Useful Websites for Disabled Students

This guide is part of the Diversity series. For more guides in the series please visit the website below.

Careers & Employability Service
www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides
Making the transition from education into employment is a challenging process for anyone. If you have a disability or long-term health condition, it can be even more daunting. This guide lists organisations who give job-hunting support to disabled students and graduates.

If you would like to discuss the impact of your disability or health condition with a specialist careers adviser at MMU please book an appointment with Marina Matosic by phoning 0161 247 3483.

**How to use this guide**

As disability is such a broad issue and everyone is different, the information has been organised into a general section appropriate to all, followed by disability-specific areas. It is a good idea to use both sections of this guide and refer to other Careers and Employability guides, to complement your job hunting. Included are organisations who provide information and advice on the common issues around job hunting, plus more general disability organisations which you may find useful for other aspects of your life.

- When you see a symbol like the one at the start of this sentence it indicates an organisation who gives help and information on job hunting.

The section headings are:

- General
- Autism
- D/deaf
- Dyslexia
- Mental health
- Spinal injuries
- Visual Impairment
- Post Graduate Study – UK and Abroad

**Section 1- General**

**Ability-Net** [www.abilitynet.co.uk](http://www.abilitynet.co.uk)
Gives free advice on computer technology for disabled people.

- **Association of Disabled Professionals (ADP)** [www.adp.org.uk](http://www.adp.org.uk)
Provides information on jobs, running your own business, news and events.
Breakthrough UK Ltd www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk
Supports disabled people into employment and work-related training. You need to be a resident of Manchester, Trafford, Stockport or Bury. (Service also available in Liverpool).

DIAL Network www.scope.org.uk/dial
A network of over 140 local disability information and advice centres run by and for disabled people.

Provides information and advice about all aspects of the Equality Act as well as how to make a complaint if you feel you have been discriminated against. The ‘Work and disabled people’ section includes recruitment and disabled people, reasonable adjustments at work and Access to Work.

Disability Alliance www.disabilityalliance.org
Provides advice and information on disability benefits, research and training, disability related campaigns and parliamentary news.

Disabled Entrepreneurs Network www.disabled-entrepreneurs.net
Provides networking opportunities and information services for self-employed disabled people.

Disabled Motoring UK www.disabledmotoring.org/
A campaigning charity for disabled drivers, passengers and Blue Badge holders.

Disability Now www.disabilitynow.org.uk
A monthly newspaper carrying employment advertisements, you can search job listings on the website.

Disability Rights UK www.disabilityrightsuk.org
Campaigning and advisory disability body run by and for disabled people. Produce news updates, campaign information and has a bookshop.

EmployAbility www.employ-ability.org.uk/students/services
Offer free support, advice and guidance to students and graduates throughout the entire recruitment process and beyond. Also run a wide range of internships and graduate recruitment programmes: www.employ-ability.org.uk/internships

Equality Challenge Unit www.ecu.ac.uk/subjects/disability
Disability related information.
Exceptional Individuals  www.exceptionalindividuals.com
Offer employment support to dyslexic students and graduates.

Front Runner  www.commonpurpose.org.uk/frontrunner
Run short courses for disabled students to develop the skills and knowledge to become leaders in work and society.

Four All  www.channel4.com/4disabledtalent/index.html
Channel 4 actively encourages production companies to cast and employ disabled people, whatever the subject matter or programme genre. This page links through to 4talent where jobs are listed: http://4talent.channel4.com

This employment portal has downloadable information packs and a page for impairment specific guides.

Great with Disability  www.greatwithdisability.com
The Student Toolkit is where you can find all the information you need as you apply for jobs and prepare for interviews. It also has a comprehensive section about managing your disability.

Leonard Cheshire Disability  www.lcdisability.org
Organisation which helps disabled people into work and self-employment.

My Plus Consulting  www.greatwithdisability.com
Provides information on applying for graduate jobs and preparing to go through the recruitment process. It covers topics such as disclosing a disability, requesting adjustments, requiring support, gaps in the CV, lack of work experience, etc. and also provides information about employers.

Office for Disability Issues  www.odi.gov.uk
Government department website that includes a section on employment rights and the law.

Ouch  www.bbc.co.uk/ouch
A website from the BBC with blog and news items that go behind the headlines of disability news, and also lifts the lid on the little details about being disabled that are not widely talked about.

Prince’s Youth Business Trust  www.princes-trust.org.uk
Offers help to young people aged between 16 and 25 who wish to set up in business. The charity looks favourably on applications from disabled people.
- **Remploy** [www.graduates.remploy.co.uk](http://www.graduates.remploy.co.uk)
  Provide support specifically to help you find graduate level jobs. This is available locally in Manchester City Centre and across the UK.

- **Target Jobs** [www.targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/equality-and-diversity](http://www.targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/equality-and-diversity)
  Information on disclosing disability and equality issues

**The British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) [www.bcodp.org.uk](http://www.bcodp.org.uk)**
Blog on disability issues

**The Disability Law Service [www.dls.org.uk](http://www.dls.org.uk)**
Charity that provides confidential and free legal advice for disabled adults, their families and carers.

- **The Employment and Skills Group [www.esggroup.co.uk](http://www.esggroup.co.uk)**
  An organisation helping disabled people to get work.

- **Total Jobs [www.totaljobs.com/graduate](http://www.totaljobs.com/graduate)**
  Graduate specific section of a job site for disabled people – can do job searches, upload your CV and receive email updates.

**UPDATE [www.update.org.uk](http://www.update.org.uk)**
Scotland’s National Disability Information Service aimed primarily at employers. It provides general information and contact details for advice on disability matters throughout Scotland.

  Offer two week long unpaid work placements – can be flexible i.e. each Tuesday. Tell them what you want and they will do their best to find it for you. Paper application forms available from the Employability Hub.

**Youreable.com [www.youreable.com](http://www.youreable.com)**
A web community providing support and information for disabled people.

### Section 2 – Disability specific organisations

#### Autism

  Provide work preparation programmes, job finding support, interview support and employment support for graduates with autism and Asperger syndrome.

*D/deaf*
**Action on Hearing Loss (Formerly RNID)** [www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk)
Wide ranging support and information including Access to Work

- **Breakthrough UK** [www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk](http://www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk)
This is a Deaf – led employment service, which provides support with all aspects of job searching, plus free communication support. Note you need to be a resident in Manchester, Bury, Trafford or Stockport.

**British Deaf Association** [www.bda.org.uk](http://www.bda.org.uk)
The BDA is the largest Deaf organisation in the UK that is ran by Deaf people. Aims to achieve equality for Deaf people through community empowerment, membership and campaigning.

- **Deaf UK** [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-uk-jobs](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-uk-jobs)
An e-mail group for d/Deaf people in the UK, which advertises vacancies that are Deaf related. Registration is free.

- **Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD)** [www.royaldeaf.org.uk](http://www.royaldeaf.org.uk)
General information and support for sign language users plus employment support if based in London and Essex.

**Dyslexia**

**British Dyslexia Association** [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)
Lobbying and support organisation aiming for a dyslexia friendly society that will enable all dyslexic people to reach their potential.

**Epilepsy**

- **British Epilepsy Association** [www.epilepsy.org.uk](http://www.epilepsy.org.uk)
Provide advice and information about epilepsy including fact sheets on employment issues.

**Mental Health**

**Mind** [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)
Charity offering help and advice.

**SANE** [www.sane.org.uk](http://www.sane.org.uk)
Charity concerned with improving the lives of everyone affected by mental illness. An under 25s discussion group is available on line.
Schizophrenia.com  www.schizophrenia.com
A web community providing in-depth information, support and education related to schizophrenia.

**Spinal Injuries**

Spinal Injuries Association  www.spinal.co.uk
Represents the interests of spinal cord injured people. A free-phone help line is available.

**Visual Impairment**

- **ABAPSTAS** (The Association of Blind and Partially Sighted Teachers and Students)  www.abapstas.org.uk
  National organisation focusing on education and employment issues.

- **Action For Blind People**  www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk
  Provides specialist support and advice to find employment, start your own business or stay in their jobs if you are losing your sight.

- **Blind in Business**  www.blindinbusiness.co.uk
  Offers an employment service specifically for graduates and undergraduates and runs annual training events.

Henshaws Society for Blind People  www.henshaws.org.uk
Provides a wide range of services, support and training for visually impaired people with the aim of enabling people of all ages to maximise their independence and enjoy a high quality of life.

- **Royal National Institute of the Blind**  www.rnib.org.uk/employment
  A specific comprehensive site dealing with every aspect of the job hunting process, plus a helpline.

**Post Graduate Study UK and Abroad**

Fulbright Commission  www.fulbright.co.uk
Provides help to students who wish to study in the USA. A pamphlet entitled ‘Students with Disabilities’ is available to be downloaded:  
www.fulbright.co.uk/study-in-the-usa/undergraduate-study/additional-resources/students-with-disabilities

The Mike Devenney Scholarship  www.mikedevenney.org.uk
Helps disabled students, both undergraduate and postgraduate with some of the costs of studying at higher education institutions (fees, equipment and/or accommodation costs).

**Vitae [www.vitae.ac.uk](http://www.vitae.ac.uk)**
Includes guidance for disabled students, including PhD research. To access this information go to [www.vitae.ac.uk/doing-research/supervising-a-doctorate/supporting-disabled-doctoral-researchers](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/doing-research/supervising-a-doctorate/supporting-disabled-doctoral-researchers)

**The Snowdon Award Scheme [www.snowdonawardscheme.org.uk](http://www.snowdonawardscheme.org.uk)**
Provides grants to physically disabled students, including those with a sensory impairment. You must be studying in the UK in further or higher education.

**Oxford Wadham Graduate Scholarship for Disabled Students**
Scholarships are awarded to applicants who have demonstrated excellent academic ability, who will contribute to the University’s ground-breaking research, and who will go on to contribute to the world as leaders in their field, pushing the frontiers of knowledge.

There is no separate application process for this scholarship: in order to be considered, you must submit your application for graduate study by the deadline for your course. Please ensure that you meet the selection criteria for your course.

Money available: 100% of University and college fees at the UK/EU rate and a grant for living costs (at least £13,863) for the duration of the course. Details you insert in the ‘About you’ section of the graduate application form will be used to determine whether or not you have declared a disability.

Further details here: [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/graduate-scholarships/university-wide-scholarships/oxford-graduate-scholarships](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/graduate-scholarships/university-wide-scholarships/oxford-graduate-scholarships)

---

We hope you found this guide useful. The Careers & Employability Service offers a wide range of support to help you make a career choice, prepare for your future, improve your employability skills and find employment.

**Did you know?**
- MMU students can use the Careers & Employability Service throughout your time at university and up to 3 years after your course finishes.
- We offer drop-in advice and bookable appointments in Manchester and in Crewe.

Explore our extensive website and the full range of career guides at [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides)