Creative Arts

The creative industries offer a huge range of jobs and career paths including areas such as design, crafts, performing and visual arts with job titles such as Arts Administrator, Community Arts Worker, Fine Artist, Graphic Designer and Gallery Curator.

The sector is fast moving and can be highly competitive so it might take a while to get your career underway. Work experience is key and often starts with unpaid internships or voluntary work. Work experience is also crucial for making contacts and learning to network. You will need a proactive and determined approach to succeed in this sector. There are some large organisations that offer work experience and graduate roles but often speculative applications and direct approaches to more niche organisations can pay off.

Top tips for getting started in the industry include networking online through blogs and LinkedIn and in person at events, talks and openings. You can create your website or use websites like Hiive to showcase your work and make connections. Entering competitions is another way to get noticed and add experience to your CV.

The industry is made up of a lot of small companies and there are opportunities to become self-employed. You may find your income and working hours will be unpredictable and career progression may not be straightforward. Creative roles in a commercial area tend to be better paid. In spite of the challenges it is worth remembering that careers in the creative industries can be and varied and very exciting.

Key Resources

Arts Council
News and job opportunities across the art and culture sector

Arts Professional
News, jobs, training and events within the arts sector

Creative and Cultural Skills
Creative and Cultural Skills is the national training body for the creative sectors and covers craft, design, heritage, theatre and the visual arts. The Creative Choices section with job adverts and some useful careers advice

Arts Council of Wales
Has a useful section on advice for creative professionals and an Arts Directory section where jobs are advertised by other organisations

Creative Scotland
Includes a searchable section with job vacancies, residences, funding and volunteering throughout Scotland

Arts Hub
The jobs page requires a membership subscription but the careers section is open access and there is a ‘Call Outs’ page which advertises for artists, writers, performers and also awards and prizes

Access this page and more industries at reading.ac.uk/careers/resources

EXPLORE industry sectors
Arts Jobs Online
Advertises jobs in a range of different areas including libraries and archives, theatres, galleries and research

Local Government Jobs
Advertises jobs in local government and charity and voluntary organisations in sectors which include museums and galleries, leisure and tourism, education, community and arts and crafts

UK Theatre
Has a vacancies page as well as a section on the theatre industry to keep you up to date with developments in the sector

The Stage
Advertises a range of theatrical opportunities and castings with some useful advice for performers

Creative Opportunities
The University of the Arts London’s jobs and internships website, is open to public access and is particularly useful. The jobs board helps graduates and students find job and internship opportunities and connect with organisations and companies in the creative sector. There are paid internships, part-time work, freelance contracts and full-time opportunities

You may also be interested in...

- Advertising, Marketing and PR
- Libraries, Museums and Archives
- Media and Publishing