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This Guide

Working abroad sounds to many people like an adventure.

However, without thorough preparation, starting with a successful application, it is bound to fail. Therefore, Expertise in Labour Mobility (ELM) has prepared a set of country guides describing the main routes to employment in over 40 countries. Are you interested in working in Australia, Germany or Japan? Has your partner accepted a job in Hungary, Spain, or the United Arab Emirates?

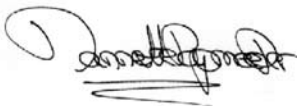
Are you looking for an internship possibility in the Netherlands, Singapore or the United States of America? The Looking for work in ... guides from ELM will help you with accurate information and practical tips on working cultures and differences in job hunting in over 40 countries.

As an extra addition to the series – following many requests - ELM introduced a new guide: Looking for work in International Organisations which explains how to successfully look for work in for instance the institutes of the European Commission, UN institutions and NGO's.

This guide contains information on the United Kingdom. It tells you how to apply for a job in the UK and the cultural differences that you will come across when looking for a job in the UK. Do not underestimate those national differences. What is common in one country might be very unusual in another country. To find a job abroad you need to be

aware that national differences manifest themselves not only in different languages, but also in different recruitment practices. Thus, looking for work in another country involves more than writing your CV/resume in another language.

No matter the country in which you are looking for work, the key focus of your CV should be to persuade the employer to invite you for a job interview. Accordingly, your CV should be regarded as a marketing tool, adapted to the market in which you intend to use it. The information in this guide, together with the sample CV, will help you to adapt your application for the British job market. However, make sure your application remains a reflection of your personality. Working abroad is one thing, but having a job that does not suit you will definitely cause homesickness!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nannette Ripmeester', with a horizontal line underneath.

Nannette Ripmeester, MA
Managing Director
Expertise in Labour Mobility





Country Profile

Country

The Constitutional monarchy of the United Kingdom consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is located on the north-west of mainland Europe and is 244,820 square kilometres (152,124 square miles). The UK is surrounded by water and it only has a land border with Ireland.

The capital is London (7,556,900 inhabitants/2009), which houses the parliament. Edinburgh (449,000 inhabitants), houses the parliament of Scotland, and Cardiff (320,000 inhabitants), houses the parliament of Wales. Other significant cities are Belfast (298,000 inhabitants – in Northern Ireland), Glasgow (617,000 inhabitants), Sheffield (530,000 inhabitants), Bradford (484,000 inhabitants), Newcastle (282,000 inhabitants), Manchester (431,000

inhabitants), Liverpool (468,000 inhabitants), Leeds (727,000 inhabitants), Birmingham (1,021,000 inhabitants) and Bristol (340,000 inhabitants).

The landscape is very diverse with plains, hills, highlands (especially in Scotland and the north of England), seashores, lakes and rivers.

Climate

The UK has a mild and temperate climate. Although the climate varies from one region to another, temperatures are quite moderate. Both summers and winters are quite mild.

Population

The total population is approximately 61.11 million (2009). 82% of the population is English, 10% Scottish, 3% Irish and 2% of the population is Welsh.

History

The United Kingdom has existed as a unified country since the 10th century.

It has experienced influences from invaders such as the Celts, the Romans, the Danish and the Vikings. The UK became a Kingdom when William the Conqueror crowned himself king in 1066. During the 15th century, a battle over the crown took place between the House of Tudor and the Stuart family, better known as the 'war of the roses'.

In the 16th and 17th century the United Kingdom became a seagoing nation, which led in the 19th century to one of the most powerful nations in Europe possessing many colonies, such as North America, Canada, many Caribbean islands as well as Jamaica, New Zealand, Australia, India, South Africa, parts of eastern and western Africa, Malta, Cyprus and Egypt. During the 18th, 19th and 20th century most of these colonies became independent. A couple of the former colonies still belong to the British Commonwealth, remaining thus related to the United Kingdom.

The country took its final shape in 1922, when Ireland - which had been British since 1800 - was divided into the Irish Free State - since 1948 the Republic of Ireland - and Ulster, known as Northern Ireland, which remained British.

In 1949 the UK became a founding member of the NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, an alliance of 26 countries from North America and Europe committed to fulfilling the goals of the North Atlantic Treaty signed on the 4th of April 1949.

In 1952 Elizabeth II became Queen, following the death of her father George VI.

The UK joined the EEC in 1973, the European Economic Community, founded in 1957. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who played a strong role in British politics and its international relations, resigned in 1990 and was replaced by John Major. In 1997 Tony Blair's Labour party won the general elections. In 2001

Tony Blair confirmed his place as the towering figure in British politics both by leading the Labour Party to its second successive landslide election victory and by winning overwhelming political and public support for his international role in the fight against terrorism following the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11. The year 2002 was noteworthy as the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who had ascended to the throne in 1952. Throughout 2004 the UK's domestic politics were overshadowed by disputes over Britain's involvement in Iraq. These disputes concerned both the deployment of British troops in Iraq and whether government ministers had told the truth when they said before the war that President Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) at the time of the 2003 US led the invasion of Iraq. Three of the most significant events for the United Kingdom in 2005 took place in the space of just three days. On July 6 London was named as the city that would host the 2012 Olympic Games. The following day 56 people were killed in central London by four separate, almost simultaneous, suicide bombs. A day later Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that the Group of Eight (G-8) summit being held in Gleneagles, Scotland, had agreed to a massive increase in aid to Africa to help alleviate poverty in the world's poorest continent. On the 27th of June 2007, Tony Blair stepped down as Prime Minister and Gordon Brown took over after having been Chancellor of the Exchequer for 10 years. The next election will be held in June 2010, with rising tension between the Labour and Conservative parties.

Large-scale immigration, particularly from the West Indies and South Asia, but also from other areas such as Eastern Europe, has made the population ethnically far more diverse, with important cultural consequences. Today's Britain is among Europe's most open, multi-racial societies, where different races and cultural influences are beginning to be positively acknowledged and given equal respect.

Religion

The main religions are Anglican and Roman Catholicism, but there are also many Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Jews. The Anglican Church of England is a blend of elements from Catholicism, Lutheranism, and Calvinism.

Language

The official languages in the UK are English, Welsh (spoken by 26 percent of the Welsh population) and Gaelic (spoken by approximately 60,000 people in parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland).

The language used for business and education is English. The British are not known for their linguistic abilities, so when you decide to move to the UK it is important to speak the language!

Currency

The monetary unit of the UK is the pound sterling (£). One pound consists of 100 pence. Although the UK is part of the European Union, they have so far opted out of the European Monetary Union, thus the pound sterling has not been replaced by the Euro in 2001.