

Resources for Researching Employers

This leaflet provides a list of resources to help you research employers and the labour market. You can use these to gain an overview of your chosen industry or employment sector in preparation for making speculative job enquiries, filling in application forms and attending interviews. In competitive times most employers are eager to see candidates who can evidence that they have done some research into their company, its products or services and the industry they represent. These general labour market resources will point you in the direction of more specific websites, journals and industry associations to research your chosen sector or employer in greater depth.

Sources of General Labour Market Information

Alliance of Sector Skills Councils www.sscalliance.org The Alliance is an organisation comprising all licensed UK Sector Skills Councils (SSCs), the employer-driven organisations that together articulate the voice of the employers of around 90% of the UK's workforce on skills issues. The Skills Councils are engaged in labour market research and produce regular reports outlining current recruitment trends and future skills needs of the sectors they represent.

National Guidance Research Forum LMI Future Trends www.guidance-research.org/future-trends This site for guidance professionals offers labour market information on 30 sectors and occupational groups.

Careers and Employability Centre Vacancy Database www.as.bham.ac.uk/careers The Careers online vacancy database allows you to search employers who regularly place graduate vacancies with the University. As well as current opportunities you can find contact information or search for employers in a particular sector or region who have recruited graduates previously.

Prospects www.prospects.ac.uk provides company information on a range of graduate employers, graduate destination reports as well as details of graduate employment conditions overseas. They also run the 'Chatlive' initiative – an online 5 day programme which enables students and graduates seeking employment to chat to company representatives.

Department for Business Innovation and Skills-Business Sectors www.bis.gov.uk/sectors The Business Sectors pages of this Government site provide national industry snapshots across a range of business and industry sectors.

Business Insight Birmingham Central Library www.birmingham.gov.uk/businessinsight A public business information service located on the ground floor of Birmingham Central Library. Some of its services are available online and some only to holders of a Birmingham library card. Essentially a service for those seeking to set up their own company; however they are the most comprehensive business library in the region.

UK Business Park www.ukbusinesspark.co.uk UK Business Park produce a subscription only newsletter called UK Business Activity Report: a weekly business news and sales leads service providing company information. Their online service however is free and allows you to see current developments in specific companies by sector.

Biz/Ed www.bized.co.uk/compfact/comphome.htm A website for students and educators in business studies, economics, accounting, tourism and leisure. This has access to a range of company profiles as well as current news items of interest to labour market researchers.

The Business Desk www.thebusinessdesk.com/ Regional business information for the West Midlands

International information

UK Commission for Employment and Skills, Research and Labour Market Information Portal www.ukces.org.uk/publications-and-resources/downloads/ this site provides links to regional, national and international sources of labour market information.

Expertise in Labour Mobility www.labourmobility.com This is a website of a research and training institution which produces labour market information in more than 40 countries. Available to businesses and individuals, the organisation also runs workshops for students on various aspects of working overseas.

Business pages in the media

BBC Business <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/> This BBC site provides topical information by business sector and geographical area.

Reuters www.reuters.com Sections dedicated to international business and technology news.

Bloomberg www.bloomberg.com International business news site

Regional newspaper business pages:

Birmingham Post - www.birminghampost.net

Birmingham Mail - www.birminghammail.net

Birmingham Forward - www.birminghamforward.co.uk

Shropshire www.shropshirestar.com

Staffordshire www.thisisstaffordshire.co.uk

Warwickshire www.cwn.org.uk/business/index.html

Worcestershire www.thisisworcester.co.uk

Herefordshire www.thisishereford.co.uk

Regional Labour Market Information

England's Regional Development Agencies www.englishrdas.com This website provides links to the nine RDA's in England whose remit is to drive economic growth. The coalition government plans to replace the RDA's with Local Enterprise Partnerships from 2011.

British Chambers of Commerce www.britishchambers.org.uk

West Midlands Labour Market Information

Want to know more about staying and working in the West Midlands? The following websites can provide useful information about regional development priorities, regeneration projects, graduate retention, higher level skills and technology initiatives.

Advantage West Midlands www.advantagewm.co.uk

West Midlands Regional Observatory www.wmro.org

Connect WM www.connectwm.com/

Birmingham Big City Plan <http://bigcityplan.birmingham.gov.uk/big-city-plan.php>

Birmingham Economy www.birminghameconomy.org.uk

Birmingham Post Business pages www.birminghampost.net/birmingham-business

First Move West Midlands www.firstmovewestmidlands.co.uk An online directory for new graduates considering working in the West Midlands (paper copies available in the Careers and Employability Centre)

The following reference only materials are available for use in the Careers and Employability Centre

Key British Enterprises This annual publication in several volumes provides contact details and basic information on thousands of UK companies.

Directory of Graduate Recruiters

500 of the Best Companies to Work For

The Business Guidebook to Professional, Financial and Business Support Services in Birmingham, Birmingham Forward (annual)

The London Jobhunter's Guide, Pearson

Business Register Birmingham, AP Information Services Ltd (annual)

Business Register West Midlands and Warwickshire, AP Information Services Ltd

Vault Guide to the Top UK Employers

The following resources are also available in the Careers Centre but are free to take away:

The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers (annual)

Hobsons GET Directory of Graduate Employment and Training (annual)

Prospects Directory A-Z of Graduate Jobs and Training (annual)

Doctorjob – Jobs and Advice for Students (quarterly)

Job Seeking Strategies, AGCAS (biennial)

First Move West Midlands

E- Library resources

Current students and staff can access the **online catalogue** of library resources via www.library.bham.ac.uk or student portal www.my.bham.ac.uk. Select:

eLibrary directory > log-in > Find Resource >

Useful databases for company information include:

Annual Report Gallery Thousands of companies' annual reports

Companies House To find information about companies.

Fame Information on UK company turnover, profit etc, number of employees and also the opportunity to see peer companies.

Amadeus A pan-European database containing the turnover, profit, number of employees for millions of companies and the opportunity to see peer companies.

EBSCO Selected company reports

Northcote Selected company reports

Useful databases for Journals & Newspapers include:

Lexis Nexis - professional-newspaper articles

EBSCO - full-text articles

ProQuest - full-text articles