



#ExperienceWorks

Edinburgh's part-time and vacation job market Catering, Hospitality and Events

What can I do?

Jobs can be found at venues such as pubs, clubs, hotels, conference venues, sports stadiums, sporting events and the University. Jobs in this sector might offer you one-off opportunities at specific events or more regular shifts.

Working in the industry can be sociable and lively, with flexible hours and the possibility of progression to supervisory roles. However, some roles can be physically demanding and require you to work irregular and unsocial hours.

The lower-skilled jobs in this sector tend to attract the National Minimum Wage. Roles with more responsibility, such as shift supervisors, will pay more.

If you are working in a role that receives tips ask what the system is for sharing them.

Seasonal jobs in this sector might be offered on a 'live in' basis, which takes into account accommodation rates. Find out about what this means at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Read about your working rights, National Minimum Wage and Tax on our website: [Your rights at work](#).

Where can I look?

- MyCareerHub. Access MyCareerHub from the [Careers Service website](#). We advertise roles such as waiting staff, event stewards, bar staff, catering assistants, kitchen porters, room attendants, hotel porters, receptionists, concierges and cloakroom attendants.
- Catering and Events Staffing Agencies such as [Prestige Scotland](#), [Blue Arrow](#), and [Michael Wisher](#). Many of these advertise on MyCareerHub.
- Find a job service using [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- [Edinburgh Gumtree](#) – an online classified ads website
- Many businesses advertise for casual staff by placing an advert in the window of their cafes and bars, asking you to call in with your CV. This gives you an opportunity to impress them with your friendliness and positive attitude.

Read our advice on Staying Safe and Spotting Scams in the [Typical Employers and Jobs](#) section of our website.





What do I need?

Although adverts often ask for previous experience, those who are well presented, have a good command of English and can demonstrate a customer focused attitude, enthusiasm and flexibility will be attractive to employers. Show that you can work quickly and efficiently, and work as part of a team.

Opportunities do arise which state that no previous experience is necessary.

You may be asked to provide your own work clothing (often a white shirt and black trousers or skirt). Otherwise you may be asked to wear a corporate uniform.

If you are responsible for selling alcohol to the public you must be a Personal Licence Holder. This is a legal requirement. Most employers will arrange for you to have the training for this. Some will prefer you to have already got the Personal Licence.

Having a Food Hygiene certificate would also give you an advantage, but again, many employers would train you towards this qualification.

Everyone who works in the UK needs a National Insurance Number. You can start work without one, if your documentation shows you can work in the UK, but you must then apply for one immediately. Find the National Insurance and Tax Guide on our website for more information: [Working during your studies](#).

What might be next?

By working in this area you can develop a variety of skills: cash handling, customer service, team working, organisation, time management, sales, and the ability to think on your feet.

If you move into a supervisory role you can gain skills in delegation, training, planning, problem-solving and motivating others.

Skills such as these will be attractive to graduate employers with roles involving managing people and resources.

To find out more about graduate careers in these sectors visit the [Occupations](#) page on our website.

How can the Careers Service help?

The [CVs, Applications and Interviews Advice](#) page on our website provides information and guidance on applying for jobs, including advice on CVs and covering letters, application forms, selection tests and preparing for interviews.

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