Fine Art

In 2015, the creative industries added new jobs at more than twice the UK economy average, up 5.1% (DCMS June 2016). Most fine art graduates will wish to work within the Creative Arts and Design sector. Others find opportunities in the Educational sector, and the Communication and Advertising sector. These roles may be in the public or private sectors of the economy.

Roles

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters and links to further, pre-assessed useful information.

- Fine Artist
- Community Arts Worker
- Art Therapist
- Museum, gallery and Exhibition Curator
- Arts Administrator
- Art Gallery Manager
- Secondary School Teacher

Finding Opportunities

The Creative industries have expanded considerably in recent years, at twice the rate of the general UK economy, with the result that the influence of art, design and media has grown and creative jobs can be found in all areas of business. However all jobs in the sector are keenly sought after so competition levels are high. For most of the roles described above some further postgraduate, and/or professional training and experience will be necessary. For some roles, for example museum and art gallery administration a good honours degree is generally the minimum academic entry requirement and a pre-entry postgraduate qualification is frequently a requirement. For the essential Teacher Training Courses, all the training options are explained here: Teacher Training.

Given that competition for entry into all these professions is strong so, as with most if not all occupations, work experience, internships, voluntary work and work shadowing is essential in helping you to decide not only on the work area that suits you, but also in obtaining a place on a post graduate training course, and finding employment. Many opportunities aren’t advertised so networking through contacts, department’s alumni/ae, Societies (links at the end of this sheet), and direct approaches to potential employers are crucial to cracking this hidden job market.

This approach is particularly important in this sector as many organisations are small, or are a group of self-employed individuals without the resources of large employers. Don’t neglect the possibility of approaching small organisations local to your home area with a suitably composed covering letter. Using your local media may also be useful as advertising nationally can be expensive for employers. See the Careers Centre’s information on Placements and other experience which has advice on how to go about this activity, and links to many useful vacancy sites.

Opportunities exist for Artists in Residence in a variety of settings. These may supported by bursary funds though others are paid-for opportunities. One really useful source is ArtQuest.

Both the Prospects website and the University’s Careers Centre carry details of many vacancies for work experience, internships and vacancies. See MyJobsOnline to track down opportunities.

It is essential for you to think creatively about how you will market yourself to potential employers. In the creative industries many media may be used in your applications and for constructing your curriculum vitae. The University for Creative Arts has a number of excellent resources. The University of the Arts in London also has extensive web pages on finding work, marketing yourself, self-employment and portfolio building.

Access this page and more options at reading.ac.uk/careers/resources
Here are some other useful links for researching opportunities:

- The Creative Skills Council has lots of relevant information.
- The Creative Arts University vacancies pages.
- The University of the Arts vacancy and jobs pages.
- The most comprehensive vacancy site for work in the museum and gallery sector.
- A-N.co.uk provides excellent subscriber online resources for all creative students.
- Sophie Macpherson is an employment agency for the arts industry.
- CCSkills.
- ArtsCouncil.

Further Reading

The following links are useful for exploring professional bodies, vacancies and general background to the work, especially useful to keep you up to date and as preparation for writing applications and interviews.

- UCreative has excellent pages for career information and vacancies.
- University of Creative Arts web pages specifically for Fine artists.
- Museums professional association.
- The Arts Council’s website.
- BlouinArtInfo Comprehensive arts news site.
- ArtsCultureMediaJobs a job site for all creative people.
- ArtReview: a well-known arts review magazine.
- CreativeScotland is the creative arts website for Scotland.
- The Arts Council of Wales.
- The Arts Council of Northern Ireland.
- ArtsProfessional: News and vacancy site.
- CreativeReview is a leading creative industry magazine.