



**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK


**THE CREATIVE COMPASS:**

# Directing you to creative careers events and resources



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Often roles within the creative sector can be viewed as unattainable or finite, which can cause people who have a genuine passion for the field to become discouraged and demotivated to pursue a career within the arts. The reality is quite the opposite. There are so many moving pegs within the artworld and thousands of departments and roles that no matter where your interest or passion lies, you will be able to find a role that caters to that.

Olivia Allan  
Gallery Manager at Runjeet Singh

# Welcome to Warwick's autumn guide to **creative careers.**

We have an array of events and opportunities throughout the term that you can get involved in to understand more about the creative industry and how to pursue a career within it.

The creative industry is an exciting, expanding sector that a lot of students would love to work in. But many potential applicants never pursue a career within the industry as they aren't aware of the entry routes or believe it's too competitive.

We recognise that the creative industry can be challenging. This guide is here to help you, providing some of the tools and information needed to make it in the industry.

**If you're unsure where to start, look at our top tips!**

## 1 Network

Put yourself out there and try to make connections with industry professionals. LinkedIn is an effective way to do this as you can contact your university's alumni. Go to conferences, events (including some of the ones featured in this guide!) and premieres.

## 2 Keep up to date with the industry you'd like to work in

This is known as commercial awareness and will keep you up to date with developments and opportunities in the creative sector.

## 3 Try the hidden job market

The majority of jobs are never advertised and speculative applications will help you to uncover them. Writing a CV and cover letter that explains what you could do for the organisation you are targeting could be very effective.

## 4 Get experience

You might be lucky enough to find an industry internship or placement, but a lot of creatives have to be creative to gain experience. Develop a marketing strategy for your society for example; manage a charity's use of social media; form your own theatre company. Wherever the experience was gained, show your initiative and the impact you made.

## 5 Start small

Target the smaller, independent creative and arts organisations. They may be less competitive and more flexible in how they recruit. There are over 1,000 theatres in the UK, for example. Working in customer service in a venue may not feel like you are living the dream, but a part-time job could present you with opportunities to meet and impress producers, directors, writers and agents etc.

Read the [full article](#) and explore other similar articles on the [Warwick Careers Blog](#).

# Autumn Events:

## // Autumn Careers Fair Thursday 10 October, 11am - 4pm

Meet Creative Access, the UK's leading inclusivity organisation in the creative industries, and VCCP, a global advertising agency, alongside many other organisations at our flagship event this autumn. The Fair is open to all students and features 80 high-profile recruiters from a diverse range of sectors with graduate and placement opportunities.

More information is available on **myAdvantage**, including information about our quiet half hour for students who prefer a calmer environment.

[Find out more](#)

## // Meet the Professionals: Careers in Marketing, Advertising and PR Wednesday 16 October, 4 - 5.30pm

Hear from speakers who will give you an insight into marketing, advertising and PR and a meaningful picture of the careers available in these sectors.

[Find out more](#)

## // Meet the Professionals: Careers in Publishing Thursday 24 October, 6 - 7pm

Hear from speakers working in publishing who will give you an insight into the publishing industry. This event will focus on student questions; if you would like to send questions in advance of the session please email [employerconnect@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:employerconnect@warwick.ac.uk)

[Find out more](#)

## // Meet the Professionals: Careers in Film and TV Wednesday 30 October, 6 - 7pm

Are you interested in pursuing a career within Film and TV and want to find out more about the reality of working in the sector? If so, join this virtual event where professionals will share their experiences and advice. This event will focus on student questions; if you would like to send questions in advance of the session please email [employerconnect@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:employerconnect@warwick.ac.uk)

[Find out more](#)

## // Skills Session: Ask me anything about the creative industries Wednesday 16 October, 12 - 1pm

Do you have any burning questions about the creative industries? Come along to the drop-in event and ask our friendly Careers Consultant! A great opportunity to demystify the sector and get lots of honest advice.

[Find out more](#)

## // Skills Session: Breaking into the creative industries Monday 21 October 2024, 12 - 1pm

This interactive, virtual skills session is hosted by Creative Access, an inclusivity organisation in the creative industries. The session will provide advice and guidance around employment in the creative industries, including tips for preparing for a role, details of current opportunities and a Q&A with the team. This session is open to all but targeted at students from a group that is historically underrepresented in the creative industries.

[Find out more](#)

// **Skills Session: Creative CV Clinic**  
**Tuesday 12 November, 12 - 1pm**

If you're seeking employment in the creative sector, bring your CV to this drop-in event, and have it checked by one of our Careers Consultants, who will offer advice and guidance.

**Find out more**

Search **myAdvantage** using the hashtag **#uowCreativecareers** to find other creative events taking place throughout the year.



# Prepare for Spring!

Don't worry if the autumn events haven't covered your area of interest. During the spring term we have our flagship creative event, Exploring Careers in the Arts and Creative Industries and we also have more Meet the Professional events. All dates and times will be published on myAdvantage closer to the time.

## Exploring Careers in the Arts and Creative Industries

Meet creative industry professionals and increase your understanding of how to develop your career in the creative industries. Thousands of Warwick graduates from a wide variety of subject disciplines have successfully developed a career in this exciting, diverse industry. But it is highly competitive which is why it's so important to attend creative events, make connections and be proactive in creating your own opportunities and gaining experience.

### 95%



of creative companies are micro-businesses (with less than 10 employees)

which is one of the reasons why creative employers don't often feature at the traditional careers fairs which take place on campus. Instead, we focus on smaller networking events as this mimics how recruitment opportunities often arise within the sector.

## Meet the Professionals: Careers in Journalism

At this event you will gain a better understanding of the variety of different roles and career paths available to you within Journalism, plus advice on how to secure your first position after graduating.

## Meet the Professionals: Careers in Museums, Culture and Heritage

This event aims to inform you of the variety of career opportunities within the Museums, Culture and Heritage sectors.

At Meet the Professionals events, there will be panel introductions, followed by an informal Q&A session, giving you the opportunity to ask any questions and share contact information.



# Spotlight on...

## Networking

Networking is a key skill for those working in the creative sector, so we asked three Warwick Alumni for their top tips:

People mistake networking as being about meeting people, it's not, it's about building relationships. The hard bit isn't so much reaching out to people, or introducing yourself in the first place - **it's turning those "hellos" into concrete, beneficial relationships**. Keep a record of who you've connected with and find reasons to follow up on a regular, but not too frequent basis (once every 10-12 weeks is a good guide).

Have a concrete 'ask' in mind when you approach people, or the conversation can quickly become a bit aimless. **What can this person do to help you and is it in their power to give? My rule is what's the smallest thing I can ask for? In other words, ask for something that's easy to give - would you have time for a zoom or cup of coffee?** And then once you've got that cup of coffee, and got to know each other a bit, ask for the next smallest thing that you think is within their power to give (and not too cheeky!), for example, could I possibly come and shadow you for a day? etc... **The key is to keep things moving forward.**

**Matt Holt**, Drama and Comedy Director

Be yourself, there's no one else out there like you and really step into that. In the creative industries **individuality is what will make you stand out** in the best kind of way.

**Vinitaraj Aulak**, Presenter

[Click here for full video](#)

Be sure to follow up with people...if you meet someone and say 'let's have a conversation' actually do it and arrange that time...even if it's just a 10 minute Zoom call or something like that, **that can lead to a career changing moment.**

**Lewis Dobbs**, Podcast Assistant

[Click here for full video](#)

# Careers Stories

Before uni I had no idea that this was a possible career path and had always focused on either becoming a producer or director in the long form traditional sense. But after an alumni event in my third year, where I got to meet graduates who had pursued different career paths in media, I suddenly discovered a whole new branch of the industry. What drew me to this role was of course the company but also the required skills: time management, people management, flexibility, ability to deal with an extremely demanding environment.

**Alexandra Arsene**

Production Manager, The Walt Disney Company, UK



[Click here for full story](#)



Try to make as many contacts as you can, and if you're given opportunities to undertake placements, come up with as many original ideas as you can - more than ever journalism is now an ideas business.

**Tom Hourigan**

Senior Broadcast Journalist, BBC News

[Click here for full story](#)

My time at Warwick included many society activities from my time with the Literature Society and ball organising to being a social sec and even being a deputy editor at The Boar. These experiences allowed me to develop a multitude of skills from graphic design to event organisation and even adaptability as many of these roles were surrounded by the pandemic.

**Sanna Ehsan**

Content and Performance Marketing, Flexeserve



[Click here for full story](#)



# Focus on the Careers Consultants

Our friendly Careers Consultants are on hand to offer help and advice. You can **book an appointment** with them through the Warwick Careers portal, myAdvantage.



**Ellie Wetherhill:**  
Careers Consultant

**Department:**  
English and Comparative  
Literary Studies

**Top tip for finding a job:**

Be flexible with how you picture your work life. Careers in the creative industries often look quite different from a 9-5 permanent contract role with one company. You may want to consider exploring a portfolio career (where you maintain multiple part-time roles at once) or self-employment or freelance work. Be prepared to be working unusual hours, working on a project for a short period of time or sourcing your next jobs whilst doing this one. The creative industries can require a lot of stamina but harnessing this allows you to work on some really exciting stuff.



**Raymond Ryan:**  
Senior Careers Consultant

**Departments:**  
Centre for Culture and Media  
Policy Studies, Theatre and  
Performance Studies

**Top tip for finding a job:**

Be proactive and make **'speculative applications'**. The creative industry can be difficult to access as jobs are often not advertised so try to create your own opportunities. Network, make connections and discover the hidden creative job market.



**Millie Tissut:**  
Senior Careers Consultant

**Departments:**  
History, History of Arts, Film  
and TV

**Top tip for finding a job:**

Stay up to date on your specific area of interest within the creative sector. For example, if it is publishing try following the publishers you're interested in working for on their social media platforms and gather industry news **here**. If you're interested in journalism tune into media podcasts such as those listed **here** and if you're attracted to film and TV try **Screen Daily**. This knowledge will help you to identify industry trends and possibly job opportunities too.



**Clare Halldron:**  
Senior Careers Consultant

**Departments:**  
School of Modern Languages  
and Cultures and Classics &  
Ancient History

**Top tip for finding a job:**

Stay curious and continue to seek out new knowledge! There is always something new to learn as a creative! Attend our creative career events to receive guidance from experienced professionals, or team up with other students in a society to explore your interests. Boost your confidence by compiling a portfolio of your work or enrol onto an online course. With many options both on and off campus, beyond internships, it may seem daunting to know where to begin. That's where a careers appointment can assist in helping you navigate your thoughts and determine the best starting point.



### Warwick Alumni Mentoring Programme

The **Warwickgrad** mentoring programme connects you with a Warwick alumnus who can provide valuable insight into where you want to be and how to get there. Mentors include 350 Arts Faculty graduates and 250 mentors working in creative industries. Mentors offer a range of support from email contact, in-person meet-ups to work shadowing. **Sign up to Warwickgrad** as a mentee, read the mentee guidelines and start creating meaningful connections.

# Find out more and contact us

Creative Industries Student Opportunity webpage: [warwick.ac.uk/creativecareers](http://warwick.ac.uk/creativecareers)

 [careers@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:careers@warwick.ac.uk)

 [warwick.so](https://www.instagram.com/warwick.so)