Searching for Science Jobs

Introduction
Recruitment practices vary across different organisations, so you should use a variety of job hunting strategies. Some organisations will attend recruitment fairs and use recruitment websites, whereas others will seek out more specialist recruitment sources or recruit from within their organisation as far as possible, eg from internships, year in industry placements or insight events.

The first part of this sheet will give you some ideas of where to look for advertised opportunities (jobs and internships), whilst the second part will look at more creative ways to find and generate opportunities.

Graduate recruitment websites
General graduate recruitment websites are worth checking if they include scientific opportunities. However, these may be combined with engineering and technology vacancies so you will need to search carefully. There are lots of graduate and internship vacancy sites (see our information sheet on Finding Graduate Job Vacancies), and some examples include:

- [www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway) - University of York Careers and Placements vacancy website
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) – national graduate careers website
- [www.targetjobs.co.uk](http://www.targetjobs.co.uk) – Target Jobs
- [www.milkround.com](http://www.milkround.com) – Milkround
- [http://graduate.monster.co.uk](http://graduate.monster.co.uk) – Monster
- [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk) – academic and research related jobs

Specialist scientific job websites
These can offer a more targeted search and you may find a wider range of opportunities, including jobs and graduate schemes with a range of organisations. Examples include:

- [http://brightrecruits.com](http://brightrecruits.com) – Institute of Physics vacancy service
- [https://jobs.chemistryworld.com](https://jobs.chemistryworld.com) – Royal Society of Chemistry job vacancies
- [www.cogentskills.com](http://www.cogentskills.com) – skills specialist for the science industry – website lists vacancies and placements mainly for biology and chemistry students/graduates
- [www.gradcracker.com](http://www.gradcracker.com) – specialist website for science, technology and engineering vacancies
- [http://jobs.newscientist.com](http://jobs.newscientist.com) – New Scientist jobs website
- [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk) – NHS jobs (including clinical science)
- [www.pharmiweb.com](http://www.pharmiweb.com) – vacancies in the pharmaceutical industry
- [www.pharmafield.co.uk/jobs](http://www.pharmafield.co.uk/jobs) - UK pharmaceutical jobs
- [www.psychapp.co.uk](http://www.psychapp.co.uk) – British Psychological Society’s jobs website
- [www.environmentjob.co.uk/jobs](http://www.environmentjob.co.uk/jobs) – environment job opportunities
- [www.endsjobsearch.co.uk/jobs](http://www.endsjobsearch.co.uk/jobs) - environmental consultancy vacancies
• www.earthworks-jobs.com – range of sectors relating to earth and environmental science, oil and energy sectors
• www.agri.ris.co.uk - agricultural recruitment specialists
• www.renewables.careers.com - renewables energy jobs

Some websites include vacancies from a range of other sources, for example:
• www.countryside-jobs.com – environmental and ecology opportunities
• www.indeed.co.uk – search by job, company, keyword and region

Use Job sector pages, information sheets (Considering series) and the Prospects careers website www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm to research further specific job search resources.

Recruitment Agencies
Some employers use specialist scientific recruitment agencies to help them to fill both permanent and short-term vacancies. The agency will screen candidates for them and select those with relevant skills and experience. There is no charge to candidates for using these services and they can be a useful addition to your job search resources and may also be able to offer you career and application advice. However, there is no guarantee that they will be able to find a role that matches your skills and experience. You can search for specialist agencies by using websites such as www.agencycentral.co.uk
Some well-known scientific recruitment agencies include:
• SRG www.srg.co.uk
• Matchtech www.matchtech.com
• SCI www.sci-search.com
• CK Science http://ckscience.co.uk
• Hire STEM Women www.hirestemwomen.co.uk

Speculative approaches
Remember that many vacancies are not advertised - some employers prefer to recruit through word of mouth or speculative approaches. Others may advertise opportunities, but only on their own websites or through more targeted channels such as social media, where they will find an audience who are already showing an interest in their work and organisation.

To find out about less well-known companies, particularly SMEs, use online business directories such as https://www.yell.com/ to help you to identify specific types of organisation by location. If you are looking for research related organisations check relevant research council websites www.ukri.org/ and universities for associated research centres or www.airto.co.uk for independent research and technology organisations.

Many scientific organisations are located on science and technology parks, so try websites such as Science City York to search for companies on York Science Park www.scy.co.uk or the UK Science Park Association for a directory of science parks throughout the UK www.ukspa.org.uk.

Use the internet to research other specialist directories, such as:
• www.ukbiotech.com, a directory of bioscience companies in the UK
• www.labhoo.com, a database of life science related companies in the UK and beyond
• www.iter.org/FusionLinks, a list of fusion labs throughout the world
Sometimes relevant professional bodies and trade associations list member organisations and/or vacancies, for example the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry careers website has a list of pharmaceutical recruiters http://careers.abpi.org.uk

When you find companies you’re interested in, check their website to see if they have vacancies or if they offer an address for speculative applications. If not, you could submit a speculative application, demonstrating how your skills and experience could benefit them. They may not have vacancies, but if they are interested they may keep your application on file for future opportunities or tell you if they use a specific recruitment agency. See our CV Guide on the VLE for advice on writing CVs and covering letters and for examples.

Learn to network
This is about finding people who can help you – they might not have jobs, but they might have information or connections that you could use. Start with your current contacts – family, friends, neighbours, departmental staff, and let them know what kind of work you are looking for. Going to careers events and fairs and taking the opportunity to chat to professionals and alumni could also help you. Attend our autumn recruitment fairs (open to current students and graduates) and networking events www.york.ac.uk/careers/events. You can also make contact with York graduates in areas of work that interest you, for information or advice, by searching through our online York Profiles and Mentors database www.york.ac.uk/careers/profiles.

If you are a member of a relevant scientific professional body you may have the opportunity to attend careers events and conferences at low cost and to attend regional networking meetings.

Make social media work for you. Make sure you have a LinkedIn profile, join groups and follow organisations that are relevant to your interest. Participate in discussions and look out for vacancies. Use the search facilities to research employers and see staff profiles – there might be a connection you were unaware of. Twitter also allows you to follow organisations and individuals of interest and may alert you to vacancies and events. Use our information sheet on Successful Networking for more information (www.york.ac.uk/careers/infosheets). Ensure that you are aware of the social media used by your department.

Successful job searching is about using as many resources as possible, not relying on advertised opportunities alone, but making speculative approaches, building your network and making social media work for you.

What else can you do?
- **Attend our networking events and recruitment fairs.** These are open to all students and are an excellent way of finding out more about the sector you are interested in by talking to people already working in it – see www.york.ac.uk/careers/events for details of forthcoming events
- **Update your profile** within Careers Gateway www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway and we will send you email alerts when opportunities matching your criteria are available
- **Contact a York graduate** or gain an alumni mentor through our York Profiles and Mentors resource at www.york.ac.uk/careers/profiles and get advice and information direct from York alumni working in the profession you are interested in
Some key points for international students

All the points in this information sheet are relevant to you. However we’d like to draw your attention to the following:

- If you want to work in the UK after graduation, make sure you understand the routes available to you and the relevant immigration requirements. See the UKBA website at www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk and the University’s Immigration Advice Service pages.
- In the four months at the end of your student visa you may be able to organise a short-term internship in order to get some experience working in the UK before you return home.
- Think about what you as an international student can offer a UK employer, what value will you add to their business? Do you have language skills, knowledge of business practices and new markets, etc?
- If English is not your first language, work hard to improve your written and spoken English skills (if necessary) while you are a student.
- Understand the skills that employers are looking for alongside your degree and think about how you can give strong evidence of these skills – use your time at university well.
- Make sure your job applications are of a high standard, well written with no grammar/spelling errors, and are relevant and well researched. Use the information on our website to understand how to make good applications.
- Book an appointment with a member of Careers and Placements staff to get the content and structure of your CV/application reviewed. Careers staff are not able to proof read your applications. The Writing and Language Skills Centre offers courses, workshops and one-to-one consultation to current students.
- If you want to work in your home country, or elsewhere overseas, see the information sheet Working outside the UK and the International work web pages at International work pages.
- Please see our information on our International student web pages for useful information about working in the UK or overseas after graduation.

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Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. Careers and Placements cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

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