

WORKING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



The United Kingdom is a member of the European Union (EU). It comprises England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. English is the official language, though Welsh (Wales) and Gaelic (Scottish Highlands and Islands, Northern Ireland) may also be spoken. The ability to speak and write English is vital for most jobs. The unit of currency is the pound sterling (£). The exchange rate (figures for March 2009) is approximately €1 = £0.89 (or £1 = €1.07). If you are an EU national you have the right to live and work in the United Kingdom without a work permit. However, special arrangements are in place for Romanian and Bulgarian Nationals.

The EURES (European Employment Services) Network

www.eures.europa.eu

The EURES network is a partnership between all of the public employment services (PES) in the European Economic Area (EEA), which supports free movement of workers. EURES offers an international jobs database that lists thousands of vacancies that are readily available across Europe. The UK employment service, Jobcentre Plus, advertises UK vacancies on this database, which is available on the EURES website. The site also contains information on living and working conditions for the UK and other EEA countries. You can find information on labour markets, accommodation, comparability of qualifications, social security and many other topics. Another useful feature of the site is the direct links it provides to the websites of the different public employment services of the EEA, including Jobcentre Plus. You can access over 400,000 vacancies from the Jobcentre Plus jobs database through www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk and <http://jobseekers.direct.gov.uk>. The second site also gives details of thousands of training opportunities, and occupational advice for hundreds of professions. In the UK, Jobcentre Plus has a network of over 1,000 Jobcentre and Jobcentre Plus offices that you can use to find work, using the self service kiosks.

Other ways to find employment

Private agencies are an important source of jobs in the UK in most towns and cities. Addresses and telephone numbers can be found listed under Employment Agencies or Personnel Consultants in the Yellow Pages www.yell.com. The Recruitment and Employment Confederation site <http://www.rec.uk.com/home> allows you to search for agencies by employment type/activity or by the name of the company.

Newspapers are an important medium for job hunters in the UK. Listed below are newspaper websites that feature vacancy details.

The Guardian www.jobsunlimited.co.uk *Evening Standard (London)* www.londonjobs.co.uk

The Daily Telegraph www.jobs.telegraph.co.uk

Financial Times <http://ftjobs.ft.com>

The Scotsman www.careers.scotsman.com

These newspapers, along with The Times, and The Independent mainly advertise more professional appointments such as in teaching, business, law and social work. Local newspapers advertise all types of work in their area. Speculative applications and searching through other employment websites are further, useful job searching techniques.

Teaching jobs

www.gtce.org.uk

You will need Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) (the UK Government's professional standard for teaching), to work as a teacher in maintained schools and non-maintained special schools in England and Wales. There is a reciprocal agreement in place between EU countries to recognise one another's teaching qualifications. For information on accredited EU qualifications and to obtain the QTS application form (EC1) you will need to contact the GTCE (General Teaching Council for England). E-mail: info@gtce.org.uk Tel: 0870 001 0308

www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachinginengland is the government website aimed at overseas teachers.

Recruitment of teachers in the UK is carried out individually by schools, or in some cases, through a local education authority pool. Other websites that provide vacancy details and teaching information include:

www.tesjobs.co.uk

www.prospects.ac.uk

<http://education.guardian.co.uk>

www.schoolsnet.com

www.iloveteaching.com

www.tta.gov.uk

Social security

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

If you are entitled to unemployment benefit in your own country and have been claiming this benefit for at least 4 weeks, you may be eligible to export your unemployment benefit to the UK for up to 3 months. To do this you should obtain certificate **E303** from your social security office *before* coming to the UK. Once in the UK, this certificate should be taken to the local Jobcentre (Plus) office within 7 days of arrival in order to make a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). If you become unemployed whilst in the UK you can register with your local Jobcentre (Plus) office for Jobseeker's Allowance. They will provide you with help to find work, through advice on vacancies and training opportunities. If you are unemployed, or on a low income, you may be eligible for Housing and Council Tax Benefit. Contact your local authority for more details.

Comparability of qualifications

It is possible to obtain a direct comparison between your qualifications and those recognised in the UK from UK NARIC, ECCTIS 200 LTD, Oriel House, Oriel Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL50 1XP.

Tel: + 44 (0) 870 990 4088 www.naric.org.uk NARIC may charge a registration fee for their service.

Taxation

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Anyone who is physically present in Britain for six months or more in any tax year is regarded as resident for tax purposes, but tax is also payable under certain other circumstances.

Income Tax is levied on the following: salary, bonuses, other income earned in the UK (eg. profit, rent, interest, dividends, annuities and pensions) use of car, medical/life assurance paid by employer, etc. For people aged under 65, income tax is not paid on the first £6475 (the personal allowance). Note if you are on a low income (if your earnings are less than your personal allowance plus £2440), some or all of the income from your savings will be taxable at 10%

Taxable income	rate of tax
0 - £37,400*	20% (basic rate)
Over £37,400*	40% (higher rate)

National Insurance (NI) Contributions are deducted at the rate of 11% for earnings above £110 per week up to £844, plus 1% for any earnings above £844 (2009/10 figures). Every employee eligible to pay National Insurance contributions needs to apply for a National Insurance number. You can find an online calculator to check NIC and tax contributions at: www.digita.com/taxcentral/home/employment/payslipcalculator/default.asp

Value Added Tax (VAT) is a tax on expenditure. The standard rate is 15%. VAT is not payable on certain goods and services such as books, rent, and children's clothing.

Council Tax is a local tax to pay for the public services. It is assessed on the value of the property you live in. The Local Authority administers collection of this tax.

E301 form details National Insurance contributions that have been paid and can be used towards calculating benefits overseas. The E301 form can only be obtained from the Contributions Agency, International Services, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE98 1YX. Tel: 0845 915 4811 (in the UK) or + 44 191 225 4811 (from abroad).

Working Conditions

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/>

The Working Time Regulations 1998 cover the rights of workers and obligations of employers concerning a range of working time conditions - maximum working hours (48 hours a week, though workers can choose to work more), annual leave entitlement (25 paid leave days + per year), rest periods, health and safety etc. There is some flexibility within these regulations, so you should expect to find some variation in working practices from employer to employer. In general, most full-time workers can expect a 35 to 40 hour working week.

Pay- The National Minimum Wage

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/>

Workers aged 22 and over - £5.73 per hour, Aged 18-21-£4.77 per hour, Aged 16-17- £3.53 per hour.
Accommodation offset - £4.77 per day (£31.22 per week)

Accommodation

Accommodation in the UK is expensive, especially in London, and because of this, finding reasonably priced accommodation is not easy. It is strongly recommended that you do not come to the UK without first trying to establish where you are going to live. Short-term accommodation includes Youth Hostels, YMCA/YWCA hostels, Bed and Breakfast places (B&B) and hotels. Local tourist offices will be able to provide information on all such accommodation. Rented accommodation is often advertised in **local newspapers** but there are also many **estate agencies** and accommodation agencies that deal with rented accommodation. Shop windows are also used to advertise lodgings. Furnished and unfurnished homes can also be rented from private landlords and housing associations. Hotels and guesthouses provide short-term accommodation in most areas. An advance of one months rent plus a refundable bond for furnishings is usual. If you use an agency you may have to pay an additional fee.

New lettings of rented accommodation are generally of two kinds: assured tenancies with long-term security of tenure, and assured shorthold tenancies for a fixed period of at least six months. Harassing tenants to make them leave is also a criminal offence. You should report any case of harassment or illegal eviction to the Local Authority, which has the power to prosecute. As well as lettings by private landlords, some houses and flats are also rented by non-profit making housing associations. They receive public subsidies, which help to keep their rents down to affordable levels. They also provide accommodation on a shared ownership basis, allowing the occupier to part-rent or part-own a home.

Health

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

If you are visiting the UK you should look into obtaining a European Health Insurance Card (or E111) from your health authority. This card will entitle you to free or reduced-cost emergency medical treatment. Free medical services are available to EU/EEA nationals in employment or seeking employment in the UK. You should apply to your local health centre to be registered with a National Health Service (NHS) doctor. Details can be found on the NHS Direct website. Note that some NHS doctors also practise privately, so ensure that you are treated as a NHS patient or you may have to pay the full cost of the treatment. In the UK there are charges for prescribed medicines, dental services, eye test and spectacles. However, if you are on a low income or already receiving other state benefits you may be able to get help with the cost of these items. For further information contact your local social security/Jobcentre Plus office.

Websites

EURES

www.eures.europa.eu

Vacancies & information on living and working the EEA (European Economic Area) countries, plus links to public employment service sites

Employment websites

www.jobsearch.co.uk

www.topjobs.co.uk

www.planetrecurit.com

www.reed.co.uk

www.adecco.co.uk

www.manpower.co.uk

www.jobsite.co.uk

www.monster.co.uk

www.gisajob.com

www.netjobs.co.uk

www.newscientistjobs.com

www.jobs.tes.co.uk

www.jobs.ac.uk

www.jobinscotland.com

www.inretail.co.uk

Jobs from the New Scientist.

Jobs in education from the Times Educational Supplement

Academic jobs database

Jobs in Scotland

Jobs in retail

Government websites

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

www.direct.gov.uk

www.hmrc.gov.uk

www.learnirect.co.uk

www.jobcentreonline.com

www.delni.gov.uk

Information from Jobcentre Plus, including vacancies

Access to public services information - a link up to **all government departments**

HM Revenue and Customs site containing information on tax & national insurance matters

Information on training courses

The public employment service website for Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Department for Employment and Learning

Career websites

www.careersa-z.co.uk

www.workthing.com

www.careers-gateway.co.uk

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

www.careers.lon.ac.uk

www.eurograduate.com

Information on careers in the NHS (National Health Service)

Careers advice and jobs from the University of London Careers Service

European graduate careers information and opportunities.

Other informative websites

www.floodlight.co.uk

<http://www.gumtree.com>

www.loot.com

www.yha.org.uk

www.multimap.co.uk

www.upmystreet.co.uk

www.yell.com

<http://babelfish.altavista.com>

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

www.housingnet.co.uk

www.adviceguide.org.uk

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

www.thetrainline.com

www.showbus.co.uk/timetables

www.londontransport.co.uk

www.acas.org.uk

www.visitbritain.com

www.google.co.uk

www.ask.co.uk

Details of further education colleges & courses in the London area

For accommodation, Jobs or to find a friend from your home country

Classified adverts paper that includes advertisements for rented accommodation and also jobs

Details from the Youth Hostel Association for accommodation in the UK

Maps of UK locations

Information on UK localities

Directory of businesses and services

Translation website

Health information

Housing information resource

Advice on all living and working matters - from the Citizens Advice Bureau

Currency converter

Train times and fares

On-line bus timetables

London Transport

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service

British Tourist Authority

General search engine

Question based search engine

<http://mirago.co.uk>



Dedicated UK search index

