

UWE masters-graduate launches town planning job board

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TownPlanningJobs.com is a niche job board, specifically for town planners, built and launched by Christopher Mills, who graduated with an MA in Town and Country Planning from UWE (Bristol) in 2012. Its aim is to provide an affordable alternative for planning companies and recruitment consultants, who currently pay over £1000 for a single advert. This will allow smaller planning companies, on limited budgets, to hire talented planners, consequently creating more opportunities for job-seekers.

It currently receives around 40,000 visitors per month, is listed on the RTPI website and Planning Portal job-feed, is on page 1 of Google and has over 5000 planners in its network.

Town Planners are needed worldwide to make some important decisions, such as; where to build houses, where new industry should be developed, how to improve the transport network and how to protect the environment.

Christopher explained that after seeing the costs of advertising town planning vacancies, especially in the UK, it is apparent that many smaller companies and universities may not have the funds to effectively advertise these positions. The yearly advertising costs with TownPlanningJobs.com are lower than a single advert slot with some of the larger competitors.

Should advertisements be free? Free job-sites often cover all employment sectors, which makes it difficult for recruiters to find candidates with the right skills for the position. It is also difficult for job-seekers to find exactly what they are looking for, as search terms can pull up unrelated jobs. Therefore a niche website, with a small job-listing fee is necessary to reveal the best candidates.

Also, many town planning job-sites are country specific, which makes them incredibly restrictive. This is a missed opportunity to tap into talent pools abroad. TownPlanningJobs.com covers the entire world and its geo-referencing facility means job-seekers can find a job anywhere they choose.

Over the last few years, there has been a shortage of town planning jobs, around the world, due to government funding cuts and a slowdown in the construction sector, but there has never been a shortage of qualified town planners. UK universities pump out thousands of planning graduates every year and this trend is mirrored in other countries around the world.

The town planning job sector can only get larger, as global population is rising, cities are expanding, pollution is increasing, green space is declining and coastlines are receding. Urban areas, in particular, need continual transformation to provide adequate infrastructure and amenities for inhabitants.

The town planning job market is the best it has been for a number of years. This is because there has been momentum in the construction sector, coupled with new regeneration schemes and streamlined planning policies. As our population continues to grow, there will be an increasing need for town planners. The renewable energy sector, in particular, has witnessed a surge in town planning vacancies. If you are interested in a town planning career, please visit our jobs section.

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