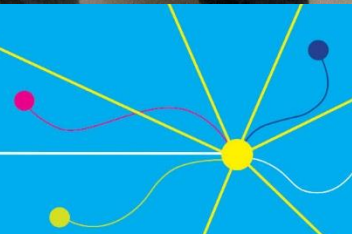


New to Cultural Careers?

5 Top Tips



If you're new to Cultural Careers or looking for a way to get a role in the sector, why not try our 5 Top Tips?

Working in the cultural sector has great appeal. Within museums, galleries, heritage sites, archives, archaeology and more, there are beautiful buildings, open spaces, collections and a wide range of roles locally, nationally and internationally.

However, it can be quite a tough industry to navigate if you're in pursuit of a career and aren't quite sure where to begin.

Hopefully, our top tips will be helpful, along with links to useful sector job sites and organisations.

5 Top Tips

- 1. Job search.** The range of roles within this industry are vast and varied. A good way to start getting a feel for cultural sector jobs is to see what's out there currently. Follow the links below and explore what is being advertised. This will give you a feel for the types of sector roles that really appeal to you, salaries, skills and qualifications. It can start to narrow down your field of interest and make it easier to identify what you have that is transferable, and what can be developed.
- 2. Research.** It is always worth getting to know and understand more about a range of museums, even online - start following them on social media, sign up to newsletters, go to events - essentially research the museums in your area. You'll not only start to familiarise yourself with the kinds of collections and work that most appeal to you and narrow the job search, but also the sector language, issues and politics.
- 3. Volunteer.** Any volunteering experience linked to the sector is useful to have on your CV, even if only for a few hours here and there, it can make all the difference to your chances of selection and interview.
- 4. Shadow.** If there is a particular job role you are interested in pursuing, it might be worth getting in touch with an organisation to see if they'd be willing to let you shadow a professional in the role for a day, or to go in and talk about the role in more depth.

5. **Projects.** Many cultural organisations work on short-term funded partnership projects with different community groups. These can create excellent opportunities for short-term posts or paid research for people who have little or no experience in the sector to gain experience. It is worth keeping an eye on projects pages and announcements from the cultural organisations you're interested in. Would your current skills and expertise fit their planned activity? Could you approach them to see if costs for a few days of your time could be included in their funding application?

All of these tips will help you to be looking in the right places for opportunities, as well as building up some experience and knowledge to get around any lack of specific sector experience or qualifications.

Many heritage staff come into their roles from a wide range of backgrounds, routes and pathways. Some start with no sector knowledge. Being able to speak confidently, passionately and with a bit of knowledge having conducted a bit of research can make all the difference with an interview panel...

Good luck!

A few useful links to start with:

Arts Council England (ACE) is the council for our sector, providing us with grant funding, support, advice, direction, goals and a voice for our sector at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. On the linked page you'll find out about working for the Arts Council and their apprenticeship scheme, as well as other jobs in Arts & Culture <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news-and-jobs/jobs-and-careers-0>

South East Museums Development Programme is the museum development service funded by Arts Council England to support museums across a significant area of the Southeast region. This is their jobs link and they also have a newsletter you can sign up to. <https://southeastmuseums.org/job/>

Museum Jobs This site posts jobs from across the UK and some international too. It will give you a feel for the variety, the skills and the salaries. <http://www.museumjobs.com/>

Leicester Jobs Desk This page from Leicester University posts jobs for all museums nationally. <https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/museumstudies/JobsDesk>