

## How we got into publishing...TOP TIPS

---

- ∞ Internships are the key; industry experience and skills learnt during that time were invaluable.
- ∞ Interns; make the most of your intern experience. Ask questions, talk to staff members, find out how they got into publishing and what they do in their job role. This will give you a better idea of the different jobs out there. Also, be enthusiastic about interning. Intern's often get the boring jobs but they also get fun and interesting jobs too. Showing and active interest in what the company is doing and how you can contribute always goes down well.
- ∞ It's good to show your commitment to publishing by doing a course, or by doing internships.
- ∞ My advise would be it is ok to take roles not doing directly what you want to do as long as they related enough so that you can use this on your CV for your next role.
- ∞ Top tips – do some placements, work out what department you'd like to be in, be prepared to work for a small publisher (whose output you aren't especially interested in) in order to get your foot in the door, do a Publishing Training Centre course so that you stand out from other potential candidates (shows commitment/seriousness etc.).
- ∞ We would advise getting as many people as will agree to help you to read your CV and covering letter to make sure there are no mistakes and that it is to the point. Polish and refine it as much as possible and put everything relevant on there, uni modules, stints in offices doing filing, anything that might relate but keep it brief, 1 page.
- ∞ Ask good questions in interviews. Research the company and ask them something that shows you are thinking and know what they do.
- ∞ If it is something you really want to do then persevere
- ∞ Look out for opportunities; my lecturers, who were very much still active in the publishing industry and teaching, often knew of work placements or jobs before they were advertised. It was through speaking to one of my lecturers that I landed an admin job working for the British Book Design & Production Awards for two consecutive years.
- ∞ Sign up to email mailing lists; sign up to publishers that you are interested in so you get regular updates on what they are doing. Another good one is Book2Book ([www.booktrade.info](http://www.booktrade.info)) they send a daily email updating you on all book trade news and announcements.
- ∞ Read The BookSeller; again a great source of finding out what is going on in the publishing industry. If you are on a publishing course you will frequently be reading and/or quoting articles and statistics from this magazine. Make sure your library has a subscription to it! You can also sign up to their emailing list.
- ∞ Join publishing societies; The Society of Young Publishers for example regularly hold events and talks with authors, industry members etc.
- ∞ Bookfairs; Try to go to a book fair if you can. I volunteered to work at the London Book Fair, often there will be plenty of opportunity to walk around the stalls and speak to publishers while you're there too.
- ∞ Twitter can also be used to promote yourself; I set up a twitter account purely for publishing, I started following publishers, authors, bookshops, and anyone else that was books related. In my profile description I said I was a publishing graduate looking for a job in production or marketing. A few weeks later I received a tweet from a publisher saying they were hiring with a link to the job ad on their website.
- ∞ Youtube; there are so many booktubers out there (people who upload videos on YouTube talking about publishing/reviewing books etc). Subscribe to their channels, watch their videos, most of them are students who have the time to read lots of books and make videos reviewing them, others are also in the publishing industry. It's a great way of knowing about current titles when you don't have the time to sit and read them yourself.
- ∞ Job websites/publisher's website; most jobs in publishing you will find advertised on the publisher's own website but also look on the various job websites, in the the Guardian newspaper, the BookSeller, publishing society websites etc.
- ∞ Read this book: How to get a job in Publishing by Alison Baverstock. It's really helpful.
- ∞ Would recommend the Publishing Training Centre – they have all sorts of courses and you could do a few and still not be paying as much as a publishing MA would cost you – and also Chapterhouse, but that's only copy-editing and proofreading.