

**Careers and Employability Service**  
**Additional resources and information for**  
**Winchester School of Art**

## **Welcome:**

We have developed this recourse pack to help you research specific job sectors which may be of particular interest to Film students.

- [Prospects.ac.uk](https://prospect.ac.uk) - Options with Art & Design
- [Prospects.ac.uk](https://prospect.ac.uk) - Options with Fashion
- [Prospects.ac.uk](https://prospect.ac.uk) - Options with Film & Photography
- [Prospects.ac.uk](https://prospect.ac.uk) - Options with Fine Art
- [Prospects.ac.uk](https://prospect.ac.uk) - Options with History of Art
- [Prospects.ac.uk](https://prospect.ac.uk) - Options with Textile Design

The prospects sites include information and advice covering: Your skills, job options, career areas, further study, what next, case studies, contacts and job search sites.

## **Your Skills and Abilities:**

During your studies you have developed a range of transferable skills and abilities valued by employers. In addition to capabilities specific to the particular discipline you have studied, these include the skills and abilities required to:

- apply your learning in different contextual frameworks
- generate ideas, concepts, proposals, solutions or arguments independently and collaboratively in response to set briefs and self-initiated activity
- use creative thinking in observing, investigating, enquiring, visualising and making, and to develop ideas through to material outcomes
- apply resourcefulness and entrepreneurial skills to your own practice or that of others
- employ materials, media, techniques, methods, technologies and tools with skill and imagination whilst observing good working practices
- study independently, set goals, manage your own workload and meet deadlines
- anticipate and accommodate change, and handle ambiguity, uncertainty, and unfamiliarity
- analyse information and experiences, formulate independent judgements, and articulate reasoned arguments through reflection, review and evaluation
- interact effectively with others through collaboration, collective endeavour and negotiation
- articulate ideas and information comprehensibly in visual, oral and written forms
- present ideas and work to audiences in a range of situations
- source, navigate, select, retrieve, evaluate, manipulate and manage information
- select and employ communication and information technologies

*Source:* [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

Employers, whether for work experience or graduate jobs, expect you to provide evidence of your skills and knowledge, and specifically how these match their requirements. Reflecting on your degree and work experience will enable you to appreciate your strengths, and give you a database of evidence to convince employers or higher degree providers of your suitability.

## **Employability activities within your degree:**

As part of your degree you will be able to attend a number of tailored professional practice workshops designed to develop your graduate attributes for the sector. Some workshops are attended by key recruiters and alumni of the University to provide you with an overview of the realities of the workplace. They may also be able to give you advice on how to apply for opportunities of interest, or perhaps, how to even start your own business.

## **Employment destination examples:**

Art and Design are adaptable subjects that open up a wide range of occupational choices. These include options directly related to your degree (such as advertising art director, fashion clothing designer, graphic designer, illustrator, printmaker, textile designer) and a wide range of other occupations.

Career Destinations gathers *destination information* about graduates six months after they leave the university. From this information you can see that 62% of students who graduated from WSA in 2012 were in employment of some kind - (41%) full-time, (18%) part-time, (3%) work with further study.

In reality it can take time to get established in your first choice of career, but the following examples give a sense of the range of jobs graduates from WSA entered six months after leaving (data collected from 2005 onwards). Where the employer name is not given this is because it was not collected.

## **Fine Art & Graphics Graduates:**

- **Administration:**
  - **Admin Assistant** Bristol City Council
  - **Administrator** Churches Fire Security
  - **Administrator** Paris Lettings
  - **Arts Administrator** Charitable Foundation
  - **Customer Services Adviser** Scottish and Southern Energy
  - **Receptionist in Hairdresser's**
  - **Scanning Clerk** Norwich Union
  - **Support Worker** Mencap
  - **Telephone Charity Fundraiser** Ethical
  - **Visitor Service Assistant** Museum of Costume

- **Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations:**
  - **Account Executive** Crazy Horse Brand Response
  - **Advertising Space Sales** Two Wheels Only
  - **SEO Google Awards Coordinator** Primrose, London
  - **Marketing Director**
  - **Public Relations Assistant** Exposure
  
- **Arts, Design and Crafts:**
  - **Artist** Self employed
  - **Artist's Assistant**
  - **Artist and Fabricator**
  - **Assistant Designer** Square Up Media
  - **Community Artist**
  - **Fine Art Printmaker**
  - **Freelance Artist**
  - **Freelance Sculptor**
  - **Gallery Assistant** Ikon Gallery
  - **Gallery Technician**
  - **Graphic Designer** Pro Media, Rubbish, Glow Marketing, Attenate 8, The Crocodile, Recreation plc, Jennifer Babey, Science Museum, Greene Design, Artefakt Sp, Redbee Media, Craddock Design Company
  - **Hairdresser** Purity Beauty and Hair
  - **Interior Designer** Cotswold Kitchens
  - **Jewellery Designer Assistant** Assistant Diana Kordas
  - **Junior Designer** Rocketbase
  - **Painter of Murals**
  - **Painter** Marwell Zoo
  - **Photographic intern** Joel Meyerowitz
  - **Photographer** The Digital South, Starsmore Photography
  - **Photographer (Cruise)** The Image Group
  - **Printmaker for Artist**
  - **Publishing** Intern with Elle Magazine

- **Publishing, Editorial Assistant and photographer** Archant Publishing
- **Sample Maker and General Assistant** International Greetings
- **Sculptor** Anthony Caro
- **Studio manager** Gingermonkeys
- **Studio Assistant**
- **Trainee Printer** Thumbprint Editions
  
- **Education, Teaching and Lecturing:**
  - **Art Technician** The Leys School, Cambridge
  - **English Teacher** Nanking University
  - **House Mistress** Bryanstow School
  - **President Student's Union** University of Southampton
  - **Student Support Assistant** Oaklands College
  - **Teacher of Art** Bradford Grammar School, New Idea Education
  - **Teaching Assistant** City College, Wildern School, Surrey County Council
  
- **Health Care:**
  - **Back Care Advisor** Winchester and Eastleigh Health Care
  - **Dental Technician**
  - **Learning Disability Support Worker** NHS
  
- **Hospitality Management/Hotel & Catering:**
  - **Acting Manager** Coffee Republic
  - **Events Coordinator** Karavelle
  
- **Sales, Retail and Buying:**
  - **General Assistant** Sainsbury's
  - **Sales Adviser** NH Jones
  - **Sales Assistant** Burwood Furniture, Truffles Bakery, Tesco
  - **Sales Manager**
  - **Trainee Manager** Tesco, Abercrombie and Fitch

- **Other:**
  - **Computer Design Services** Folio 4 Weddings
  - **Construction Manager**
  - **Digital Cartographic Map Editor** Ordnance Survey
  - **Executive Officer** University of Southampton
  - **Ground Worker** GSE
  - **Insurance Household Claims Negotiator**
  - **Library Assistant** University of Southampton
  - **Recruitment Officer** Huntress
  - **Satellite Aerial Installer** Sky

## **Textile, Fashion and Fibre Graduates:**

- **Administration:**
  - **Account Executive** Wunderman Automotive
  - **Accounts Clerk** Beale
  - **Administrative Assistant for Architects**
  - **Administrative Assistant** Adecco Recruitment Consultancy, Ladbrokes
  - **Assistant Manager** Silver Frame
  - **Customer Service Adviser** National Express
  - **Doctor's Receptionist**
  - **Hotel Receptionist**
  - **Intern** Seeking Common Grounds
  - **Medical Receptionist**
  - **Office Administrator** Church Parish Office
  - **Receptionist** Hoboutne Bashley, Oxford Sunblind
  
- **Arts, Design and Crafts:**
  - **Artist**
  - **Assistant Designer** ASD Europe
  - **Assistant Fashion Designer** David Howard
  - **Assistant Textile Designer** Monsoon
  - **Clothes Designer**
  - **Clothing Technologist** Just Jammy

- **Colourist**
  - **Costume Assistant** Nottingham City Council
  - **Design Assistant** Fat Face, Felder & Felder, Marks and Spencer, Parveen Couture
  - **Design Intern** Roger Oates Design, Hallmark
  - **Design Room Assistant** C Brand
  - **Designer** Collection18, Holbrook Studio, Howard, Minty Designs
  - **Exhibitions Assistant**
  - **Fashion Designer** David Howard, River Island
  - **Fashion Display** Harrods
  - **Fashion Stylist** Editorial
  - **Freelance Designer**
  - **Jewellery Designer** Meems
  - **Junior Designer** Fulton Umbrellas
  - **Junior Textile Designer** Idaho, Woven
  - **Interior Designer** London Cushion Company
  - **Knitwear Designer for Fashion Company**
  - **Textile Artist** Damien Hirst
  - **Textile Designer** Brewster, Esquel, Genesis Sanderson, Michelsons, Idaho Designs
  - **Textile Designer Freelance** Suzsie Corio
- **Education, Teaching and Lecturing:**
    - **Art Tutor**
    - **Language Assistant** St Catherine's School
    - **Learning Support Assistant**
    - **Teaching Assistant - Disabled Adults** Hammersmith & Fulham Education
    - **Teaching Assistant**
    - **Visiting Lecturer** University of Southampton
- **Hospitality Management/Hotel & Catering:**
    - **Assistant Hotel Manager**
    - **Chalet Maid** Steve Hutchinson Adventures
    - **Waitress** Arizona Coffee Shop, Royal Hotel

- **Logistics and Transport:**
  - **Air Hostess**
  - **Cabin Crew Easyjet**
  
- **Sales, Retail and Buying**
  - **Buyer Adviser** New Look
  - **Buying Associate** BHS
  - **Customer Assistant** Tesco
  - **Deputy Manager** Cargo Home Shop
  - **Fashion Buyer Clerk** River Island
  - **Floor Manager** Monsoon
  - **Ladies Footwear Specialist**
  - **Retail Assistant** Next, Top Shop
  - **Retail Sales Coordinator** Shirt Works
  - **Sales Assistant** Hobbs, Laura Ashley, Marks and Spencer, H and M, Next, Nitya
  - **Sales Associate** Liberty Retail Plc, Dress Fabrics Department
  - **Sales Cashier** GAP
  - **Shop Assistant** French Connection, New Look
  - **Shop Manager**
  - **Supervisor** Oasis Retail
  - **Temporary Retail Support** Lakeland
  - **Trainee Buyer** Adams Children's Wear
  - **Visual Merchandiser** Marks and Spencer
  - **Visual Merchandising Assistant** Debenhams
  - **Wedding Assistant** Elizabeth Poole
  
- **Other:**
  - **Design Room Assistant** Brand International Group
  - **Recruitment Consultant**
  - **Web Assistant**
  - **Writer PA** ID Magazine



## **Finding Job Vacancies:**

As a graduate from art or design you can go into a wide range of occupations, some open to all graduates, and some particularly relevant to your degree.

Creative Choices [www.creative-choices.co.uk](http://www.creative-choices.co.uk) has been set up to help graduates get started in the creative industries (Fashion, Design, Visual Art, Advertising, etc). Prospects also holds job descriptions for creative career areas with comprehensive suggestions for further research. The Creative Living website [www.careers-creative-living.co.uk](http://www.careers-creative-living.co.uk) also has advice for those looking to build a career around their own practice.

Information and advice on how to find out about employment opportunities can be found via the Graduate Prospects website [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) [Job Hunting Tips section](#). Also look at relevant sector information such as [www.prospects.ac.uk/creative\\_arts](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/creative_arts) for the creative industries. In addition, there is lots of helpful information on [www.arts.ac.uk/alumni/](http://www.arts.ac.uk/alumni/). Many job vacancies are never advertised. You can locate/create opportunities that are not advertised by developing an effective [creative job search strategy](#). The information below can be used to find job vacancies, and/or to build on your understanding of different job roles.

### **Local Vacancies:**

- [www.graduatejobssouth.co.uk](http://www.graduatejobssouth.co.uk) Graduate Jobs South
- [www.dailyecho.co.uk/jobs](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/jobs) Daily Echo
- [www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/jobs](http://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/jobs) Hampshire Chronicle

### **Part-time jobs in the University:**

- <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/hr/tempbank/> University Temp Bank

### **General Vacancies:**

- <http://www.student.careers.soton.ac.uk/> Career Destinations vacancy database - permanent/temporary, vacation/term-time, full-time/part-time, internships/other work experience
- [www.freeindex.co.uk](http://www.freeindex.co.uk)
- [www.jobs.guardian.co.uk](http://www.jobs.guardian.co.uk) The Guardian
- [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk) - academic and related jobs
- [www.jobsite.co.uk](http://www.jobsite.co.uk) - UK job search and job alert email service
- [www.prospects.ac.uk/links/jobvacs](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/links/jobvacs) Graduate Prospects
- [www.soton.ac.uk/careers/employability/index.html](http://www.soton.ac.uk/careers/employability/index.html) Career Destinations
- <http://targetjobs.co.uk> - Graduate jobs
- <http://jobs.timesonline.co.uk> - The Times

## **Key Information for Art & Design:**

- Arts Industry – [www.artsindustry.co.uk](http://www.artsindustry.co.uk)
- Association of Art Historians – [www.aah.org.uk](http://www.aah.org.uk)
- National Campaign for the Arts – [www.artscampaign.org.uk](http://www.artscampaign.org.uk)
- Candid Arts – online database for graduates – [www.candidarts.com](http://www.candidarts.com)
- The Stage – [www.thestage.co.uk](http://www.thestage.co.uk)
- Theatrical Management Association – [www.tmauk.org](http://www.tmauk.org)
  
- Crafts Council Magazine – [www.craftscouncil.org.uk/crafts-magazine](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/crafts-magazine)
- Design Weekly – [www.designweek.co.uk](http://www.designweek.co.uk)
- Art Monthly – [www.artmonthly.co.uk](http://www.artmonthly.co.uk)
- Arts Professional – [www.artsprofessional.co.uk](http://www.artsprofessional.co.uk)
- Frieze – [www.frieze.com](http://www.frieze.com)
- Galleries – [www.galleries.co.uk](http://www.galleries.co.uk)
- Museums Journal – [www.museumsassociation.org](http://www.museumsassociation.org)
- Arts Catalyst – [www.artscatalyst.org](http://www.artscatalyst.org)
- Artshole – [www.artshole.co.uk](http://www.artshole.co.uk)
  
- **Writers and Artists Yearbook** – The insider guide to the media offering the best industry advice for writers and artists. (copies available within the Careers Centre).

## **Graduate Profiles:**

We have collated several student/alumni profiles which complement the [WSA Alumni stories](#):

- [Lollie Dunbar ->](#)
- [Jody Myerscough-Walker ->](#)
- [Nicki Stalham ->](#)
- [Hannah Webb ->](#)
- [Jia Niu ->](#)

### **Lollie Dunbar**

**Degree:** BA Hons Printed Textile Design (2011)

**Position(s):** Wallis, Arcadia Group, Scarf and Womenswear Collection for Spring/Summer 2012

#### **How did you find out about the placement?**

The design director at Wallis approached me after they had seen my scarf designs for the World Land Trust at Liberty. They liked my handwriting and wanted to create a collection designed by a graduate to bring something new and different to their brand.

I was given a very small brief to create a scarf collection that would fit the client of Wallis and that could also work for a womenswear collection. They wanted me to create my own imagery and colour palette, so I had no restrictions at all, apart from the fact that they wanted it to reflect the handwriting shown in my Liberty designs.

#### **How did you benefit?**

I learnt a lot about freelancing, invoicing, and how to design a collection to fit a specific client. I will also - amazingly - get a lot of publicity from this project which will benefit my future in textile design.

#### **Any tips?**

Never turn an opportunity down, just go for it!

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### **Jody Myerscough-Walker**

**Degree:** BA Textile, Fashion and Fibre (Printed Textiles) (2009)

**Position(s):** Designer/Owner of Bon Maison  
Design Assistant at ETRE, Winchester  
Visiting lecturer, WSA

#### **How did you get this job?**

I got my job at Etre because I always talk to people! I was in the dye lab at WSA chatting to an MA student one day - I said how I really wanted to stay in Winchester when I graduated, and wanted to work in an interiors based company. She said she had a friend who ran an interiors company in town, so I emailed her (Emily). Emily then came to see my degree show and offered me a job as her assistant starting in the September!

I decided to set up my own company as well, Bon Maison. Working at Etre gave me enough money to be able to do my own work which I always wanted having done my degree in Print. I work one to two days a week designing fabrics, printing, drawing, making cushions, selling, marketing etc etc!

Then, I got asked by Rosie if I would be interested in doing some Visiting Lecturer work at WSA. I have always loved teaching and I am really enjoying it, the students are great and seem to be learning lots with me!

### **How does your degree help you in your work?**

It helps a lot! When working at WSA I am helping students on the same course that I took, so I can really relate to what they are experiencing. At Etre I work a lot doing mood boards, visuals and pulling together design schemes for hotels, private clients etc, which I did at uni. For my own business I use a lot of the principles of design and technical information I learnt at uni to help with my design.

### **What do you like about your job:**

At ETRE I love putting together design schemes with amazing fabrics from companies such as Zimmer and Rhode, Romo, Osborne and Little etc. I love to choose from the amazing ranges of fabrics that they produce. I like the variation of my work and it's certainly not a boring nine 'til five existence!

At Bon Maison, I love being able to design whatever I want to design and playing around with my own ideas, free of anyone telling me what to do! I love the reactions of people who really love my work. It encourages you to keep going!

At WSA I love seeing a breakthrough of understanding in the students, and that feeling of really helping them for their future lives as designers. My own studies are so recent that I can really relate to them.

### **What don't you like about your job:**

At Etre I don't like how safe some designs have to be to appeal to the masses. People need to be more adventurous!

At Bon Maison I work really hard trying to promote myself, and you can't let up for a minute. I am always on the push to get noticed. It's really hard to get magazines and shops to give you the time of day. I have to earn money from other sources to be able to fund my design at the moment. I hope soon I will have that magic breakthrough and Bon Maison will take off! You just have to keep pushing and I think I have a strong, determined character. If you are not like this, running your own business is not for you!

### **Any tips?**

You can absolutely make your way in the design world, but you really do have to be passionate about it. Be prepared that a career in the design world is likely to mean you are not going to make lots of money, especially if you are going freelance. Be prepared to have a couple of jobs to fund designing your own work too. Keep trying and don't get disheartened. Keep your unique style and don't change, it makes you stand out from the crowd.

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## **Nicki Stalham**

**Degree:** BA Textile and Fashion (Print)

**Position(s):** JRC Imports Ltd and CUSTHOM (2010)

### **How did you find out about the placement?**

The JRC Imports placement was emailed to my tutor by the company and then she passed it on to the year group. For CUSTHOM I contacted them myself, after being taught in a drawing workshop at University by Jemma Ooi – one of the founders of the company.

### **What was the recruitment process?**

For JRC Imports, after contacting them I received an email asking me to come for an interview with my portfolio in London. I then only waited a day after the interview to receive another email saying I got the placement!

For CUSTHOM, I had to send them my CV and examples of my work, then they contacted me by email a few months later asking if I could come on a placement with them.

### **Did you get any help and who from?**

My tutors were very good at suggesting companies and designers to contact for placements; they also assisted me in writing my CV and reassuring me before the interview process. My technician was also brilliant at teaching me about mounting and arranging my portfolio.

### **JRC Imports**

On a daily basis, I was designing and creating colour ways which got sent out to clients, trimming and putting CAD work onto hangers, and making the tea. I gained a lot of support from the head designer who was encouraging me throughout to create designs for my portfolio. She was always ready to answer any questions. Everyone within the company was very welcoming and friendly to work with. The main technical skills I used were Photoshop and drawing. I also had to use my initiative and work at a fast pace to keep up with the needs of the company. There was a definite outcome to my work, one of my designs was slightly altered and then used by Dorothy Perkins which JRC emailed me about after my placement. I also knew that my colour ways were being sent to clients.

### **CUSTHOM**

On this placement I was mainly involved in going out around London, sourcing materials for the company and phoning suppliers up. I also assisted in screen printing samples for clients. Another role I had was administrative, by organising the headers for different letter templates and also putting supplier and manufacturer details on file.

Both Jemma and Nathan (founders of CUSTHOM) were very supportive whilst I was on placement with them; they made me feel very welcome. The main skill I built up was to think on my feet. I wasn't used to travelling around London on my own to various places, so it was brilliant to gain that confidence and sense of direction. I feel there was a definite outcome for my work - for example when they told me how appreciative they were of my help. They also have some of their ceramics soon to be sold by Liberty's and I remember helping to cut around the tiny leaves to be positioned on to them, so that felt like a brilliant outcome.

### **How did you benefit?**

By going on these very different placements, I have gained an idea of the textile industry and

the pace at which they work and the long hours that are put in. I have gained confidence with my own abilities and working in a professional environment. I have also built up confidence with the interview process, talking about my work and putting together a portfolio.

### **Any tips?**

I applied to roughly 20 places for work experience, and only gained 2 placements, but brilliant ones. Don't be put off if you have had no luck at the beginning - keep trying and applying for everything. Persistence pays off.

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## **Hannah Webb**

**Degree:** MA Textile Design (2007)

**Position(s):** Joules Clothing

### **How did you find out about the placement?**

I found my job through the recruitment agency "Blue Skies". I do the fashion artwork. I design all the screenprints, appliqués, embroideries and badges for all areas – mens, womens, girls and boys. Most of my designs are for t-shirts and polo shirts.

### **What did the recruitment process involve?**

I had sent my CV and digital portfolio to Blue Skies - they matched me with the job and forwarded my information to Joules. They selected me for interview. I took my portfolio for the interview at head office where I was seen by the creative director and the head of womenswear. The interview was about 30 minutes, and I was informed I had the job later that same week.

### **Did you get any help and who from?**

- Blue Skies Recruitment.
- My tutor from my MA helped me to put my portfolio together.
- I did several placements whilst doing my degree and my MA. I did two weeks at Cath Kidston as work experience. I spent some time at a print studio and I also did a work placement at Crowsons – doing colour work for them. All my placements were useful for learning about the fashion/textiles business and how things work.
- Before getting my current job I also worked freelance for a textiles studio and for a denim consultancy in London. Working for the consultancy definitely helped develop my computer skills and knowledge of the industry as a whole.

### **Any tips?**

Persevere! I had a few interviews before I got my current job. It definitely pays to put together a really strong portfolio - pay attention to presentation and the order of your work. Practice what you want to say about your work before you go into interview. Research the company you are being interviewed for before you go; I also looked up interview questions on the internet so I could practice.

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## **Jia Niu**

**Degree:** MA Design: Advertising Design Management

**Position(s):** AgeUK and National Trust

### **How did you find out about the placement?**

I really wanted to make the most of my time in the UK and realised that it would be impossible to get a paid job here unless my English was really good. I had been lucky enough to volunteer for the Beijing Olympic Games so I decided to try and get some voluntary experience to improve my English and to learn about the country. When I first came to the University, I was living in Wessex Halls which made it easy to attend the Volunteering introduction and training sessions at Highfield. These were really helpful, but when I moved, I found there were very few local opportunities to volunteer in Winchester.

By November I decided to try and find my own position using the internet links suggested by the CV team. I applied for lots but mostly got no reply and it was all very disappointing. That's when I decided to ask directly in the shops in Winchester. I went into lots but had no luck at all. But I didn't give up and kept trying.

Finally, I think it was the second time, I called in to the AgeUK shop, and the manager was there. She had a chat with me and asked me to fill in an application form and arranged an interview. I had my first position! After some training, I started one Saturday morning in February – it had taken four months – but I'm still there. I have learnt lots of new vocabulary and listening skills. The customers are keen to talk and ask me questions and I have learnt to explain things clearly.

As a Design student I am very interested in culture, so I kept looking. There was an exhibition in Winchester which needed volunteers but unfortunately it clashed with my assignments. When an email came round from WSA telling us about an opportunity to volunteer with the National Trust, I was very excited and applied straight away. I was interviewed and got a position as a volunteer Room/Gallery Guide at Mottisfont Abbey near Romsey. I am sure that my position at AgeUK helped me to get this post.

I volunteer for six hours on a Tuesday and get two breaks which give me lots of opportunity to chat with other volunteers and improve my English. I had two training sessions and have been asked to translate one of their leaflets on the history of the Abbey for Chinese visitors. I have learnt so much about British history and art. The National Trust pay my train fares, but I would have done it anyway as I am learning so much. It has really improved my English and provided inspiration for my essays and even ideas to include in my dissertation.

### **Any tips?**

- I think that as an international student you must be confident and keep applying - a positive attitude is really important. I applied to lots of organisations, sometimes two or three times. In the end I got more offers than I had time to do.
- Pay attention to your mailbox and read the campus posters - I have friends who missed opportunities.
- Just go to the shops, even if there are no posters in the windows - just ask, there may be a position available.

- Sometimes the work can seem boring - if you just stand there you learn nothing. I made an effort to find out about the stock and learn new vocabulary. Now I can talk confidently to and make suggestions to the customers.
- Don't worry about getting paid. If your English is not good why should they pay you? In the beginning experience is more important than money. Most importantly, volunteering shows employers that UK organisations do employ and trust you.

### **Meeting British people**

This can be quite hard as British people can be very reticent so it helps to be able to talk to them. I have found that people are more willing to talk to me in my volunteer roles and I now have things to talk about when I meet people. For example, I met a retired couple on the train when I travelled back from the Royal Wedding and they were also interested in culture and art – we talked about the National Trust and now they have invited me to visit their home town.

I have been lucky enough to enjoy two weekend visits to English homes through the organisations Host UK and also Friends International. Get involved as soon as you arrive in the UK - this will help you to avoid feeling homesick. I have been taken to visit lots of places and have met new people through these schemes. I have also had the chance to taste local food, including afternoon tea in the New Forest!

### **At University**

I joined the International Students Society at WSA and am their publicity officer which has been great fun. I have made lots of new friends from different nationalities. I have also used QQ (Chinese networking software) groups to make friends with Chinese students at Highfield.

### **By networking**

When I volunteered at the Beijing Olympics I met a TV producer from the BBC and we kept in touch. She invited me to stay for Christmas and has been able to help me get volunteering roles through providing a personal reference. One of my Chinese friends asked me to help her get a position and I was able to put her in touch with my manager at AgeUK - now she has a job too.

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