

Tips and Resources for Comprehensive Job Planning for English Graduate Students

Future job prospects for English graduate students involve different kinds of academic/teaching opportunities, but they also include a broad range of career options. If you are pursuing graduate study for the purpose of career preparation or development, take time to consider your interests, values, and hopes for the future, explore career paths that might fit, and prepare yourself to be a competitive candidate for a wide range of opportunities.

Reminder: The resources below provide insight and advice from various perspectives; some might be useful for you while other advice might not fit your situation well. We strongly encourage you to consult with the English Department Graduate Advisor, the English Department Professional Development Coordinator, and your faculty mentors to discuss your specific plans.

1. **Prepare** yourself for a broad range of opportunities throughout your graduate career; don't wait until graduation/ job search time. Think about your goals and make a plan for learning about various future employment opportunities.

[Advice for Preparing for Varied Future Career Paths](#)

Includes a variety of concrete steps for maximizing the work you are already doing through your research and teaching as well as ideas for steps you can take to prepare and network beyond campus.

[Career Exploration Packet](#)

A packet compiled by MLA that offers a self-assessment tool, samples of job ads for a range of career paths, and a guide for making an action plan.

[Self-assessment and planning resources: Imagine Phd](#)

A free online tool that helps you assess your interests, goals, and skills and explore careers that might be a good fit.

2. **Build an alt-ac resume**; you can do faculty job searches and alt-ac job searches at the same time, and it is a great idea to build both documents as you progress through your studies.

[Resources for Resumes](#)

MLA/ Connected Academics has resources for translating academic CVs to alt-ac resumes and marketing your academic skills to other audiences.

[Differences between Resumes and CVs](#)

A concise overview of the differences as well as tips for constructing each document.

3. **Conduct informational interviews** with those in various careers to learn about possibilities and start building a network beyond the academy.

[Articles about Informational Interviews](#)

A collection of articles about what informational interviews are as well as insights about how and why you should conduct them.

Resources for finding those you might want to connect with:

[MTSU Career Services](#)

Information about MTSU services including Handshake tool for searching jobs and internships and Big Interview, an online interview preparation tool.

[MTSU Connect](#)

You can connect with MTSU faculty and alumni who can serve as mentors and sources for information about different career paths.

Linked In

[Tips for Building Profile and Using Linked In](#)

Advice for building your own profile

[MTSU Graduate English Linked In Page](#)

Consider joining the Graduate English community on Linked In

Additional Resources to Explore

[ACLS Public Fellows Program](#)

Places recent PhDs in partner organizations in nonprofit and government positions

[The Versatile PhD](#)

Offers networking, blog articles, job postings, and other resources

[Going Alt-Ac: How to Begin](#)

Inside Higher Ed piece with advice and resources

Also check out the Academic Job Search Resources for MTSU English Graduate Students posted on the [Professional Development Resources](#) page