

Creative Skills Adademy

Job profiles

These are profiles of possible career paths that can lead from our short course programmes. Each profile contains a description of the role and core duties, an indication of remuneration, the main skills and responsibilities required for each role and links to resources that contain further information.

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3D Artist and Animator

Job profile

3D artists and animators create three-dimensional models, animations, and visual effects for various media, including video games, films, television, and advertisements. This role requires a blend of artistic talent, technical skills, and creativity to bring characters, environments, and objects to life.

Levels and pay

Entry-level positions typically start at approximately £21,036, while experienced professionals can earn up to £70,000. Salaries can vary based on factors such as location, experience, and the specific industry.

Skills and responsibilities

- Strong artistic ability and technical proficiency.
- Troubleshooting technical issues.
- Attention to detail and effective communication skills are essential.
- Collaborating with team members.
- Knowledge of software such as Maya, Blender, ZBrush, or Unity/Unreal Engine. Applying texture and lighting effects to 3D models. Animate characters and objects for smooth, realistic motion.

Resources

1. [UK Screen Alliance](#) is a trade body representing film, TV, and animation companies, offering support and resources for 3D artists and animators.
2. [Animation UK](#) supports and promotes the UK animation industry, providing resources, networking opportunities, and advocacy for professionals in the field.
3. [Framestore](#) is an Academy Award-winning visual effects house.
4. [Screenskills](#) provide insights, career development and other opportunities to help people get into and progress within the industry.
5. [NextGen Skills Academy](#) offers Level 3 courses in Games, Animation and VFX skills developed in partnership with some of the biggest companies in these industries.

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Camera Trainee

Job profile

Camera trainees support the camera department and learn the basics of camera work. Their duties include preparing camera equipment, assisting with camera setup and operation during production, and helping with post-production wrap-up. They work closely with the second assistant camera, focus puller, and other camera department members, gradually taking on more responsibilities as they gain experience.

Levels and pay

Depending on the production camera trainee's salary can be based on a 5 or 6-day week, or a daily rate. Trainees can earn around £100 per day with those working on feature films earning more. They are usually self-employed.

Skills and responsibilities

- **Technical skills:** basic knowledge of camera equipment and willingness to learn more.
- **Preparing equipment:** getting the camera kit ready. Interest in photography composition, light, colour, focus, and storytelling.
- **Reliability:** punctuality and dependability on set.
- **Communication:** work well with crew members and write accurate camera reports.
- **Learning by watching:** observe and learn from experienced crew members.

Resources

1. [The Black and Blue](#) offers a list of 100 great resources for cinematographers, camera assistants, and film professionals. This extensive list includes job listings, industry news, blogs, forums, and more.
2. [Lens Notes](#) has a series on what an assistant camera should have in their kit. It covers essential items you might need once you're past your first few days on set.
3. [Production Base](#) has some excellent resources as well as key skills and pay information.
4. [Good Youth Employment Standards](#) features an article explaining more about the role of a camera operator and its main attributes.

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Costume Trainee

Job profile

A costume trainee supports the costume department by assisting with research, fittings, and maintaining costumes. Their duties include setting up workrooms, helping with costume fittings, dressing actors, and managing costume care. They work closely with the costume team and actors, gradually taking on more responsibilities as they gain experience.

Levels and pay

Starting salaries for costume trainees and assistant costume designers generally range between £18,000 and £25,000 per annum.

Skills and responsibilities

- **Attention to detail sewing:** ability to measure, cut fabrics, and sew by hand.
- **Costume history:** understanding of period costume and contemporary fashion.
- **Research:** assisting the costume designer with research.
- **Communication:** work well with actors and crew members.
- **Reliability:** be punctual and dependable.

Resources

1. [ScreenSkills](#) has some excellent resources as well as key skills and tools of the trade.
2. [My First Job in Film](#) is an illustrative guide including guidance on the main responsibilities of a costume trainee, entry into the profession qualities required and advice on securing a role.
3. [Get Into Theatre](#) includes a blog article on the career of a costume trainee, and this features main responsibilities, qualifications, skills and links to further information.
4. [StudioBinder](#) provides a detailed job description, duties, and salary information for costume designers.

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Hair and Make-up Artist

Job profile

A hair and make-up artist is responsible for creating the visual appearance of characters. Their duties include collaborating with directors to understand the visual style, breaking down scripts for hair and make-up needs, applying make-up and styling hair during production, and ensuring continuity. Key skills include technical proficiency, creativity, attention to detail, communication, and organisation.

Levels and pay

Trainees currently earn between £14 and £18 per hour or £160 per day. Salaries can increase up to £700 per day based on experience.

Skills and responsibilities

- **Interpretation and design:** Ability to interpret the script to design appropriate hair and makeup looks.
- **Script breakdown:** identifying requirements from the script.
- **Resource management:** determining the resources required to achieve the designs.
- **Application techniques:** proficiency in various hairstyles, makeup application, and colour theory.
- **Historical knowledge:** understanding of hair and makeup history to create periodappropriate looks

Resources

1. [ScreenSkills](#) offers a comprehensive overview of the role of a hair and makeup designer in film and TV drama, including the skills required and the process of breaking down a script for hair and makeup needs.
2. [NASMAH \(National Association of Screen Make-up and Hair\)](#) is a UK association providing information, guidance, and promoting high standards for professional makeup artists and hairdressers in media.

3. [Design Your Way](#) showcases a variety of makeup artist website design examples, which can be great for inspiration and ideas.
4. [Brushstroke](#) provides top tips for creative makeup and hair artists, including planning looks and understanding the materials and timing involved.

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Production Accountant

Job profile

Production accountants do everything regular accounts do, but they do it on film and TV sets! They assist with budget preparation and management, working closely with producers, directors, and other key production team members to ensure the production is delivered on time and within budget.

Levels and pay

As a production accountant, you will likely work on a freelance basis. The day rate for a production accountant is approximately £275. A good route is to start as a cashier and work your way up to an assistant accountant role before becoming a production accountant.

Skills and responsibilities

- Assist in budget preparation and oversee payments and payroll.
- Produce cost forecasts and financial statements.
- Ensure compliance with financial regulations.
- Manage cash flow for the production.
- Knowledge of accountancy principles.
- Collaboration with key members of the production team.
- Proficient with finance software and understanding of the industry.
- Effective communication, attention to detail, and discretion.

Resources

1. [Movie Magic Budgeting](#) is a globally-used, industry-standard software for high-end productions.
2. [Screenskills](#) job profile production accountant
3. [NFTS](#) diploma course, we equip you with the skills needed to become a successful production accountant. Ideally suited for those already working in a finance or accountancy role.
4. [Indeed](#) how to get production accountant Jobs.
5. [Careers in Film](#) help give you a deep understanding of what each film career is, how much money you can make, how to get started, and more.

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Production Co-ordinator

Job profile

A Production co-ordinator plays a crucial role in the smooth running of a production and works closely with the line producer, production managers, and heads of departments. They are essential for ensuring that all logistical aspects of a production run smoothly from start to finish, handling logistics, communication, and organisation.

Levels and pay

Pay can vary based on factors like experience, location, and the type of production. Rates for freelancers can range from £260 to £520 per day.

Skills and responsibilities

- **Organisation:** ability to plan, multi-task, and work calmly under pressure.
- **Communication:** effective teamwork and information sharing with heads of departments.
- **Problem-solving:** innovating solutions to unexpected issues.
- **Budgeting:** keeping records of spending and controlling costs.
- Setting up the production office, organising equipment, supplies, and staff.
- Coordinating travel, accommodation, work permits, and visas for cast and crew.
- Assisting the production manager with preparing updating, and distributing production materials to relevant team members.

Resources

1. [ScreenSkills](#) provide insights, career development and other opportunities to help people get into and progress within the industry.
2. [Backstage](#) offers a comprehensive guide on how to become a film or TV producer, including tips on spotting talent, writing, and getting a script produced.
3. [Production Guild](#) the Production Guild of Great Britain is the UK's leading membership organisation for those working in production.

4. [Robin Piree's Blog](#) offers a step-by-step guide for aspiring film producers, covering everything from understanding the role to producing your own films.

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Runner

Job profile

Runners are those on the front line of production and play a crucial role in all aspects of the production process. They're always ready to lend a hand and go to all measures to ensure production goes smoothly. This role is ideal for individuals looking to start a career in the film and TV industry, offering a unique insight into the production process and the chance to gain valuable experience.

Levels and pay

According to Bectu, the UK's media and entertainment trade union, the recommended minimum daily rates for runners range from £133 for short films (including student films and not-for-profit collaborations) to £217 for commercials.

Skills and responsibilities

- **Multitasking:** juggling various tasks efficiently and effectively.
- **Communication:** clear and concise interaction with team members.
- **Time management:** prioritising tasks to meet deadlines.
- **Problem-solving:** addressing issues promptly and creatively.
- **Adaptability:** adjusting to the dynamic environment of a film/TV set.
- **Communication:** runners often take messages, answer phones, and ensure that everyone on set is informed.
- **Logistics:** they may be involved in arranging travel, accommodation, and catering for the crew.
- **General assistance:** runners assist with setting up locations, carrying equipment, and other physical tasks as needed.

Resources

1. [ProductionBase](#) this site lists runner jobs in various sectors like TV, film, radio, and commercials. It's a great place to find entry-level positions.
2. [My First Job in Film](#) offers comprehensive career guides, CV clinics, and job listings specifically for those starting out in the film industry.
3. [Screenskills](#) provides career development resources and training opportunities tailored to the film and TV industry.
4. [National Careers Service](#) offers detailed information on the skills required, day-to-day tasks, and career progression for TV or film production runners.
5. [The Production Guild](#) features top tips and training videos for aspiring runners in film and TV drama.

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Set Decorator

Job profile

A set decorator plays a crucial role in creating the visual environment of a production. They collaborate with the director, production designer, and art director to understand the script and determine the visual requirements of a production and ensure continuity throughout filming.

Levels and pay

Levels include assistant set decorators and props buyers up to art directors. Most work freelance. BECTU (the Union for Creative Ambition) recommends rates for labourers starting at £228 per day.

Skills and responsibilities

- **Design and decoration:** selecting items to create the desired look and feel of a set.
- **Collaboration:** working closely with members of the production.
- **Historical knowledge:** researching different eras to dress sets authentically and accurately.
- Attention to detail
- **Budget management:** managing budgets, including buying, renting, or fabricating items.
- **Organisation:** breaking down scripts for set requirements, managing staff, schedules, and transport.
- **Technical skills:** knowledge of lighting, textiles, paint techniques, and construction practices.

Resources

1. [ScreenSkills](#) offers detailed job profiles, training programs, and career development resources specifically for set decorators in the film and TV drama industries.
2. [Filmbase UK](#) hosts events like the Set Decoration Summit, which provides networking opportunities, expert talks, and practical advice for set decoration professionals.
3. [The Decorators Forum UK](#) an online community where professional decorators share advice, tips, and industry news

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VFX Producer

Job profile

VFX producers manage the whole process of creating the VFX for film or TV. They make sure that the client, usually the film or TV series producer or director, is happy with what the VFX studio makes.

Levels and pay

A VFX Producer can earn between £49,000 - £73,000 depending on the type and location of the set.

Skills and responsibilities

- **Organisation:** planning and managing projects.
- **Leadership:** directing and leading a team.
- **Knowledge of VFX:** understanding all aspects of VFX pipelines and the software used by artists.
- **Project management:** Oversee the entire VFX creation process
- **Team coordination:** assemble and manage a team of VFX artists
- **Client liaison:** communicate with the film or TV series' producer or director

Resources

1. [ScreenSkills](#) highlights some really useful information, and the useful careers resource Creative Lives in Progress features biographies of professionals currently in the field.
2. [Miracalize](#) provides a comprehensive article on the responsibilities, skills, and working environment of a VFX Producer, along with insights into the VFX production process.
3. [VFX Cookbook](#) lists online platforms and communities where aspiring VFX artists can learn VFX techniques and gain practical experience for free.
4. [ActionVFX](#) shares resources such as free VFX stock footage and a beginner's guide to learning VFX at home.

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