association of Landscape Architects**
www.pala.org.ph/green_book.html lists the names of individual landscape architects but not firms
- **New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects** www.nzila.co.nz firms listing via the 'Directory' tab
- **Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects** www.sila.org.sg/website/recognised-practices

Others:

Chinese Taiwan Landscape Architect Society www.clasit.org.tw via Facebook login

Korean Institute of Landscape Architecture www.kila.or.kr

Thai Association of Landscape Architects www.tala.or.th/tala

The Americas

IFLA regional site lists the National Associations in North and South America, Central America and the Caribbean - see <http://iflaonline.org/about/ifla-regions/ifla-americas/>

North American sites with listings of member firms:

- **The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects**
www.csla-aapc.ca/people/repertoire-des-membres-de-l-aapc links to lists of member firms in Canada's different provinces, e.g. Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario etc.
- **The American Society of Landscape Architects** 'firm finder'
www.asla.org/ISGWeb.aspx?loadURL=firfin

Europe

IFLA regional site lists National Associations at <http://iflaeurope.eu/members/>
Scroll down below the map for information and links for many European countries.

Africa

IFLA regional site lists National Associations for 6 countries in Africa at
<http://iflaonline.org/about/ifla-regions/ifla-africa/>

The above links are just one way to find information about landscape architecture across the world. Further listings of jobs and practices can be found via internet searches and social media forums.

Important: There are strict nationality requirements governing employment in most countries, and obtaining the correct visa can take time. For information about working in specific countries, including advice on visas and individual country career guides, use the **'International careers'** section of the Careers Service's **Information Resources** www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/infotree

There is also specialist careers help for International Students at www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/inter.

Using Social Media to Find Jobs

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

See Careers Service advice on using social media at www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob/media.

LinkedIn The networking site LinkedIn is an excellent way to make contact with landscape professionals. Over 400 Sheffield graduates now working in Landscape Architecture are on there! The professional interest groups you could join include World Landscape Architecture and the Urban Design Network. LinkedIn is an excellent place to make contacts, get careers advice from landscape architects and find possible jobs. 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 for advice from the Careers Service and see the short tutorials on students.linkedin.com.

Land8 is a social media company connecting students and professionals within the field of Landscape Architecture and Design land8.com.

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

Other Resources for Jobs and Work Experience

The Careers Service publicises graduate jobs, internships, part-time work and volunteer opportunities on Career Connect in MUSE. It also runs the Student Jobshop and provides advice on finding work, including the part-time jobs, work placements and Year in Practice/graduate jobs. See www.shef.ac.uk/careers for details of all our services.

Information Resources www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/infotree - information and links for a wide range of careers and postgraduate study and research options.

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

Careers publications including **directories of graduate employers** and **work experience listings** are available free from the Careers Service.

Yellow Pages – use www.yell.com to find firms and organisations in your chosen region (search by type of organisation and by geographical location).