

## HOW PEOPLE IN DESIGN GET WORK

Most opportunities in design do **not** come from job boards.

They come from:

- Strong portfolio (projects, case studies, real work)
- Internships and real-world experience
- Networking and referrals
- Specialization (graphic design, UX/UI, product, etc.)
- Freelance and client work
- Visibility on design platforms

A strong **portfolio + experience + relationships** is essential in design.

Job platforms can help—but they should support your efforts, not replace them.

Use them to:

- Find opportunities
- Learn what's out there
- Connect with clients, galleries, and employers

## START HERE (GENERAL TOOLS)

These platforms are useful across all industries:

- [CareerShift](#) – Job listings, company research, hiring contacts
- [LinkedIn \(BYU Alumni Network\)](#) – Connect with alumni and explore careers
- [Handshake](#) – Internships and entry-level jobs
- [Indeed](#) / [LinkedIn Jobs](#) – Broad job platforms

## DESIGN-SPECIFIC PLATFORMS

Designed for graphic, UX/UI, product, and visual designers:

### Portfolio + Exposure

- [Behance](#) – Industry-standard portfolio (Adobe)
- [Dribbble](#) – Design, UI/UX, illustration
- [Adobe Portfolio](#) – Simple portfolio hosting
- [Instagram](#) – Key tool for visibility

## Jobs + Internships

- [AIGA Design Jobs](#) – Graphic design roles
- [Coroflot](#) – Design jobs + portfolios
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#) & [Handshake](#)
- **Company websites** – Many hire directly

## Freelance + Client Work

- [Upwork](#) – Freelance design projects
- [Fiverr](#) – Commission-based services
- [99designs](#) – Design contests and clients
- [Freelancer](#) – Project-based work

## TIPS FOR USING THESE PLATFORMS

- Build a strong portfolio (3–6 high-quality projects)
- Show your process (research, sketches, final outcome)
- Be clear about your focus:
  - Graphic design, UX/UI, Product design, Branding / illustration
- Get at least 1–2 internships
- Tailor your portfolio to the jobs you want
- Post consistently and stay visible
- Reach out to designers and alumni

## COMMON MISTAKES

- Weak or incomplete portfolio
- Not showing process or case studies
- Trying to do everything instead of specializing
- Relying only on job applications
- Not gaining internship or client experience
- Not building relationships in the industry

## QUICK ACTION STEPS

1. Build or refine your portfolio (3–6 strong projects)
2. Choose a focus area (UX/UI, graphic, product, etc.)
3. Apply to internships and freelance opportunities
4. Connect with BYU alumni and designers
5. Post your work on 1–2 platforms (Behance, Dribbble)
6. Reach out and request informational interviews