



Country specific information ...

Romania

Job market

Economy

Romania's economic situation is improving, with the economy growing strongly and foreign investment on the increase. Unemployment, currently around 6.5%, is now below the European average. Average salaries are growing, but remain low at around 8 million lei/200 Euro (£135 per month) before tax.

Romania's main industries include: textiles and footwear; light machinery and vehicle assembly; mining; timber; construction materials; metallurgy; chemicals; food processing and petroleum refining. Agriculture remains a key employer, whilst the service sector is less developed than in western Europe.

The country's main trade partners are Germany and Italy, which between them account for around 40% of Romania's foreign trade.

Amongst Romanians, graduates tend to find gainful employment more easily than non-graduates. Romanian degrees normally require four years of study and lean towards a more vocational focus on specific areas of employment.

Newly qualified British or Irish graduates are most likely to find paid employment in Romania through charities and NGOs. Other main ways into Romania would be via a secondment or posting with a multinational company's Romanian operation.

Language requirements

The national language, Romanian, is a romance language similar to Latin and is universally understood. Around one million or so ethnic Hungarians also speak their native language, and there are also small numbers of German native speakers.

English is by far the most widely understood foreign language, particularly amongst those under the age of 40. French or German may be preferred by some, particularly older Romanians. Italian is the modern language closest to Romanian.

Romanian is not regarded as essential for those starting work with many charities, NGOs or multinational companies.

Radu's Home Page (<http://www.radur.homechoice.co.uk/>) has links to Romanian language courses and resources in the UK. Some university language laboratories may have courses on tape.

Applying for jobs

Graduate recruitment brochures are very rare in Romania. Multinationals have only recently begun to target universities. Smaller companies recruit mainly on an ad-hoc basis. Many vacancies are never publicised, though newspaper and other advertising is increasing. Informal contacts are crucial and you need to make the most of them. Speculative applications are very common.

The standard method of application is by CV and covering letter. CVs should be no more than two A4 sides. Emphasise your academic record and work experience. Hobbies and interests are much less important.

Interviews vary considerably. The focus is usually on technical skills and academic record rather than transferable skills. This is changing, in part due to the influence of multinational companies.

You'll find information (some in English) about CVs and covering letters on the website of the Alexandra Ioan Cuza University Careers Service (<http://cipo.uaic.ro/>), Iasi.

Vacancy sources

Newspaper advertising is limited, but increasing. Romania Libera (<http://www.romanalibera.com>) and Capital (<http://www.capital.ro>), a weekly business journal, are useful. You'll find nearly 80 other newspapers like Evenimentul Zilei, Adevărul and Cotidianul in the Romania section of Kidon Media-Link (<http://www.kidon.com/media-link>). Alternatively try Romanian Mass Media (<http://www.ziare.com/>), which has over 200 media outlets linked.

There are no graduate employment directories. Company and business information for speculative applications is available from several sources including:

- Company directories like Kompass (<http://www.kompass.com>), available in large city public libraries.
- Specialised business libraries like the UK Trade and Investment Information Centre.
- Websites of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and Bucharest, and the Romanian Yellow Pages (<http://www.romanianyellowpages.com/>).

A number of recruitment websites are now in operation. You can find links to them, and names of major Romanian companies, on the Romanian business resource website: Global Edge (<http://globaledge.msu.edu/ibrd/ibrd.asp>). Private recruitment agencies do exist but are generally of limited use to graduates.

Getting advice abroad

Higher education and careers support

Many Romanian universities now have careers services, though limited resources mean they are unlikely to be able to offer significant help to overseas graduates. Some run job-matching services via employer and student databases.

Public employment services

Migratia Fortei de Munca offers services in larger towns for those registered as unemployed. Overseas graduates are unlikely to qualify for such services.

Work experience

Vacation work schemes similar to the UK model are virtually non-existent in Romania. Speculative applications whilst in the country may be more successful.

EU/publicly-funded schemes and English language teaching are probably the best starting points.

The Leonardo da Vinci Programme (<http://www.leonardo.org.uk>) is usually part of a vocational course and organised through your university's European Office, or similar, as part of a reciprocal agreement with a Romanian university.

IAESTE offers summer placements for science, engineering and technology students. For teaching placements, ten English language assistant vacancies are available each year. Applicants must be graduates and preference is given to those with Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) experience or training.

LINGUA ACTION C is part of the Socrates programme and is for intending teachers only - undergraduate, postgraduate or graduate. Further details are available from the British Council Education and Training Group.

Other sources of short-term work include voluntary work. As the focus has shifted from relief and care work to training and development, voluntary work is harder to obtain for inexperienced students and graduates.

WorldWide Volunteering (WWV) (<http://www.worldwidevolunteering.org.uk>) produces a database of worldwide volunteering opportunities, which can be searched by country. Many of the listed organisations take volunteers of any age but you have to pay to take part in some schemes. The database may be available at your careers service.

Postgraduate Study

Almost no British graduates are recorded as having completed postgraduate study in Romania in recent years.

In Romanian universities, classes are sometimes taught in English, French or German as well as in Romanian. You will either have to take a language test to prove your knowledge of the language being used or do a preparatory year of Romanian language classes. These are offered at many universities in Romania.

Institutions including the Open University and University of Westminster have distance learning links to Romania at postgraduate level through a link with the Centre for Open Distance Education for the Civil Society (<http://www.codecs.ro/>) (CODECS).

The Romanian Embassy (UK) and the Romanian Embassy (Republic of Ireland) can supply registration forms for study.

Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj has very comprehensive web pages for international students covering registration, fees, visas etc.

Radu's Home Page (<http://www.radur.homechoice.co.uk/>) has good links to Romanian universities and research institutes. Also try the Universities Worldwide (<http://univ.cc/>) website. Most universities have English-language web pages.

Visa and immigration

British citizens need visas to work in Romania, but can enter as a tourist without a visa. With accession to the EU, changes to this are likely. For full information on visa applications, you should contact the consular section of the Romanian Embassy in London.

The local prefectures in Romania are responsible for renewing visas, with individual discretion given to the terms and conditions.

If you are from a non-EU country, please check with your embassy about regulations for working in Romania.

Country overview

Romania is the largest of the 'Balkan' countries of southeast Europe, covering an area slightly smaller than the UK. It borders Hungary, and thus the EU, to the northwest, as well as Serbia and Montenegro to the southwest. Bulgaria is to the south, Moldova to the east, and Ukraine lies northeast.

Its population of 22 million is 90% ethnic Romanian, with significant minorities including Hungarians and Roma. The largest city is the capital, Bucharest/Bucuresti, with a population of 2 million.

Eastern Orthodoxy is the main religion, standing at 87% in January 2004. Protestants, Catholics and Muslims make up most of the remainder. The currency is the leu (ROL), with approximately 59,000 ROL to 1GBP.

Romania is a multi-party democracy and is currently scheduled to join the EU in 2007.

Contacts and resources

Publications

The following AGCAS publications should be available in your university careers service.

AGCAS publications

Language Translation & Interpreting, AGCAS Vocational Course Survey, Biennial

[*Postgraduate Study and Research*](#), AGCAS Information Booklet, Biennial

[*Using Languages*](#), AGCAS Information Booklet, Biennial

[*Working Abroad*](#), AGCAS Information Booklet, Biennial

Other publications

International Directory of Voluntary Work, [*Vacation Work Publications*](#), Biennial

Lonely Planet Romania and Moldova, [*Lonely Planet Publications*](#), July 2004

Romania Information Pack, [*Department of Trade and Industry \(DTI\)*](#)

[*The Rough Guide to Romania*](#), Rough Guides, September 2004

Study Abroad, [*TSO - The Information Management Company*](#), Biennial

Summer Jobs Abroad, [*Trotman Publishing*](#), November 2005

Teaching English Abroad, [*Vacation Work Publications*](#), 2004

Work Your Way Around the World, [*Vacation Work Publications*](#), Biennial

Websites

Alexandra Ioan Cuza University Careers Service, <http://cipo.uaic.ro/>

Capital, <http://www.capital.ro>

Centre for Open Distance Education for the Civil Society, <http://www.codecs.ro/>

European governments' website, <http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/europa.html>

Global Edge, <http://globaledge.msu.edu/ibrd/ibrd.asp>

Jobcentre Plus - Working or Training in Europe,

<http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/Customers/Workingortrainingineurope/index.html>

Kidon Media-Link, <http://www.kidon.com/media-link>

Kompass, <http://www.kompass.com>

Leonardo da Vinci Programme, <http://www.leonardo.org.uk>

Radu's Home Page, <http://www.radur.homechoice.co.uk/>

Romania Libera, <http://www.romanalibera.com>
Romanian Mass Media, <http://www.ziare.com/>
Romanian Yellow Pages, <http://www.romanianyellowpages.com/>
Romania Online, <http://www.rol.ro/index.php>
Universities Worldwide, <http://univ.cc/>
WorldWide Volunteering (WWV), <http://www.worldwidevolunteering.org.uk>

Addresses

Embassy of Romania in the Republic of Ireland, 47 Ailesbury Road, Dublin 4
Tel: +353-1-269 2852

Alexandra Ioan Cuza University, Blvd. Carol I, Nr. 11, Iasi, 700506, Romania
Tel: +40 (232) 201000 URL: <http://www.uaic.ro>

Babes-Bolyai University, Mihail Kogalniceanu nr.1 RO, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Tel: +40 264 40 5300

British Council Education and Training Group, 10 Spring Gardens, London, SW1A 2BN
Tel: 020 7930 8466 URL: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/>

British Embassy Romania, 24 Jules Michelet Street, Sector 1 Bucharest
Tel: +4021 2017200 URL: <http://www.britishembassy.gov.uk/romania>

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and Bucharest, 2 Octavian Goga Blvd.,
Sector 3, Bucharest, Romania Tel: +4021 322 9535 URL: <http://www.ccir.ro/>

Department for Education and Skills (DfES), Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street,
London, SW1P 3BT Tel: 0870 000 2288 URL: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk>

How To Books Ltd, Head Office, 3 Newtec Place, Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RE
Tel: 01865 793806 URL: <http://www.howtobooks.co.uk>

IAESTE, British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London, SW1A 2BN Tel: 020 7389 4771
URL: <http://www.iaeste.org.uk>

Migratia Fortei de Munca, Valter Maracineanu nr. 1-3, etj. 4, sector 1, Bucuresti
Tel: +315 8844 URL: <http://www.omfm.ro>

Romanian Cultural Centre, 8th Floor, 54-62 Regent Street, London, UK, W1R 5PJ
Tel: 020 7439 4052 URL: <http://www.romanianculturalcentre.org.uk/>

Romanian Embassy (UK), 4 Palace Green, London, W8 4QD Tel: 020 7937 9667 URL:
<http://www.roemb.co.uk/>

Romanian Embassy in Washington, 1607 23rd Street NW, Washington DC 20008
Tel: +202 332 4846 URL: <http://www.roembus.org>

Romanian National Tourist Office, 83 Marylebone High Street, London, England,
W1M 3DE Tel: 020 7224 3692 URL: <http://www.turism.ro/>

UK Trade & Investment, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6SW
Tel: 020 7215 8000 URL: <http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk>

Vacation Work Publications, 9 Park End Street, Oxford, OX1 1HJ Tel: 01865 241978
URL: <http://www.vacationwork.co.uk>



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