

## Working in the UK

076

The UK – and London in particular – is an attractive destination for foreign employees and global companies. With the country's diverse work sectors, good working conditions and numerous employment opportunities it's no surprise that the UK attracts international graduates wanting to start their careers.

Most foreign nationals<sup>1</sup> have one advantage over their British colleagues or competitors. They are fluent in at least one foreign language. This is an important factor if you consider working in the UK. There is always a high demand for speakers of foreign languages, from engineers to teachers, from local government officials to sales personnel.

There are approximately 30 million people aged 16 and over who are currently employed in the UK. London is the place where most people working in the UK end up. Europe's financial capital attracts a lot of international business, and most multinational companies have a London branch.

### Permits and qualifications for working in the UK

Despite the demand for foreign languages, English remains an essential requirement for most people working in the UK. If you need a permit for working in the UK, English language skills are mandatory<sup>2</sup>. To work in the UK you will need a current UK work visa. There are a variety of UK working visas, work permits and passports that enable you to legally work in the UK and each has its own characteristics and restrictions. A good way to start is to contact the nearest embassy.

### Glossary

**1 foreign nationals:** people who are not naturalized citizens of the country in which they are living.

**2 mandatory:** something you must have.

**3 keen on:** wanting to do something.

**4 share:** a part of something.

**5 foreign-born:** foreign by birth.

**6 percentage:** an amount expressed as if it is part of a total which is 100.

**7 process plant:** factory where special methods serve to treat materials, especially one where food is treated in order to preserve it. A process operator is a person who supervises the operations in a plant.

### Getting started

1 In pairs, discuss the following questions.

- Why do you think young people choose to work abroad?
- What kind of skills, abilities and qualities do you think are essential if you want to work abroad?

2 **076** **Read and listen to the text. Match the words 1–6 with the collocations a–f you can find in the text.**

1 working

2 employment

3 work

4 skilled

5 look for

6 recruitment

a

b

c

d

e

f

a agencies

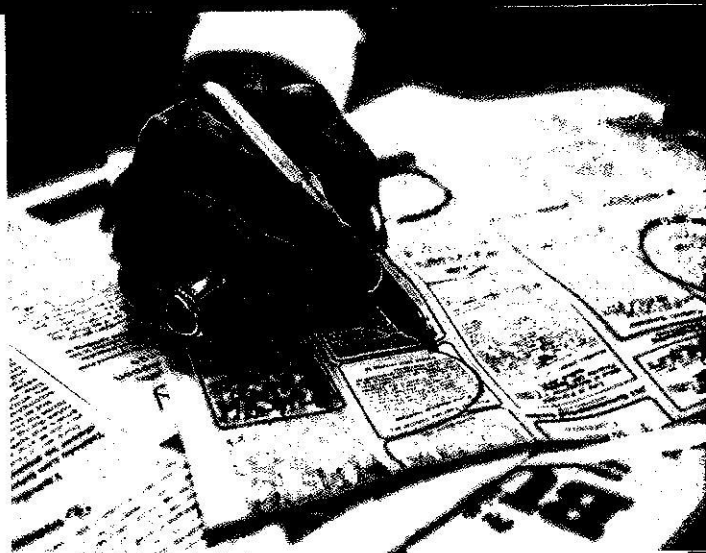
b job seekers

c permits

d conditions

e a part-time job

f opportunities



### 25 Finding a job in the UK

There are a number of recommended sources for those keen on<sup>3</sup> working in the UK. 'The Guardian' newspaper is the best source for skilled job seekers in the UK. All big and reputable companies, especially those who want to reach

- 30 an international audience, advertise their vacancies in 'The Guardian'. It dedicates several pages to different fields of employment on certain days of the week, e.g. media jobs on one day, vacancies in the public sector on another. In addition, it offers an extensive, nationwide online job database searchable by anyone with an interest in working in the UK. As in most countries, the Internet in general is a valuable tool for job seekers. If you are merely looking for a local part-time job, a good place to check is the notice board of your local library. Also, for people considering working in the UK for a
- 40 limited period of time, registering with recruitment agencies specializing in temporary jobs, is often the way forward.

3 Read the text again and find words which correspond to the following definitions.

- Employee ← 1 (l. 2) someone paid to work for someone else  
 Graduate ← 2 (l. 5) someone who has completed a university degree  
 Branch ← 3 (l. 16) a local business that is part of a larger business  
 Requirement ← 4 (l. 19) something that an employer says you must have in order to do something  
 job seeker ← 5 (l. 28) someone who does not have a job and is looking for one

vacancy ← 6 (l. 30) a job that is available for someone to start doing

4 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why is the UK a popular destination for job seekers?
- 2 How important are language skills if you want to work in the UK?
- 3 What kind of requirements are mandatory if you want to work in the UK?
- 4 Why is 'The Guardian' the most important source of information for skilled job seekers?
- 5 What can you do if you are just looking for a temporary job in the UK?