

How we got into publishing...

Marketing assistant

- ∞ I studied creative writing; during my time at Uni I did several jobs/internships. These included volunteering at a film festival, a literature festival and working for the university's careers fair (marketing the uni). I also had to produce a magazine as a module during uni. My course involved various independent projects where we had to organise ourselves to make & sell poetry collections etc. I also co-organized a poetry night.
- ∞ After I graduated I interned at Arnolfini for 3 months full time while doing waitressing evenings & weekends, then for Compass Film Festival for 2 months around 4 hours a week, then I set up my own business writing copy for film brochures. I also did 2 short courses in this time, one on search engine optimisation and one on promoting film events on a small budget. They were both paid for by employers. Take any opportunities you can. The ICO is good for film related courses.
- ∞ I graduated May 2010 and I got the job at Intellect January 2012. I worked as a waitress, bar work etc for 1 1/2 years alongside interning. I think this is quite common, most of my friends started getting jobs in publishing/copy-writing/creative stuff around 1 to 2 years after they graduated.
- ∞ I interviewed for around 4 or 5 positions in marketing/publicity etc before getting the job at Intellect. I applied for many, many more jobs. I would advise people apply for everything, even slightly relevant regardless of whether they think they have enough experience, if the job is not quite what they are interested in but it is in the right industry etc. Apply for jobs as often as you can. This can be hard as it is exhausting to apply for jobs after working all day but keep at it. I would advise having around 5 CVs, each tailored for a slightly different job (I had marketing, publicity, office manager with a bit of one of the above and copy-writing amongst others) you can then produce a new CV tailored to the job you are applying for quite quickly by copying & pasting the relevant parts from the existing tailored Cvs. It's also useful to have Cvs tailored by industry, so I had ones for jobs at film festivals, publishing companies etc and could then extract those bits that are relevant. I 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. Try not to burn out and start submitting poorly checked CVs even if you have applied for a million jobs in the last month.
- ∞ 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. Also don't let yourself get taken advantage of. There are a lot of good, useful unpaid internships but also a lot that are just using you for free work with no intention of ever employing you or helping you get another job. A friend was asked to work for free, doing all the marketing for a company, for a year, with the possibility of being kept on (still for free) if she did well.

Marketing assistance

- ∞ I did a postgrad diploma in publishing for 9 months, but it was quite a long time ago, I don't think they are running that course any more, but it definitely helped me get my first job. Other than that I did a one weeks work experience at Harper Collins and two weeks at Reed, again, quite a long time ago, which also helped.

Marketing assistant

- ∞ I studied English, Media and Cultural Studies and an MA in Journalism.
- ∞ I did a similar role at the Bristol Old Vic and when I decided to go into publishing I applied for every publishing job I could find for about two years until I got this job!

Production assistant

- ∞ First I researched into undergraduate publishing courses e.g on the Publishers Association website/UCAS website. Graduated in 2010 from Oxford Brookes University, with a First class honors degree in publishing
- ∞ Work experience; during my 2nd and final year of university I was also working part-time in a Blackwell's bookshop.
- ∞ Internships are the key; do as many as you can without it effecting your study. In my final year I worked two days a week for 5-months (unpaid!) in the web publishing department of Wiley. The industry experience and skills I learnt during that time were invaluable.
- ∞ 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. It wasn't very well paid but I could take a small selection of entry books home after the judging had taken place. - which I did of course!

- ∞ I found my job at Intellect through doing hours of searching on the internet then saw their advert on the Intellect website. Applied straight away, had an interview and was lucky enough to get the job.
- ∞ Tips: 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) 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.
- ∞ Make contact through social media: Follow publishers on Twitter, subscribe to their news feed, like them on Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, read their blogs you name it. Publishers use these not only to market their products but to engage with their customers. So join in with conversations, enter competitions and generally engage with what publishers are up to.
- ∞ 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.
- ∞ 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.
- ∞ Read this book: How to get a job in Publishing by Alison Baverstock. It's really helpful.

Marketing manager

- ∞ Intellect was my first job in publishing and my roles have included Production & Marketing Assistant, Marketing Assistant, Marketing Executive, International Marketing Executive, International Marketing Manager (over a period of 5 years)
- ∞ I have never had an internship either in publishing or anything else
- ∞ Previous experience was working in marketing in the music industry. I also had several other job roles in this industry.
- ∞ Education: 4 A-Levels English Lit, Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Government and Politics, Bachelor of Arts English with Film Studies, Mater of Arts English Studies

Copy editor/ production

- ∞ I started out doing a placement at Manchester University Press, which was just for three days. Then I did a weekly stint for a military history publishers in Barnsley (was studying in Sheffield at the time so Barnsley near-ish), which I found out about through the *Bookseller magazine*. After about a month they offered to pay me – not much – and then when I finished my MA they offered me a job as the in-house copy-editor in the production department. I stayed there 9 months and then saw the advert for Intellect, which was also a in-house copy-editor position, but more attractive because I was more interested in the subject areas. Five years later....role has evolved quite a lot (don't do much copy-editing anymore!!). Training was all on the job/in-house stuff, but when I got to Intellect I was sent on the Chapterhouse copy-editing and proofreading course and have since done a project management course with the Publishing Training Centre.
- ∞ 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.

- ∞ 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.).

Production director

- ∞ I did the MA in Publishing at the University of Plymouth, then did some internships – one of which was at Intellect.
- ∞ It's good to show your commitment to publishing by doing a course, or by doing internships.

Production assistant

- ∞ I did English BA (Hons) at Exeter University.
- ∞ I did a one-week publishing course in my final year and also wrote music reviews for the uni paper.
- ∞ I started intershipping (?) after 4 years of full time retail store management. My first placement was at an arts book publishers in Bloomsbury called Prestel. This was a 3-month full time internship.
- ∞ After completing 3 months at Prestel, I moved to Bristol where I did work experience for BBC Music magazine and local magazines West Weddings and Primary Times. I also did a one month full time internship with Intellect, temped for a bit as an admin assistant and receptionist around Bristol, and then did an 8-week paid internship with Intellect and then finally employment!
- ∞ Also I secured interviews at Institute of Physics and Future Publishing before Intellect but was unsuccessful. I also did some work experience as marketing assistant for a science fiction author

Production manger

- ∞ I did Eng Lit at Uni and then worked for a print and publishing agency after graduating in a customer service role. Although as it was customer service I wasn't directly working in publishing but I was able to get involved a bit in the magazines that they published and I learnt a lot about printing.
- ∞ 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.
- ∞ Also other non-related work experience is often very relevant. I often feel that the skills I need most are those I picked up during my years of being a waitress: patience, negotiation, getting a good idea of what the customer wants. My other tip would be to make sure they thoroughly research the company they are applying to, read their website, blogs, social media. The company needs to know why you are attracted to them in particular and not just that you are applying because they have a vacancy.

Design Manager

- ∞ After I graduated I did work experience for a design agency for 6 months, whilst waitressing in the evening
- ∞ Followed by a job at a magazine publishers where I worked in production for 9 month followed by a design job on the same magazine
- ∞ I worked at this magazine for 3 years, leant about all aspects of the comp ay until I moved to work for intellect
- ∞ I advise doing work experience to understand the areas in which you want to work and then don't be afraid to go for job in a similar field which isn't perfect - learn from all around you to get a good knowledge and understanding of publishing this will help you build experience knowledge and ultimately allow you to work up to your ideal job