

How to Get a Publishing Job

5 Steps on how to enter the publishing workforce

Are you interested in becoming a Publisher but are unsure what you need to do to become one? Here I have written a guide listing of your main steps that you need to take if you are interested in publishing.

1. Do Your Research

Just like with anything in life you need to be sure that this is what you want to do. So it took me a very long time to discover what I wanted to do with my life. Instead of thinking about what job I wanted, I instead thought about things and activities that make me happy. I have loved to read ever since my early middle school days. Getting lost in a story gives me an overall sense of peace and joy; a form of escape if you will. Because of that I decided I wanted to do something related to the book industry. After doing some research on what jobs existed that worked in tandem with books and authors, I decided that working in the publishing industry sounded the most appealing to me.



Of course, specifically being a publisher is not the only job available in publishing work:

Book editor - main responsibilities include looking over and editing grammatical errors to ensure that the book is ready and correct before publishing.

Copywriter - a professional writer that promotes the text/copy through digital marketing like social media and television.

Literary Agent - the face that sells an author's work to a publisher/publishing company for commission fee.

Copy editor - edits and ensures the literature is correct and grammar free according to the company's guidelines

2. School Time

Publishing is a job market where for most positions you are required to pursue a degree. The type of degree can be broad as long as it is similar or adjacent to Literature. Journalism, English, and Communications are all qualifying degrees. Pursuing a degree roughly takes about four years but can be done sooner or later depending on your available time and preferred pace of learning.



3. Internships

This step may not be necessary but may certainly be desired as it will give you a leg up in the publishing force. You can try to obtain an internship through your school or may pursue one on your own. There are many websites online where you can apply for internships like Harper Collins Publishing and Penguin Random House. One specific website that is garnered towards publishing internships and jobs is Bookjobs.com, which allows you to post your Resume for review by real publishers, and then recommend you job postings. You can also try applying in person to many different places, like publishing firms, news stations, and prominent book companies, all depending on what knowledge you are looking to learn. The internship you choose to take on may also lead to a future job position at that company too.

4. Build Up Your Resume

Next you are going to want to build up your resume. Make sure you keep your resume to one page and include many skills you have built up over the years, even if they do not pertain to the job you are currently applying to. A lot of jobs like to see that you have other skills and can be moved into other positions if necessary. Work on obtaining your desired skill set for your specific position. A lot of jobs in the proofing industry require a 40 word per minute typing speed. So that can be something to work on as a hobby.



5. Apply To Jobs

All that is left is for you to apply to jobs. There are many great websites to look up jobs based on our preferences. I like to use Indeed. I have been using indeed for a while and have grown comfortable with the website and how to navigate it. You can also use ZipRecruiter, Glassdoor, LinkedIn, and Flexjobs. You can ask around your local community as well to see if you can start with a paid apprenticeship or as a trainee. Sometimes the easiest route to take is to start at the bottom and work your way up until you reach your desired position within your company. Post your resume and form a cover letter specifically for each job you are applying to. Pay attention to what the job post is asking for and utilize that with keywords in your cover letter: for example if the job is asking for reputable computer skills, highlight the computer class that you took in college to give insight to your skill set..

I would say this is a pretty easy to follow list. If you follow along and have faith in yourself then you can achieve your dreams. Just remember to take it one step at a time.

Works Cited

"How to Get into Publishing: Penguin Random House: Penguin Random House." Penguin-Randomhouse.Com, Penguin Random House, 4 Oct. 2022, www.penguinrandomhouse.com/articles/get-into-publishing/.
Publishers Marketplace, info@publishersmarketplace.com. "Job Board." Publishers Marketplace, Association of American Publishers, 2025, www.publishersmarketplace.com/jobs/.