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PGR Tips on where to find a job

As with many things in life, where to find a job depends on what you are looking for. This is not just a flippant opening but meant to set you thinking of a range of places where you could look. Also, it prompts the more important question you need to answer: what type of job do you want? What is important to you? Your careers service is a good place to help you find answers to these questions, or have a look at the [careers section of the Vitae website](#).

Don't restrict yourself to online searches

There are great online websites job advertising websites such as [Monster](#). Your first port of call for any positions in or affiliated with academia, especially in the UK should be [jobs.ac.uk](#) although there are also the [find a postdoc](#) and [find a university job](#) websites. For international academic jobs have a look at [EURAXESS](#). But also check local and national newspapers and the specialist publications of the sector you are looking at. Remember that there are also many vacancies that do not get advertised which you will need to access through personal contacts or speculative applications. Recruitment agencies can be an effective tool for getting a first job.

Specialist publications

Find out where positions in your chosen profession tend to be advertised and take out a subscription on it. If you don't know, your careers service is likely to be able to help.

Networking

Academics often get bombarded with requests for recommendations for suitable candidates. So do others perceived to be in positions where they will know lots of promising people. Make it known to people what type of job you are looking for and don't undersell yourself! Also consider online social networking. People have been known to get jobs via [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) (but it is easy for job search to become an excuse for spending time on these...). [LinkedIn](#) is especially set up to facilitate job searching through social networking. There is some advice on [networking on the Vitae website](#).

The universities/ institutions you would prefer to work for

If geographical location is of high importance to you start with where you would like to work. Look on their websites but it may also be worth making personal contacts. Don't narrow yourself down too much.

Speculative applications

Although all openings in the public sector need to be advertised (if not for very long), this is not true in industry. Therefore it may pay to make it known that you are available for hire. Many employers are cutting their advertising budget significantly but may still be hiring.

This issue of PGR Tips does not cover how to apply for jobs- see the [careers section](#) of the Vitae website for ideas on how to market yourself well.