

CREATIVE CAREER STEPS for Graphic Designers

Esyllt George
Careers Adviser
e.george@uwtsd.ac.uk

Careers Service
uwtsd.ac.uk/careers

Careers Service at UWTSD

- Part of UWTSD Student Services teams
- One to one service, group work and events
- Assistance in gaining work experience, placements, making applications for jobs and opportunities
- Centered around individual needs of students

Assessing Options and Needs

- What are your priorities present and future?
- How do your studies relate to future ideas and plans?
- Which skills would you be interested to use in the workplace?
- What research needs to be done?
- What about work experience or internships?
- What are the next steps?

Design Jobs

- Job search in the creative sector can be complex
- Build on your industry design experiences and contacts
- Utilise level 5 vacations to develop contacts
- More than one method of job search – advertised vacancies, speculative applications, networking and word of mouth

Networking and Making Contacts

- Attend industry events e.g New Designers yearly event in London
- Local creative networking events e.g Design Swansea meetups – first Thursday of every month
- Consider setting up a creative or design specific student society through Student Union
- Utilise social media to build relationships with companies or agencies of interest
- Events and networks through professional association e.g Chartered Institute of Designers

Internships

- Build on your industry design experiences and contacts
- Utilise Easter and summer breaks to develop contacts and gain experience
- More than one method of job search – advertised vacancies, speculative applications, networking and word of mouth, importance of social media – Linked In and Instagram

Examples, internships, placements, work experience

Advertised on Linked In

The Met Office is delighted to open our advertising for Industrial Placements 2026.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Met Office on a 12-month Year in Industry placement, commencing at the start of July 2026, developing your skills and knowledge and ensuring you gain the most value possible from your experience with us.

You will have the opportunity to network with our cohort of Industrial Placements all over the Met Office and understand what career opportunities are on offer at the Met Office after you graduate.

We're looking for a **Design and Content Industrial Placement 2026** to help us make a difference to our planet.

INTERN ADVERTISED EXAMPLE Summer 2026

At Luminous, we are passionate about supporting the future of the creative industry and are looking for a bright, innovative and ambitious graphic design intern to join us for 1–3 months this summer.

About the role

We are looking for a bright, innovative and ambitious graphic design intern to join us for one to three months this summer.

At Luminous, we believe in shining new light on creative careers by illuminating possibilities. As strategic storytellers, our expertise lies in helping businesses unearth their differences and craft communications that make them shine. Our internship scheme is a great opportunity for you to gain real-world experience in a creative and supportive studio.

As an intern, you will have an assigned mentor throughout the scheme who will ensure you get the most out of the experience. Working on live client projects across brand, editorial and digital applications, you'll get the opportunity to learn not just from our design team but from people around our business, to give you that full agency experience.

We pay our interns in line with the London Living Wage during internships. This is a hybrid role, working at least three days a week from our Farringdon office. Advertised creativelivesinprogress.com

Summer internship Dezeen design magazine

Dezeen is offering a five-week social media internship on its digital team in London this summer.

Dezeen is the world's most influential architecture and design magazine with two million readers a month and more than 8.3 million followers across social platforms.

We're looking for an organised and detail-oriented individual with some experience of copywriting, social media, paid partnerships and digital content.

The social media intern will assist the social editor in ensuring that digital content published on Dezeen is scheduled for sharing across all our social media platforms, and delivering sponsored content across our channels.

In addition, the intern will assist the digital editor with other digital tasks as required, including newsletters and comment moderation.

From [dezeen.com](https://www.dezeen.com)

Why work experience?

- Work experience, placements, internships or voluntary work can give you the edge in getting the job you want when you graduate
- Paid and unpaid options
- Bursary can be available from UWTSD through Career Development Fund [Career Development Bursary | University of Wales Trinity Saint David](#)
- Careers Service has a designated member of staff to support in setting up an unpaid work experience placement, mentoring or attending events, including cost for travel expenses

Applying for Jobs, Training, Opportunities and Work Experience

- Identify methods of application, including speculative applications and networking
- Identifying relevant skills
- How to contacting employers
- CV's, applications, portfolio
- Networking
- Confidence in interviews and presenting yourself

Presenting Professional Applications

- Creating a professional summary of why you stand out and key skills you have to offer
- Interrelationship of personal Statement/CV/portfolio for jobs and postgraduate courses
- Adaptation to specific job needs
- Practice in making speculative applications to find out more about options of interest

Evidence

- Demonstrating evidence of employability through
- Your course
- Interests developed while at university
- Social and communication skills
- Work experience and volunteer work
- Additional training and extra curricula activities

General personal and transferrable creative skills examples

- Imagination and developing ideas
- Using your intuition to devise and develop strategies and plans
- Communicating and presenting in diverse ways
- Problem solving
- Flexibility and adapting
- Multi tasking or combining work tasks

Creative and design roles in range of sectors and companies

- Design Agencies,
- Marketing, Advertising, Branding
- Publishing and Editorial
- Media, Film and TV
- Surface pattern industries – packaging, interiors, cards, posters
- Arts promotion, heritage and culture
- Public Sector, e.g Education or Health
- Business and management
- Third Sector/Charities
- Freelance and self employment

How do your design and creative skills link to future employment?

- Relate your creative, personal and design skills and interests to work of interest?
- Using social media, industry networking, and speculative applications to make contacts to gain employment
- Explore options of freelance work and a portfolio career – working in different types of jobs
- Explore short term goals in relation to longer term ideas

Research and Resources examples

- <https://the-dots.com>
- A range of design and creative opportunities
- <https://www.designweek.co.uk/jobs/>
- Jobs in a wide range of design fields including graphics, product, Illustration, interior and packaging
- <https://www.designdirectory.co.uk/>
- International directory of design consultants including fashion, interiors, products, and graphics
- <https://www.dezeenjobs.com/>
- International design jobs, specialising in architectural and interiors
- <https://www.designjobsboard.com/>
- Jobs and internships in design industry

What are your key Action Points?

Consider your Career Action Plan for the next 3 months

Identify Priorities

Make specific goals

Record results and next steps

- Decide on 3 concrete things you will do over the next few weeks?

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Access Career planning resources 'My Career'



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