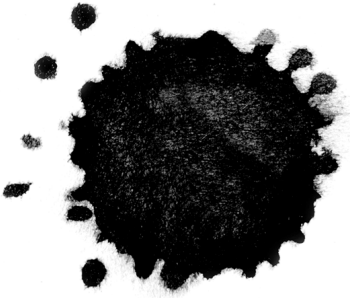


University of the  
Arts London \* \*  
\* \*  
\*



creative careers

working in film and TV

Creative Careers is part of Student Services  
at University of the Arts London

First Floor  
65 Davies St  
London W1K 5DA

tel: 020 7514 6150  
fax: 020 7514 6219  
textphone: 18001 0207 514 6150  
minicom: 020 7629 6371  
email: [careers@arts.ac.uk](mailto:careers@arts.ac.uk)  
website: [www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers](http://www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers)

# working in film & tv

## Where do I start?

Surprisingly few media jobs are advertised formally so you need to seek out companies that might have work available and contact them directly. It is important, therefore, to be able to identify companies, know who does what and whether that matches what you want to do.

## Where are opportunities advertised?

A good place to start looking is Creative Careers weekly vacancy bulletin Creative Opportunities at: [www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers](http://www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers)

Employers using the service are specifically targeting students and graduates of the University of the Arts London, which gives you a head start.

Useful publications for job vacancies:

- Media section of the Guardian
- The Stage
- Screen International
- Campaign
- PR Week
- Creative Review

Remember though that advertising jobs costs thousands of pounds so many vacancies are at a more senior level and require experience. Don't lose heart though as entry-level positions do come up.

Other options that you could try would be contacting the recruitment sections of TV companies like the BBC (0870 333 1330 or [www.bbc.co.uk/jobs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs)) and Channel 4; check the websites of companies like [www.startinTV.com](http://www.startinTV.com) who can also be contacted on 01531 650082, and [www.shootingpeople.org.uk](http://www.shootingpeople.org.uk) The website [www.broadcastfreelance.com](http://www.broadcastfreelance.com) launches its new work finding resource for registered TV freelancers in October 2005. Check out [www.mandy.com](http://www.mandy.com) for international opportunities in film and TV production.

Creative Careers can provide specialist help and support in planning your career. Visit [www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers](http://www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers) for more information

Alternatively, why not try to advertise yourself? Some websites offer CV databases and mini portfolio services for employers to search, such as [www.produxion.com](http://www.produxion.com)

## How can I improve my chances?

### Work experience

Previous work experience can make all the difference. It is often a crucial rung on the ladder to a media career. A placement or work experience position (e.g. as a runner) might not always seem to have a direct relevance to your 'dream job' in the media but such experience does highlight a level of dedication and commitment to your chosen field, which potential employers will certainly note. Two or three work experience placements while you are studying will give a good overview of jobs in the industry.

### Networking

Networking and building up your contacts is one of the main ways that you can start to gain some professional experience. Past students, Creative Careers, friends, tutors, work experience, launch events are all ways to build up your network of contacts. Attending industry trade shows such as the Broadcast Production Show and film showings can be a particularly good way to make new contacts. While you're still at college talk to tutors about your career plans, ask for help in finding professional contacts. After you leave college keep in touch with The University of the Arts Alumni Association: [www.arts.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.arts.ac.uk/alumni) Also look out for useful events in Creative Opportunities at [www.arts.ac.uk/students/careers](http://www.arts.ac.uk/students/careers)

### Multi-skill

If you want to work in film or television, it is useful to have some knowledge of the range of roles involved in production. Even if you are planning to specialise in a particular role, it is good to have an understanding of how each aspect of film and television production works and how different members of the crew contribute to the finished product from pre to post production.

### Be realistic

Entering into a career in the media industry often means entering at the bottom, as an assistant or runner. Being realistic about your chances of succeeding in your chosen field is essential in ensuring that you get the best out of your studies. The British Film Industry, for example, is fairly small compared to that of France, Japan and USA, and therefore cannot sustain a great number of full time jobs. With an average of 100 feature films made each year\* a job as a feature film cinematographer would be hard to come by. \*Stats from BFI website.

Some media students may be attracted by the idea of entering, ultimately, into what are perceived to be the more 'glamorous' fields such as producing, designing, and directing. Jobs in these fields are naturally scarcer than their supporting, less glamorous roles. For example for every one Music video director there must be gaffers, grips, lighting crews, production assistants, camera operators, assistant directors, accountants, caterers, and so on. These supporting roles make up the bulk of the industry.

### How should I market myself?

Along with your CV, your marketing pack should ideally include your own letterhead or logo, a business card, postcards of your work to leave behind and perhaps some slides of your work. In some areas of this industry you will be expected to create your own show reel or CD-ROMs. Keep show reels brief, ideally between 3- 6 mins. Always present your best work first. A running order is also advisable and a description of your contribution on the show reel. If you have

experience in more than one area then include relevant examples. Remember to clearly mark your name and contact details on everything!

Media employers will expect you to use all your flair and imagination to create text and images that really stand out. Keep your CV snappy, one or two pages at most. Remember that development of your portfolio and CV is ongoing throughout your career so unlikely to ever feel completely “finished”. It will always be work in progress, edited for each employer you see, according to their needs and interests.

## How do I make contacts in the industry?

### Promote yourself

Develop an effective marketing pack (see above) and always be ready to seize an opportunity. Awards and competitions are a great way of promoting your work and yourself. The Careers Service website [www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers](http://www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers) has information on such opportunities, as well as networking ideas, contacts and other self-development opportunities.

### Speculative approaches

With your new marketing kit and carefully researched media company details, why not get in touch with those companies where you think your work would really fit in? Remember to target your applications carefully and tailor what you send them, so that your application or letter really stands out. You want to avoid a situation where the company thinks they have been sent a standard letter that you have used for a mass mail out:

“A blanket approach immediately turns us off a client. We want to feel loved and special to candidates, not just one of many - especially if they aren’t even within the same sector”. *Major Recruitment Agency*

The Careers Centre has a number of relevant contact directories relating to media and broadcasting.

### Push your luck!

Other methods employed by media graduates include blagging entry to special events and clubs, hanging out in bars frequented by media employers and picking the brains of everyone you know for useful contacts.

Remember to do plenty of research into all the different roles within film & video so that you know what will be expected of you.

The resources below will help you with this.

## Further information

### **Art & Design – Career & Employment – Art Jobs**

[www.art.nmu.edu/department/AD\\_Career-Jobs.html](http://www.art.nmu.edu/department/AD_Career-Jobs.html)

International job markets.

### **Artsadvice**

[www.artsadvice.com](http://www.artsadvice.com)

Free advice from specialist Learning Advisers about careers and courses in the arts and entertainment industry.

### **BBC Jobs**

Careers, jobs & training at the BBC

### **BBC Talent**

Insider tips from professionals & your chance to become a new talent with the BBC

### **Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinema and Theatre Union (BECTU)**

[www.bectu.org.uk](http://www.bectu.org.uk)

Offers careers advice, news and links to broadcasters, film companies & theatres

### **Ideasfactory**

[www.ideasfactory.com](http://www.ideasfactory.com)

Launched by Channel 4 in association with Workthing, offers advice on funding, awards, vacancies and competitions to help you get a foot in the door.

### **Media Guardian**

[www.mediaguardian.co.uk](http://www.mediaguardian.co.uk)

Advertising; Marketing and PR; Broadcast; Press and Publishing; New Media news, reports and jobs

### **Media Week**

[www.mediaweek.co.uk](http://www.mediaweek.co.uk)

Online magazine with news from the media world and jobs.

### **Skillset**

[www.skillset.org.uk](http://www.skillset.org.uk)

Advice on breaking into the industry with excellent case studies and tips from employers.

### **The White Book**

[www.whitebook.co.uk](http://www.whitebook.co.uk)

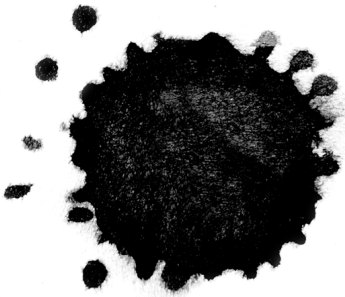
The White Book lists leading businesses in every sector of the industry.

Written and researched by Yvonne Halloran.

University of the Arts London  
– a creative constellation

Camberwell College of Arts  
Central Saint Martins College  
of Art and Design  
Chelsea College of Art and Design  
London College of Communication  
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[www.arts.ac.uk](http://www.arts.ac.uk)



The main purpose of our written material is to provide specialist careers information, that is not readily available elsewhere, for our students and recent graduates.

All eligible students and graduates are welcome to use Creative Careers. We provide a range of services from information, advice and guidance through to practical group workshops. To find out how we work with students and leavers at your college or how to contact us visit [www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers](http://www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers).

We aim to be disability friendly so do let us know of any particular requirements you may have. All our handouts and workshop materials are available in alternative formats on request. Please contact us to discuss your needs and how we can help. To make comments about this handout or suggestions for new ones we could produce, please email us at [careers@arts.ac.uk](mailto:careers@arts.ac.uk)

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