Finding work experience in the public and voluntary sector

Explore the types of roles available and key recruiters:

- Prospects - find out about work in the public sector
- The Guardian UK - top public sector employers
- Target jobs - work experience in public service

Where to search for internship and work experience vacancies

- Websites:
  - Prospect.ac.uk
  - Targetjobs.co.uk
  - Milkround.com
  - RateMyPlacement.co.uk
  - Graduate Talent Pool

- Newspapers and practitioner magazines:
  - http://jobs.guardian.co.uk
  - http://jobs.planningresource.co.uk
  - https://newstartmag.co.uk/jobs-listing/

- Voluntary sector recruitment websites:
  - www.charityjob.co.uk
  - www.charitypeople.co.uk
  - http://thirdsector.co.uk
  - www.voluntarysectorjobs.co.uk
  - www.jobsincharities.co.uk

- Public sector recruitment websites:
  - www.edenbrownsynergy.com
  - www.opportunities.co.uk
  - www.morganhunt.com
  - www.jobsgopublic.com
  - www.policyjobs.net
  - www.publicsectorcareers.org
  - www.publicsectorjobs.net
  - www.monsterpublic.co.uk
  - www.totaljobs.com/jobs/public-sector
  - www.greenjobs.co.uk/browse-jobs/public-sector-jobs/
Some public bodies in the West Midlands offer temporary work experience opportunities:

- **Birmingham City Council opportunities** can be accessed through their website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20102/jobs/466/work_experience/2
  www.birmingham.gov.uk/jobs
- **Staffordshire County Council** work experience placements: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/community/Volunteer/Open-Door/Open-Door.aspx
- **Stratford-On-Avon District Council** work experience: www.stratford.gov.uk/work-training/work-experience.cfm
- **Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust** offers work shadowing placements: www.bsmhft.nhs.uk/about-us/join-us/work-experience/
- **University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust** offer a variety of temporary or “bank staff” opportunities for registered nurses, healthcare assistants and administration staff. More information is available at: www.uhb.nhs.uk/qehb-plus

**Regional organisations**

- Public sector jobs in the West Midlands: [www.wmjobs.co.uk](http://www.wmjobs.co.uk)
- **West Midlands Councils** – information about all of the councils in the region at: [www.wmemployers.org.uk/home](http://www.wmemployers.org.uk/home)
- **Civil Service** - The Civil Service is a large public sector employer with a challenging portfolio of business priorities and agendas to deliver. The recruitment site provides access to permanent and temporary opportunities: [www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi](http://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi)
- **Sustainability West Midlands** - Established by regional partners as the independent regional champion for Sustainable Development and provides advice to regional policy partnerships and the region on sustainability issues: [www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk)
- **Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership** – is a partnership of businesses, local authorities and universities, which supports private sector growth and job creation: [http://centreofenterprise.com/](http://centreofenterprise.com/)
- **West Midlands Regional Observatory** - Responsible for local and regional research supporting the development of inward investment and regional policy: [www.marketingbirmingham.com/regional_observatory](http://www.marketingbirmingham.com/regional_observatory)
- **National Graduate Development Programme for Local Government** - is the fast track route into challenging and management positions within the sector. Each year approximately 80 graduates are recruited to the programme at a national level and employed by a host Local Authority: [www.ngdp.org.uk](http://www.ngdp.org.uk)
- **The Chamber of Commerce** - The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is a dynamic, high-profile and independent business network, with Chambers across the UK: [www.britishchambers.org.uk](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)

- **Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce** is a business support organization within the West Midlands. Local Chambers sit at the heart of the community, working with businesses of all sizes, and representing all sectors: [www.birmingham-chamber.com](http://www.birmingham-chamber.com)

**Opportunities in the NHS**

The NHS can offer a varied range of opportunities to people with a non-medical background:

- **NHS jobs** [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk)
- **Birmingham Children’s Hospital** [www.bch.nhs.uk/parents-and-carers/volunteers](http://www.bch.nhs.uk/parents-and-carers/volunteers)
- **Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Birmingham** [www.uhb.nhs.uk/work-experience.htm](http://www.uhb.nhs.uk/work-experience.htm)
- **Heart of England** [www.heartofengland.nhs.uk/careers/work-experience/](http://www.heartofengland.nhs.uk/careers/work-experience/)

**Central government**

In addition to the Civil Service jobs website, opportunities within Central Government may be found through the [www.gov.uk/faststream](http://www.gov.uk/faststream) portal, as well as HM Revenue & Customs: [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

Individual government departments:

- [www.defra.gov.uk/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/)
- [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)
- [www.dstl.gov.uk](http://www.dstl.gov.uk)
- [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)
- [https://gcs.civilservice.gov.uk/](https://gcs.civilservice.gov.uk/)
- [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
- [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/recruitment](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/recruitment)
- [www.patent.gov.uk](http://www.patent.gov.uk)

**Support organisations**

These provide support to publicly-funded and government bodies and voluntary sector organisations:

- [www.m-e-l.co.uk](http://www.m-e-l.co.uk)
- [www.ghkint.com](http://www.ghkint.com)
- [www.sqw.co.uk](http://www.sqw.co.uk)
- [www.bmgresearch.co.uk](http://www.bmgresearch.co.uk)
- [www.tribalgroup.co.uk](http://www.tribalgroup.co.uk)
- [www.rtpiconsultants.co.uk](http://www.rtpiconsultants.co.uk)
- [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)
Research and consultancy

The voluntary sector is made up of a diverse range of organisations working on different social, economic, environmental and political agendas. They include registered charities, not-for-profit, voluntary organisations and the third sector.

- **National and international:**
  - www.cancerresearchuk.org
  - www.mencap.org.uk
  - www.redcross.org.uk
  - www.shelter.org.uk
  - www.oxfam.org.uk
  - www.tth.org.uk
  - www.barnardos.org.uk
  - www.amnesty.org
  - www.crisis.org.uk
  - www.youngminds.org.uk
  - www.groundwork.org.uk
  - www.si.edu
  - www.unv.org
  - www.princes-trust.org.uk/

- **National lobbying bodies and Think Tanks:**
  - http://epi.org.uk/
  - www.npi.org.uk
  - www.cps.org.uk
  - www.civitas.org.uk
  - www.chathamhouse.org/
  - www.ippr.org
  - http://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/
  - http://fpc.org.uk
  - www.compassonline.org.uk
  - www.reform.co.uk
  - www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit
  - http://fabians.org.uk/
  - www.smf.co.uk
  - www.unlockdemocracy.org.uk
  - www.adamsmith.org/the-next-generation
  - www.demos.co.uk/about/jobs-internships/
National volunteering websites:
- www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk
- www.do-it.org.uk
- www.vinspired.com

Volunteering through the Guild of Students:
See the Jobs, Skills and Volunteering department at the Guild of Students: www.guildofstudents.com/jsv/

Councils for Voluntary Service:
- Birmingham BVSC www.bvsc.org
- Sandwell www.sandwellvcs.info
- Solihull Sustain http://solihull-sustain.org.uk/
- Wolverhampton Voluntary sector Council http://wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk/