

Guide to...

Finding Work in Your Home Country After Graduation

bathspa.ac.uk/careers

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Introduction

This guide is for international students and graduates of Bath Spa University who want to find employment in their home country after graduation.

The benefits of a UK education

UK universities have an excellent reputation across the world. In choosing to study at a UK university you have already made a decision that will likely have a positive impact on your future employability. Your qualification will be highly respected in your home country and employers will value many of the qualities, skills and knowledge you will have gained through studying in the UK. However, it is important to use your experiences of living and studying in the UK to market yourself as a graduate.

Some additional benefits of UK higher education include:

- If English is not your first language, by living and studying in the UK you have been immersed in a new language and both your written and spoken English language skills will have improved.
- You will have had the opportunity to mix with students from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities at university, helping you to become a global citizen.
- If you have undertaken any part-time work or work experience while you have been studying, you will have had the benefit of experiencing different work cultures, developing your cultural awareness.

Improving your employability

The worldwide job market is a competitive one. Employers will be keen to know what skills and experience you can offer, so it is important to make best use of your time while you are at university in the UK. There are a number of ways in which you can improve your employability while at Bath Spa University:

- **Part-time Jobs** – a part-time job will give you valuable work experience enabling you to develop your skills (make sure you check any work restrictions on your student visa).
- **Placements and work experience** – a placement or work experience can be a useful way to explore a particular type of sector and gain relevant experience (make sure you check and understand the difference between placements as part of your degree and those which are not, in the context of your student visa).
- **Volunteering** – helps you to develop new skills, work with other students or members of the local community you may have not otherwise had the opportunity to work with, and may give you a chance to gain experience in an area of work that interests you (make sure you check and understand the definition of ‘volunteering’ in the context of your student visa).
- **Bath Spa Societies** – being an active member of a university society can help you with developing your skills and show employers that you are able to balance extra-curricular activities alongside your degree.
- **Bath Spa Award(s)** - designed to recognise your skills, experiences and achievements outside of your degree programme, the Bath Spa Award aims to increase your self-awareness of your key graduate skills and provide an opportunity for you to focus on areas you would like to improve – for more details see bathspa.ac.uk/careers or contact the Bath Spa Award Team at theaward@bathspa.ac.uk.

IMPORTANT: For legal reasons Bath Spa Careers do not provide visa advice – if you are unsure whether you can legally work in UK, how many hours you can work and the type of work you can undertake, please contact the International Student Advice Team via email: immigrationadvice@bathspa.ac.uk.

Career Planning

The University of Warwick has put together two open resource careers information websites specifically aimed at Chinese students coming to the UK to study, but the information is of equal relevance to ALL international students (and home students!):

- <http://www.prepare2getahead.co.uk/> - an e-learning resource that introduces career planning for (international) students and provides a step-by-step approach to enable you to develop and create your own career plan. The resource aims to help you to make the most of your time at university and to explore options that interest you, as well as gain relevant skills and experiences.
- <http://www.innovate2getahead.co.uk/> - an e-learning resource that provides (international) students with an introduction to innovation skills and developing an innovative mind-set. It is aimed at all students, as the activities and case studies can be applied to students looking to go on to work for organisations; for students wishing to develop their own family business and for students looking to start or develop their own business.

The Importance of Networking

Make sure you maintain your contacts and networks in your home country as they may be able to inform you about graduate opportunities. If you return home during the holidays, make sure you use that time to attend employer events, networking events, conferences, and recruitment fairs.

Also ensure that you make full use of professional social media websites, such as LinkedIn or those common in your home country, so you can keep in regular contact with your networks while you are studying in the UK. Joining the *Bath Spa University Students and Alumni* LinkedIn Group is a good way of keeping connected to other BSU graduates from all around the world, with whom you already share some common ground: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/bath-spa-university/> (you will need to create a LinkedIn account to go be able to access the 'see alumni' page).

The British Council run a number of groups around the world for UK Alumni – if you are returning home as a graduate you can make connections with others who have enjoyed time studying in the UK: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/discover/career/alumni-networks>. Your local British Council office will be able to provide details of local groups and let you know how you can join. These groups often host events, valuable for networking, and may also run job clubs supporting graduates who are looking for employment.

Graduate recruitment processes

Graduate recruitment processes differ between countries and you will need to familiarise yourself with those in your home country. There may also be differences depending on the sector you want to work in and the organisation you are applying to. For example, you will need to be aware of the recruitment cycle and what time of year employers tend to advertise opportunities.

You will also need to be aware of how employers recruit graduates and what type of application and recruitment methods they use. For example, in some Asian countries it can be common to include a photograph on a CV (not common in the UK) or in the USA CVs tend to be only a page long (instead of the more traditional two-page CVs in the UK).

The following websites provide some helpful tips for job searching and application methods in different countries, but you will likely need to conduct your own more thorough research:

- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/working-abroad>
- <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad>

Before you leave the UK

Before you graduate and return to your home country there are some practical things you can do:

1. Prepare your CV according to the structure and content that is expected in your home country. Make sure you consider not only your qualifications, but the skills and experience you can offer having lived and studied in the UK and how you can market these to future employers.
2. Start researching employers and perhaps create a database of jobsites and/or company list where you can search for opportunities.
3. If you have undertaken any part-time work or completed any work placements in the UK, make sure you explore the possibility of gaining an employer reference and have up-to-date contact details for any employers you have worked with.
4. Ensure you have up-to-date contact details for academic staff, should you require an academic reference when applying for jobs.
5. Share your contact details (and if appropriate your CV) with people that form part of your network both in the UK and your home country.

The UKCISA website lists some practical steps in preparing to return home, such as travel, notification of departure, and refunds and deposits: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Going-home>

Top Tips for Job Searching

- Search for professional associations for the area of work that interests you in your home country.
- Search business directories for your home country.
- Check foreign professional journals and newspaper websites that often have vacancies pages.
- Use social media to research previous Bath Spa alumni who have returned to their home countries for employment and get networking with them.
- Attend graduate recruitment fairs both in your home country, where possible, and in the UK as some international UK companies will have overseas offices.
- Make use of the internet, particularly to search for organisations you are interested in working for as the majority will have their own 'vacancies' or 'careers' pages.
- Read this article from TARGETJobs 'Tips for international students seeking work outside the UK' <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/international-students/668677-guide-to-job-hunting-for-international-students#internationalstudents>

Job Searching Resources

The GradLink websites (powered by the University of the West of England) are free for anyone to use. They are specialist careers websites designed for students and graduates from China, India, Canada, Africa, Asia and Bangladesh, linking them with employers and jobs in these countries.

- UK: www.gradlinkuk.com online careers service for international students/graduates
- Africa: www.gradlinkuk.com/africa.php
- Asia (South East): Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore) www.gradlinkuk.com/asean.php
- Bangladesh: <https://www.gradlinkuk.com/south-asia.php>
- Canada: www.gradlinkuk.com/canada.php
- China: www.gradlinkuk.com/china.php
- Gulf: <https://www.gradlinkuk.com/gulf.php>
- India: www.gradlinkuk.com/india.php

Additional Resources

Europe

- <http://graduatejobsineurope.com/> - Graduate Jobs in Europe
- <https://graduateland.com/> - Graduateland

Middle East

- <http://www.gulftalent.com/> - Gulf Talent

Asia

- <http://www.lockinchina.com> - Helping Chinese students find good opportunities in China.
- <http://gradmalaysia.com/search-jobs> - Malaysia (jobs and careers information)
- <http://www.graduan.com/#/0> - Malaysia (advertising graduate opportunities)
- <http://gradsingapore.com/search-jobs> - Singapore (jobs and careers information)
- <http://www.naukri.com/> - India

Africa

- <http://www.careersinafrica.com> - Recruitment company advertising a range of opportunities
- <http://www.careers24.com/> - South Africa

Australasia

- <https://gradaustralia.com.au/home> - Australia (graduate jobs and careers information)

The Americas

- <https://www.usajobs.gov/> - USA Jobs
- <http://www.jobs.ca/> - Canada Jobs
- <http://www.canadastop100.com/tcd/> - Canada (career directory includes jobs boards)

Worldwide

- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/working-abroad> Prospects Working Abroad
- <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad> TARGETJobs (useful jobsites and overview for a wide range of countries)
- <https://uk.gradconnection.com/> - GradConnection also has a variety of webpages for searching for graduate opportunities in various worldwide countries
- <http://www.stepstone.com/> - Step Stone

Further information and advice

For legal reasons Bath Spa Careers do not provide visa advice – if you would like to discuss your individual visa options, please contact the International Student Advice Team who will be happy to help. For full details of when and where drop-in sessions are available, and how to make an appointment with an International Student Adviser, please visit <https://thehub.bathspa.ac.uk/international/international-advice-and-support> or email immigrationadvice@bathspa.ac.uk.

Further Support from Bath Spa Careers

If you would like further support from Bath Spa Careers & Employability go to bathspa.ac.uk/careers to see the ways in which you can access our service, including workshops and events, appointments and to access our extensive range of resources.

You can also contact Careers Reception on 01225 875525 or at careers@bathspa.ac.uk.

Please note that Bath Spa Careers does not endorse particular organisations.

(This guide was last updated in Summer 2019).

GET A HEAD START

We're here to help you get a great start to your career. We're open all year round, so come and visit us in the Careers Space, book an appointment, or get in touch.

Careers Space, SL.G04
Steward's Lodge

careers@bathspa.ac.uk
01225 875525

www.bathspa.ac.uk/careers

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Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this leaflet is accurate but we recommend that you check all details carefully.

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