

LIFE'S RICH TAPESTRY

careers **etc.**

An infinite number of job strands make up the Big Picture. We can't unravel the mystery, but we can find some threads for you. Here are four of the most unconnected jobs we could come up with...

Building Foundations

The construction industry is the single biggest industry in the UK, employing 1 in 9 of the working population. There's one very good way for young people to get involved: work a four day week and spend the fifth studying. It would take you five years to get a degree, your tuition fees would be paid and you'd get a decent salary too. Work experience can be taken as read. One of the main companies involved with this is Balfour Beatty Construction. It runs two schemes: engineering

trainees work as a site engineer, managing the engineering aspects of a construction site (technical solutions, dimensional control, health and safety and so on); and commercial management trainees manage the commercial and legal aspects of a construction site. Trainees can study Civil Engineering, Construction Management or Quantity Surveying. If construction is something you're interested in, why not find out more?

i Further information can be obtained at www.citb.co.uk

Sail Away

Cruise ships are the answer for some. If you want a job that will let you see the world, this is certainly a good one, although it will help if you like spending time at sea. There are short term opportunities available if you want to earn some cash and travel around a bit, but the cruise industry also has longer term opportunities if you want to build a career. Particular roles that need filling include Engineers and Navigational Officers, and there are special training schemes available.

To take P&O Princess Cruises ships as an example, you can start a 3 year cadetship immediately after A-levels or other relevant qualifications. You divide your time between college studies based in the UK, and sea phases (as they say in the business) on board various ships around the world. There's also a fast-track training programme if you hold an HNC/HND, Level 3 VQ or degree in Mechanical Engineering.

i Get more information from www.pocruses.com

Better Living Through Chemistry

There's a lot more goes on behind the counter of your local chemist than you might think. A whole industry in fact, and it's one that is attracting increasing numbers of recruits. Many of them are drawn by the chance of doing something that really could make a difference to someone else's life. As you'd expect, there are jobs in the labs for people with science backgrounds. This is all to do with the discovery and development of medicines, where you'll

learn that chemists, pharmacists and pharmacologists are by no means the same. But the pharmaceutical industry also offers opportunities in a range of other areas too, which include IT (it's as hi-tech as it gets), clinical trials (it's as much about statistics as chemicals), finance (what do you expect in a multi-billion pound industry?) and patenting (got to make sure no one can steal your discoveries).

i You'll find all of this and a lot more at www.abpi.co.uk

The Early Years

Children: a commodity that is unlikely to run out any time soon. In fact, opportunities in childcare have increased rapidly in the last few years. There is a lot more to working with children these days than having a good supply of nursery rhymes and limitless patience (although these still help). With the expansion of nursery facilities in shops and at work, and higher standards expected by parents who use nurseries, a more structured industry has now come into being.

Busy Bees are a good example of the modern approach to childcare. They run crèches for several major companies as well as their own nurseries, and the business is also concerned with related subjects, from publishing to legal advice. Childcare is specialised today, and there are training courses and qualifications at various levels. There are openings of all kinds. Experience is important – and, if you like children, rewarding to get.

i Get more information at www.busybees.com