

# Banking, Investment And Insurance

## **Overview**

Retail banking serves domestic and commercial clients with financial products and services, accounts and saving investments. Recently, the industry is becoming increasing mobile focused. Investment banks work with commercial clients and governments to offer financial advice, manage company mergers and acquisitions and raise capital and invest and sell in financial markets.

The increasing use of technology in financial services and transactions has created an emerging Financial Technology market, often referred to as ‘Fintech’, common in business start-ups. Online lending platforms offer Peer to Peer lending (often referred to as P2P lending) which can offer crowd lending and fundraising and blockchain cryptocurrency trading, without the need for traditional banks and financial services, are greatly changing the industry.

## **Roles**

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters, and links to further useful information.

* [Corporate Investment Banker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/corporate-investment-banker)
* [Retail Banker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/retail-banker)
* [Actuarial Analyst](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/actuarial-analyst)
* [Actuary](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/actuary)
* [Data Analyst](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/data-analyst)
* [Economist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/economist)
* [Investment Fund Manager](https://www.allaboutcareers.com/careers/job-profile/investment-fund-manager)
* [Insurance Broker](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/insurance-broker)
* [Statistician](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/statistician)
* [Commodity Broker](https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279041-commodity-broker-job-description)
* [Cyber Security Specialist](https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/454165-cyber-security-specialist-job-description)
* [Insurance Underwriter](https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279881-insurance-underwriter-job-description)
* [Insurance Claims Handler](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/insurance-claims-handler)

You can view additional job roles by using the [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/accountancy-banking-and-finance/overview-of-the-uks-financial-sector) and [Target Jobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/accountancy-banking-and-finance/graduate-job-investment-banking-or-insurance-which-should-i-choose) websites.

## **Building Experience**

Gaining experience is important for you to find out about the industry and stand out in a competitive job market. The sector is heavily regulated, so learning about legislation, processes, procedures and software systems is vital. Large firms may offer [insight days](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/insights), [work experience and internships](https://www.allaboutfinancecareers.co.uk/stage/finance-work-experience/finance-work-experience-ideas), with some available from first year, which provide an introduction to the industry and can be a great opportunity to meet industry professionals.

Due to working with international clients, languages can be an advantage and may be required for some roles. Some analytical roles may require a numerical, technical or scientific based degree. Many companies require a 2.1 average entry grade requirement.

Approaching local small and medium sized firms directly to enquire about work experience and shadowing opportunities is a good way to make contacts and build experience.

Volunteering can add valuable experience, so you could consider becoming a Treasurer or Trustee of a club, society or charity. Visit [Reading Students' Union](https://readingsu.co.uk/student-opportunities/volunteering-and-fundraising) for volunteering, club and society opportunities.

Schemes and programmes are available to attract underrepresented groups into banking and finance such as those offered by [SEO](https://www.seo-london.org/)-london.org and [Employ-Ability](https://www.employ-ability.org.uk/).org.uk.

## **Finding Opportunities**

Check [My Jobs Online](https://reading.targetconnect.net/student/login.html?remote=true) for vacancies and visit campus career fairs and employer presentations to find out more about which employers are advertising vacancies and coming onto campus.

Becoming a student member of one of the professional bodies, such as the [Chartered Banker](https://www.charteredbanker.com/) and the [Chartered Insurance Institute](https://www.cii.co.uk/membership/) can offer member benefits, talks, events and volunteering and campus ambassador opportunities, with the chance to meet industry professionals.

### Industry Jobs

[eFinancialCareers](https://www.efinancialcareers.co.uk/).co.uk | [CityJobs](https://www.cityjobs.com/).com | [InsuranceJobs](https://www.insurancejobs.co.uk/).co.uk

### Career Information

[Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/accountancy-banking-and-finance).ac.uk | [Targetjobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/accountancy-and-financial-management).co.uk | [InsideCareers](https://www.insidecareers.co.uk/).co.uk | [AllAboutFinance](https://www.allaboutfinancecareers.co.uk/finance-careers)Careers.co.uk/finance-careers | [Investment2020](https://investment2020.org.uk/).org.uk | [DiscoverRisk](http://www.discoverrisk.co.uk/about-risk/career-paths.aspx).co.uk

### Further Study/Research

[University of Reading](https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/postgraduate-study.aspx) | [Find a Masters](https://www.findamasters.com/) | [Find a PhD](https://www.findaphd.com/)

### Graduate Jobs

[prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/).ac.uk | [targetjobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/).co.uk | [milkround](https://www.milkround.com/).com | [ratemyplacement](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/).co.uk | [gradcracker](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/civil-building/environment-and-sustainability-jobs).com

## **Exploring Further**

[London Stock Exchange](https://www.lseg.com/careers/graduate-and-internship-programmes) (lseg.com) (London Stock Exchange Internship and graduate programmes)

[BankofEngland](https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/careers/early-careers).co.uk/careers (Bank of England insight events, internship and graduate programmes)

[European Banking Federation](https://www.ebf.eu/about-us/) (ebf.eu) (representative body of 32 banking associations in Europe)

[British Bankers Association](https://www.bba.org.uk/) (bba.org.uk)

[Financial Conduct Authority](https://www.fca.org.uk/about) (fca.org.uk) (financial services regulator)

[Financial Reporting Council](https://www.frc.org.uk/) (frc.org.uk)

[Pensions Management Institute PMI](https://www.pensions-pmi.org.uk/home/) (pensions-pmi.org.uk)

[Chartered Insurance Institute CII](https://www.cii.co.uk/) (cii.co.uk)

[Institute and Faculty of Actuaries](https://www.actuaries.org.uk/) (actuaries.org.uk)

[International Monetary Fund](https://www.imf.org/external/index.htm) (imf.org) – (global financial regulator)

The skills and knowledge you’ve developed in your degree will be valuable in a wide range of roles and sectors. If you’re thinking of looking further afield but aren’t sure where to start, why not [book an appointment](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/MyJobsOnline) with one of our Careers Consultants? Remember, graduates can use the Careers Centre for up to two years after they graduate.

Explore our [Careers Blog](https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/careers/) for more industry guidance and useful careers advice!