Finding Experience in the Environmental Sector

Finding a job in the natural resources and environmental sector is competitive. Relevant work experience is invaluable in developing expertise and demonstrating your motivation and commitment to this area of work. However finding experience will take time and effort; employers receive many CV’s every week so you will have to work hard to stand out from the crowd.

The key to success is to prepare thoroughly, do your research and organise your experience in good time. Think about small and medium size companies as well as large organisations.

Below are some suggestions for finding relevant experience. Please note that for some of these experiences a cost is involved, particularly those overseas, so check the websites for details.

Companies:

- [www.iema.net](http://www.iema.net) - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, useful tips on how to get into environmental roles and careers.
- [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk) - Green Peace internships.
- [www.iied.org/internships](http://www.iied.org/internships) - International Development for Environment and Development.
- [www.the-ies.org/careers](http://www.the-ies.org/careers) - Institution of Environmental Sciences jobs.
- [Carbon Trust Internships](http://www.carbontrust.com/internships) - Vacancies/internships.
- [www.port.ac.uk/purpledoor](http://www.port.ac.uk/purpledoor) - View Purple Door ‘Jobs Board’ to search the latest vacancies, save jobs searches and set up job alerts.
- [www.btcv.org](http://www.btcv.org) - BTCV - voluntary opportunities and training.
- [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) - Environment Agency - contact your regional office to find out more about work placements.
- [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) - Voluntary opportunities.
- [www.nationalparks.gov.uk](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk) - Volunteering experience.
- [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) - Links to voluntary opportunities
- [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org) - voluntary opportunities and links to local trusts.
- [www.brightgreenbusiness.org.uk](http://www.brightgreenbusiness.org.uk) - Environment Placement Programme places students within Scottish businesses to undertake projects with an environmental focus.
- [www.environmentjob.co.uk/jobs](http://www.environmentjob.co.uk/jobs) - Environmental jobs opportunities and volunteering
- [www.cla.org.uk](http://www.cla.org.uk) - Country Land and Business Association (CLA) - offer student placements, usually on an ad-hoc, short term basis.
- [www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org) - Field Studies Council - includes accredited courses
- [www.projectlemur.org](http://www.projectlemur.org) - Learning Environments in Marine, Urban & Rural areas (LEMUR) - provides career opportunities for those wishing to go into nature conservation but who have limited or no experience.
- [www.forumforthefuture.org](http://www.forumforthefuture.org) - Forum for the Future - internships.
- [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk) - Centre for Alternative Technology - jobs and volunteering opportunities.
Overseas:

- www.britishexploring.org - BSES Expeditions - charity teaching young people about remote and fragile living environments.
- www.careersabroad.co.uk - Careers Abroad focuses on work experience in the areas of: sustainable development, biological and zoological research, environmental education, conservation.
- www.coralcay.org - Coral Cay Conservation is an organisation that trains volunteers to collect scientific data to aid conservation.
- www.frontier.ac.uk - Frontier offers projects advance field research, help conserve biodiversity and develop sustainable livelihoods.
- www.gvi.co.uk - Global Vision International offers volunteering abroad, international expeditions and courses. Includes marine conservation and wildlife research projects.
- www.pacificislandjobs.com - Pacific Islands Jobs offer sustainable development opportunities (marine conservation, climate change, social welfare etc) in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Some vacancies advertised as well as voluntary projects.
- www.raleighinternational.org - Raleigh International specialises in environmental and community projects around the world.
- www.wwv.org.uk - Worldwide Volunteering opportunities from one week to two years.
- www.iepuk.com - International Exchange Programme UK (IEPUK) specialise in work experience opportunities in the UK and overseas for non-EEA nationals.

Additional Support:

Speak to your tutor or other members of Faculty staff researching in the areas that interest you. Students are sometimes recruited to work on research projects over the summer. Be proactive and make direct contact with organisations that interest you. Check their websites for information about vacancies and schemes. Apply speculatively; send a targeted CV and a covering letter focused on why you are interested in them and why they should be interested in you.

How Purple Door can help:

Please drop-in to Purple Door any time during our opening hours to get further advice and support or feedback on your draft CV, covering letter and/or application form. For information on the full service we offer, please visit: www(2,6),(998,994)

If the range of advertised work experience opportunities are not right for you it is worth considering creating your own work experience opportunity through speculative approaches to organisations. For further information on how to approach and apply to organisations speculatively, please view our ‘Guide to Speculative Applications’ which is available from Purple Door or on our website at: www.port.ac.uk/careersandrecruitment/careersadvice/downloadzone

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication at the time of printing. However, this information could be subject to change. Updated August 2015

Accessibility: If the information in this document is required in a different format, please contact us for assistance. Purple Door, 28 Guildhall Walk, T: 02392 842684, W: www.port.ac.uk/purpledoor