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Cover image: BA (Hons) Graphic Design, Camberwell College of Arts © Alys Tomlinson
Introduction

UAL is committed to helping its alumni to **make a living doing what you love**. This guide - produced for UAL graduates - aims to help you find your future career.

It is full of useful information and advice, including a detailed description of the services and events available to graduates. If you are unsure about which career direction to take, the section on Career Options will help you to explore ideas, by better understanding your interests, skills and motivations. At some point you will need a CV; our guide will give you some useful pointers to help you perfect yours.

The guide aims to help you target your research as industry sectors can vary enormously. Our useful insights and links will help you to explore the sectors that appeal to you and identify roles that fit your skills and interests.

You do not have to read this guide cover to cover, but refer to it as and when you need to. It will be helpful, regardless of whether you are considering: setting up your own business; looking for a role directly related to your studies; or looking for a change in direction. Whilst it won't provide you with everything you need to know, it's a good starting point and gateway to more detailed information.
How can we help?

Careers and Employability offers a wide range of services and hundreds of events that you can still access as a graduate.

Online Support

As a UAL graduate you can access tailored one-to-one support online. If you are struggling to secure the right role or are undecided about your future career, our confidential and impartial advice could help. We can support you by reviewing your CV, discussing your career ideas and options, and providing advice on applications and interviews. This service is designed to make you more confident in your job search and support you in your chosen career path. Email gradsupport@arts.ac.uk to start your career discussion.

Creative Opportunities

Creative Opportunities is UAL’s industry jobs board for students and graduates. The website advertises hundreds of jobs and paid internships each month, in creative and non-creative sectors (national and international). It’s free to register and apply for jobs and there are a wide variety of roles being advertised. All jobs pay the National Minimum Wage or higher.

Employability workshops

Employability workshops take place across UAL Colleges during term time. The practical events cover a range of subjects to help you to develop your skills and find work. Topics include: Strategies for Job Hunting; Skills for Interviews; Explore Your Career Ambitions and Developing your Portfolio.

Enterprise events and workshops

Our enterprise programme runs throughout the academic year. The events and workshops cover all you need to know about starting up a business or going freelance. Previous events have included: How to Freelance; Pricing and Selling Your Work; Working with Retailers and Promoting Yourself Online. We often bring in alumni and industry speakers to share their experiences. Join our mailing list to hear about what’s going on each term and go to: arts.ac.uk/students/student-careers/events-and-workshops

Creative Start-up Day

Creative Start-up Day is an intensive programme of events, talks and activities to help you turn your creative ideas into reality. Whether you want to launch your freelance career, social enterprise, artistic practice or digital start-up, there is something for you. The annual programme takes place during the Autumn term and events are free and open to all UAL students and alumni. Join our mailing list to hear about when tickets become available.

Futures Week

Futures Week is an inspiring week of industry led talks, empowering workshops, one-to-one advice and networking opportunities so you can create your own future in the creative industries. It will give you the skills, knowledge and motivation to fulfil your ambitions and create a future doing what your love! Events are free and open to all UAL students and alumni. Join our mailing list to hear about when tickets become available.

Creative Enterprise Awards

Creative Enterprise Awards are funding (up to £5000) and business support packages to help UAL students and graduates (within 2 years of graduating) to grow new business ideas and nurture enterprising
initiatives. UAL graduates often go on to launch exciting new creative businesses or social enterprises the funding and support will help them in their first steps.

arts.ac.uk/creative-enterprise-awards

Mead Fellowship Awards

Open to final year students and recent graduates, the Mead Awards are designed to help UAL students and alumni to develop their creative practice. You can apply with a proposal for any arts project that adds something new to your industry/discipline and has a positive impact on your own practice. Your arts project can be in any creative discipline studied at UAL. For more information take a look at arts.ac.uk/mead-fellowships

Freelance and business advice - online resources and one-to-ones

If you want to create a sustainable freelance practice or a successful business it’s important that you consider and plan all elements. How will you develop your business and find work? Will you work from home or a studio?

Self-promotion and marketing are vital for making sure people know about and buy from your business/service. Finally, knowing your rights and how to safeguard your artistic practice will help to make sure you get paid and receive credit for your ideas.

Take a look at arts.ac.uk/enterprise for online resources or email: enterprise@arts.ac.uk for tailored advice or to book a one-to-one with our Enterprise Practitioner.

Start-up Visa for international graduates

The Start-up Visa is for international students who have completed their degree course and wish to remain in the UK to develop a business. UAL endorses and sponsors up to 20 graduates for Start-up Visas each year. In order to be considered, you must have a viable, UK-based business idea and a plan to make it happen.

Any international graduate is eligible to apply, as long as they have been awarded a Bachelor, Masters or PhD degree from UAL. Applications can be made up to 2 years after graduation.

Your business should have the potential to add to the UK economy. You will be expected to demonstrate the entrepreneurial skills and commitment to develop the business. You can find more details online: www.arts.ac.uk/international-start-up-visa

Selling and exhibiting your work

not just a shop sells design products and artwork by UAL students and alumni. Products include a diverse range of home, fashion and giftware – from cards, stationery, bags and jewellery, to limited edition prints and one-off artworks. New products and artwork are sourced via open calls and students and graduates from all Colleges can apply. Visit arts.ac.uk/not-just-a-shop to submit your work for consideration.

Each year Careers and Employability presents a group stand of UAL student and graduate design businesses at Top Drawer trade show. The stand provides young businesses with the chance to sell their work wholesale and meet trade press and buyers at a heavily discounted rate. Top Drawer is the UK’s leading design-led trade show for gift and interior products. Selected businesses are also provided with training and support to make sure they are prepared for the experience. Take a look at arts.ac.uk/top-drawer for full details.
Graduated – what next?

Identifying your dream job can be straightforward for some and more challenging for others. Having completed your studies, you may well have secured some relevant experience and you are now ready to get that first role, commission or client. This guide will help you to increase your understanding of some of the key factors to help you transition into your career or plan for a successful career.

For those that are unsure about a future career, this guide will support you to identify and consider possible career paths and help you plan your next steps.

How will my degree help me get a job?

Your degree subject will open up a huge variety of career options. It is important to remember that your qualification has equipped you with technical skills, as well as many transferable skills that could lead to a variety of careers. Skills developed include:

- The capacity to set goals, manage workloads and meet deadlines.
- The ability to analyse information and experiences, formulate independent judgements and articulate reasoned arguments.
- Capable of negotiating, interacting effectively, in order to collaborate and work as part of a team work.
- Adept at articulating ideas and information clearly in written, oral and forms.
- Developed proficiency to communicate and present ideas and work, to audiences in a range of environments.

If you are considering looking for work outside of the creative industries, or are looking for a graduate scheme, it’s important to remember that many graduate roles advertised by large recruiters do not require a specific degree subject. Take a look at the links below to search for roles and employers, if you would like to explore career options outside of the creative sector:

prospects.ac.uk
targetjobs.co.uk
milkround.com
Identifying career options and ideas

Understanding yourself

In order to plan your next steps, you need to spend some time reflecting on your interests and skills. By knowing what interests you, recognising what skills you have and those that you need (by identifying the gaps), you will be better prepared to secure a role that is right for you.

In this section, you will have the opportunity to consider your interests and reflect on your skills, which will allow you to consider some of the careers available to you. Remember that these are simply suggestions based on your responses.

Which options will suit me?

Being unsure about the direction that you’d like your career to take is very common, it can also be confusing with such a variety of possible roles. It’s important to understand that there are many options open to you that you may not have already considered. In order to learn which options are available to you, start by understanding your own motivations, skills and interests. Take a look at the resources below to help you consider where your skills and interests could take you.

icould.com
Prospects planner
Humanmetrics

In addition to these activities you can also access the LinkedIn Alumni tool; it will allow you to see what previous graduates for your course are doing now. This tool may also help you to generate ideas and options, watch this short video which shows you how to use the tool.

What skills do I have?

When considering career options it is important reflect on the skills that you may need for specific careers, carry out an audit of your skills will allow you to identify your current personal and professional skills and experience. Take a few minutes to review your skills:

Are you:

- Determined and committed
- Commercially aware
- Detail oriented

Can you:

- Identify appropriate audiences
- Write press releases
- Take on board feedback
- Multitask
- Evaluate projects
- Write project proposals
- Experiment and test new ideas
- Use specialist creative software (e.g. Photoshop)
- Produce marketing and promotional materials
- Feedback to funders
- Curate shows
- Manage digital assets
- Produce exhibition graphics
- Document projects
- Organise exhibitions
- Manage tax and accounts
- Source materials
- Write funding applications
- Plan financially
- Negotiate sales/commissions
- Produce financial reports
- Build a website
- Create a portfolio
- Work with limited budgets
Now that you have completed the skills audit, are there some obvious gaps in your skills and experience? Can you think of any practical ways you can fill these gaps?

Remember that you do not need every skill listed, but if you are looking for roles that require particular skills, now is the time to consider how you could develop these. There are numerous ways that you can develop skills to help you fill the gaps, these include: online tools such as YouTube tutorials or short courses, having a mentor, work experience, job shadowing and internships.

**Creative Attributes Framework**

Building on this activity, take a look at the Creative Attributes Framework on the following page. It has been created by UAL to help articulate the qualities, behaviours and skills you develop through your career. Each attribute has a definition and an example.

Print out a copy of the framework and take some time to reflect on your own experiences. The framework will help you to demonstrate the skills that you have and consider how you might further develop others. It can be used as an **action plan** to help you identify some gaps and set goals. It can also be a resource to **record your experiences**, which can be referred to when making applications and preparing for interviews.
1. **Making things happen**

   - **Pr (Proactivity)**: The initiative, hard work and passion required to make things happen in society, the community, and the workplace.
   - **En (Enterprise)**: The mindset that takes measured risks, perceives and creates opportunities, and the resourcefulness to pursue them.
   - **Ag (Agility)**: The ability to embrace rapid change, adjust to new ways of working and retain an open mind.

   **Example**: I create opportunities to gain employment, such as applying for jobs and sending speculative applications.  
   **Example**: I ask contacts to refer me for opportunities of interest related to my area of practice.  
   **Example**: I maintain multiple professional identities, including with CVs and online profiles.

2. **Showcasing abilities**

   - **Cm (Communication)**: The skills needed to present yourself, work and ideas, to inspire others and respond to feedback.
   - **Cn (Connectivity)**: The ability to collaborate with others, create networks and develop and contribute to communities of practice.
   - **St (Storytelling)**: The ability to demonstrate your unique talents, abilities and experiences to others in an engaging manner.

   **Example**: I create portfolios demonstrating learning, development, creative outputs and achievements.  
   **Example**: I use platforms such as LinkedIn to develop professional networks.  
   **Example**: Prepare what to say in advance of presentations such as a pitch or job interview.

3. **Navigating change**

   - **Cu (Curiosity)**: The enthusiasm to seek out new perspectives and to create and build on existing knowledge.
   - **S-E (Self-efficacy)**: The awareness of and confidence in your own competencies, and the ability to respond positively to a variety of situations.
   - **Re (Resilience)**: The ability to adapt and remain motivated, overcome obstacles, and deal with ambiguity, uncertainty and rejection.

   **Example**: I research issues related to future professional life, such as communities of practice, creative sectors, etc.  
   **Example**: I critically reflect on my own attributes, skills, values and motivations.  
   **Example**: I navigate professional ambiguity and manage rejection from job applications and opportunities.
Understanding your sector

In the UK the TV, Film, radio, advertising, photography, digital creative industries (e.g. video games), music, galleries and museums form part of creative industries. Collectively, they have contributed over £100 billion to the UK economy in the most recent government figures.

One in eleven jobs is now based within the creative economy, this equates to over 3 million jobs across the UK.

Creative graduates enter a huge variety of careers, if a career related to your degree subject is your main goal, then make sure that you develop an awareness of the many roles linked to your area of interest. By undertaking some research you will begin to build a broader picture of the types of opportunities that interest you. You will also gain an understanding of what different roles involve and who the key recruiters are. Your research will also help you to become more aware of work allied to your chosen career, increasing your knowledge of alternative routes to enter the sector. The research should also raise your awareness of the variety of careers available to you.

Resources

Overview of the creative arts sector in the UK
thecreativeindustries.co.uk

Explore our sector guides for information relating to your field of interest.
Job hunting

Now you have narrowed your career preferences, by creating a list that you consider your preferred options, such as a top three. Before you start the search for your dream job, take a look at the sector guides to help you build up a picture of the types of jobs available in your field of interest. You can then start to consider preparing to make applications.

What is job hunting?

Job hunting is the process of actively seeking out new employment. It may include developing an action plan or schedule with targets and deadlines. It might also include networking, checking jobs boards, developing a professional profile and writing speculative applications.

Do:

- Reflect on your experience, attributes and key skills to date. Take time to plan a speculative career path based on research and your own motivations, strengths and aims.
- Establish a role or area of industry to focus on and get to know as much as you can about it.
- Make an action plan, i.e. short and long term goals with a series of practical tasks to do in order to get going.
- Be aware of your public profile and update your professional profiles regularly. Deactivate unused accounts.
- Develop a list of jobs boards to regularly check and key companies/organisations to ‘follow’.
- Research recruitment agencies that could help you find work in your target sectors.
- Use your time effectively and be selective about what you apply for. Research the company/role and your tailor application every time.
- Have a tiered approach with many scenarios (i.e. plan a, b, and c). Be ready to review and adapt.
- Keep a schedule or spreadsheet of applications, contacts and interviews and follow up applications or interactions via phone or email.

Career changers and mature students/graduates

All of the above is relevant to your job hunt, as a career changer or mature student/graduate. It is important to reflect on the numerous skills and experiences that you have already built up. Make sure that you sell the advantages of your prior experience, take a look at these articles by design week and by Prospects for more information.

Top tips

Be proactive, be visible

Join LinkedIn, create a website and use Eventbrite to seek out relevant events to connect to your industry and speak to potential employers if you get chance. Create Google alerts to help you to seek jobs, connect with and follow businesses on social media. Pick up the phone, ask questions and make speculative applications. Tell people you are on the lookout for opportunities.

Draft a script and know your ‘pitch’

Practice interviews and networking conversations with friends and colleagues. ‘Selling yourself’ is difficult and does not come naturally to most. Practice makes it easier.

Make it clear

Put yourself in their shoes. What can you bring to their team/business? Be specific. What do you know about them? How are you the best fit?

Avoid additional stress

Be honest with yourself and make realistic goals and timescales. You may have immediate needs that require attention before starting your job search or might not get your ‘dream job’ straight away, that’s OK.
Graduate level jobs

Having completed your degree you should be able to gain a job that requires a degree rather than one which a school leaver could do; this is known as a graduate level job.

Creating a job hunting plan will help you to focus on your search. It will help you to narrow and target your search, by recording your information you will save time by focusing on career preferences areas. Using dates and deadlines will help you work towards a timeframe to ensure that you are ready for your search.
Networking

Networking is an important way to get work, promote your business or service and build long term connections. First impressions are important in any industry, but particularly when you are selling a service or business idea. Through experience and practice you can build your confidence, which is key to making a positive first impression.

Networking at events

Networking events can be daunting, but it’s important to remember that everyone there is open to meeting new contacts. A confident tone, good body language and a positive expression will make you seem more approachable.

Be prepared

- Write and rehearse your “elevator pitch”. If you meet somebody influential you may only have one chance to impress them. Have a clear, short and interesting description of yourself, your business or idea prepared. It’s worth testing it out on your friends and family to make sure it hits the right note.
- Prepare 3 questions in advance that you can use to initiate conversation.
- If you are networking for business purposes always carry your business cards with you and give them out to anyone you talk to.
- If you meet somebody interesting - ask them for their business card (aim to collect 5 or more during an event).
- Bring examples of your work if it’s appropriate (this could be a digital portfolio on a phone/iPad).

Body language

Being mindful of your body language will help to ensure that you come across as confident, positive and proactive.

Here are some simple tips:

- Sit or stand up straight.
- Smile – this will help to put you and the people you speak to/approach at ease.
- Keep your arms and legs relaxed and try not to fidget.
- Try not to cross your arms as this can seem defensive or closed.
- Show that you’re interested and listening by occasionally nodding or responding appropriately.
- Keep to your own personal space.

Following up

- If you meet anyone who expresses an interest in you/your work at a networking event, make sure you follow-up with them quickly.
- If people gave you their business card, you may want to drop them an email e.g. I really enjoyed our conversation at the UAL networking event on Tuesday. I thought I’d follow up to send you a link to the project I was telling you about…
- It’s also worth connecting with people you meet online to enable you to keep in touch. LinkedIn is a good platform for this as it’s centred around employment, but you could also use other social media platforms.

Networking online

You can also approach prospective employers, collaborators and clients online. The key is to make sure that your approaches are personalised and clear.
LinkedIn is a great tool for seeking out relevant contacts at companies you’d like to work with. By searching for UAL alumni you can increase your awareness about the types of roles former students are undertaking, who their employers are, or whether they are working for themselves. You can request to ‘Connect’ with people easily through LinkedIn but personalise your intro message to increase your chances of getting a response e.g. I see that you graduated from the same course as me, I’m really interested in a career in photography and would be grateful for any advice. Alternatively it could something like, I saw your exhibition and wanted to connect with you as I am a curator…

The Dots is another online network especially for creative industry professionals. You can build a profile, follow and message other people, showcase your projects and apply for jobs through the platform.

Social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter are good ways to showcase your projects, seek out new work and collaborators, and build a community for your brand. Social media is also a great way to network and approach people in an informal way. Just remember to keep your personal and professional accounts separate (unless your personal life is central to your brand).

If you want to work with a particular company, establish who the most relevant contact is by researching their website or company LinkedIn profile. Once you know who the best contact is you can contact them by email. Draft personalised emails for everyone you make contact with and make sure you have something relevant to say; if you’re looking for work you might want to link to your online portfolio.

Struggle speaking with people at events? There is more to building a professional network than attending events. Find a way to connect with people that feels authentic. Stretch yourself by trying something new, whether that’s an email to someone, writing your first blog post, or picking up the phone to invite someone for coffee.

**Top Tips**

- Making speculative applications can be intensive and time consuming so making connections can boost your prospects. Lots of doors can open by talking to people and attending events.
- Be the proactive and generous person you would hope to meet.
- Put yourself in the path of opportunity. People won’t discover you if you don’t let them know what you do.
- Speak in a language people will understand and respond to.
- Tap into niche markets and network within specific group, including non-creative networks, this can do a lot of your work for you by spreading the word about you.
- Ask for help. The world is full of generous people, so don’t be afraid to ask, especially alumni from your course.
- The more you give the more you get back. Offer something and you’re more likely to get something back in return.
- Be realistic, nurture connections long-term rather than expecting them to pay off right now.

**Identifying your network**

Everybody has a network, take a look at the activity on the following page to help you identify some potential contacts. Consider all the places you may find contacts. Are you involved in sports, social or religious groups, volunteering and also consider people you met at school/college as well as friends and family.
Building a map of your community:

**STEP 1:**
Starting with the template, fill in the names of relevant people you know. It doesn’t matter if you haven’t seen them in a long time, if you’ve only met them once or twice or if you can’t remember their surname. Just get every contact you’ve made down on paper. Spend some time on this, it’s easy to forget who you’ve met over the years.

**STEP 2:**
Take a look at your completed community: how comfortable would you feel getting in touch with each person? Imagine picking up the phone, texting or emailing each person in turn to, for example, ask if you could buy them a coffee and pick their brains for 20 minutes. What about if you had an event to go to? Who from your list could you see yourself inviting along?

- If you’d feel fine about doing this: mark the name in **GREEN**
- If you wouldn’t really like the idea, but could probably steel yourself to go for it if you really thought it would help: mark the name in **YELLOW**
- If you just couldn’t do it, whatever you would gain: mark the name in **RED**

**STEP 3:**
Get in touch with at least two people in your community from the **GREEN** or **YELLOW** names. For example, next time you are going to an event, have some news to share or hear of something they would be interested in.
Your CV

Before applying to any roles, have a current CV ready. This should showcase your skills and will help you market yourself to prospective employers. It's important to tailor the CV for each role, highlighting the relevant skills for required for the role.

CV stands for Curriculum Vitae and is a factual document that acts as a summary of your experience, skills and education. It is used to formalise and showcase an individual's professional profile, usually in the context of applying for employment, work experience or other opportunities. It's about you but written for someone else - there is no standard CV and it should always be tailored for the recipient.

What is a CV?

Do

- Make sure your name is very visible.
- Include all relevant, up-to-date contact information (mobile number and a professional email).
- Include links to any online content you want an employer to see, such as LinkedIn, online portfolios, profiles, websites and social media if relevant.
- Double check your grammar and spelling.
- Arrange your experience in reverse chronological order.

Structure your CV

- Think about the hierarchy and layout of the information – what information would you like the reader to see first?
- Use concise bullet points to describe role responsibilities.
- Make sure you include a job title, company name, location and dates for each experience
- Use sections titles such as Profile, Key Skills, Education, Work Experience and others relevant to your discipline, such as Exhibitions, Publications, Awards.
- Try to keep it to one page, maximum two.
- Always write References Available on Request to ensure that referees are not inundated with requests.

Top tips:

Think about visual impact and branding
Is the look and feel of your CV consistent with your cover letter, portfolio and website?

Tailor every time
Analyse the job description/role carefully and make sure you match your skills to those in the person specification.

Be specific and use industry terminology
When describing your experience be concise and don’t repeat yourself. Describe transferable skills with reference to the role you’re applying for.

Use active verbs and non-generic language
Employers see a lot of CVs so articulate your skills with memorable, positive verbs e.g. organised, led or delivered. Consider that ‘Edited a magazine’ reads better than ‘was responsible for editing’.

Use examples
Demonstrating your suitability by providing evidence will help the reader decide whether you are right for the role. Ensure that you mention relevant key skills and responsibilities at the outset e.g. created social media posts that increased engagement with the brand by 20%.
Make equivalents clear

If you studied abroad or completed a course that is not recognisable from its title provide more details about it.

This guide is just a starting point, and you should continue to work on developing your CV so it works best for you.

Take a look at the template below to understand some of the key information that needs to be included:

NAME Surname

Location: London UK
Email: namesurname@gmail.com
Website: www.namesurname.com
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/namesurname

Profile
I am a student / graduate of UAL specialising in .... Skilled in .... with a strong interest in delivering ....
I have gained experience with x, y, z companies/start-ups/ collectives. I offer .... and my main goals are to ....
in the ..... industry/ business/ field.
(If you include a profile make it individual and tailored to the job, write no more than 3 lines here).

Education
MA/BA – Course name, college, country 2014 - 2017
Dissertation title or specific areas of research
Live brief with industry clients etc

BA/ A-levels – School, Country 2010 - 2014
Short Course (such as weekend or evening) Feb 2015

Professional Experience (Highlight responsibilities & achievements that show relevant skills & strengths)
Job title, Company name, City Location May 2016 – Feb 2017
• Organised x, y with z outcome
• Achieved x, y with z outcome
• Improved x, y with z outcome

Job title, Client Name, City Location (freelance) Jan 2015 – April 2016
• Researched x, y with z outcome
• Created x, y with z outcome
• Produced x, y with z outcome

Job title, Company name, City location (internship) June 2014 – Jan 2015
• Managed social media accounts increasing followers by 25%
• Designed print ready flyers, poster and brochures with new style
• Researched and designed visual concepts for marketing dept.

Job title, Organisation name, City location (volunteer) Oct 2013 – Sept 2014
• Supported x, y with z outcome
• Promoted x, y with z outcome

Awards, Exhibitions, Publications (or Memberships/Projects/ Competitions)
Exhibitions (solo/group), Gallery / Open studio, Location
Residency, Location
Article/ Essay, Publication, Issue/Volume Award, (shortlisted/ winner)

Skills
Letterpress
Copy-editing
Touch-typing
Market Research

Software
Adobe Illustrator
Adobe Photoshop
After Effects
Mailchimp

References available upon request
Remember that CVs may differ depending on job level and sectors in which you are looking for work. This means that they can look very different, research sites such as Pinterest to identify typical themes, layouts and styles.

If you graduated a couple of years ago, your employment history may be of more interest to the reader than what and where you studied, therefore give your relevant experience more prominence.

If you are interested in a career change, your skills may better reflect your suitability than your current or previous role. Therefore a skills based CV maybe the best option for you. See an example of a skills based CV on prospects.ac.uk.

If you are planning to work outside of the UK, remember CV guidelines will vary according to the country that you are applying within.
Writing covering letters

Top tips

A cover letter is a text that acts as the ‘cover’ of your job application. It is often your first point of contact with a potential employer. A cover letter personalises your application and highlights relevant areas of your CV. It usually appears in the body of an email or online application form with your CV attached.

Do:

- Include your name and all your relevant contact details.
- Address the hiring manager or the person who you’re sending the application to by name, where possible.
- Reference the specific role which you are applying for.
- Let the employer know what appeals to you about the role, look at the advert and mention some of the activities that particularly appeal. Try to demonstrate a passion for the role.
- Keep it to no more than 1 page.
- Tell them what appeals to you about the role, link it to your previous experiences (e.g. your course or internship).
- Do your research, show that you know their company, brand, organisation or business. Let the employer know why their business/company appeals to you. Why would you want to work there?
- Give solid, concrete reasons and examples of why you would be a great fit and should be considered for the role, use the job description/person specification as your guide.
- Make sure every sentence is a clear, concise statement.

Remember to:

- Use a professional and formal tone and check for errors. Highlight your skills mentioned in the job description.
- Use industry terminology and keywords.
- Thank the employer and indicate your wish for an interview.
- Put yourself in the shoes of the employer and think about what they really need to know, remove unnecessary words.

Useful links:

Prospects prospects.ac.uk
Video Guides - jobs.theguardian.com
National Careers Service nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
Academic cover letters jobs.ac.uk
Researcher cover letters jobs.ac.uk
Disclosing a disability prospects.ac.uk
Interviews

Well done for securing an interview, this shows that your application (CV/letter/application form) has sold your skills sufficiently for you to be invited to the next stage.

Interviews vary enormously, they are often dependant on the size and type of the organisation. A good interview is one that is well structured and gets the best out of a candidate. They can be face to face, over the phone or videoed/online.

Types of interviews

Increasingly employers use a variety of interview techniques, each has its own benefits and may reflect what is important to the employer.

- **Telephone interviews**
  These are usually conducted, when there is a large pool of candidates. It can save time and help to reduce the number of face to face interviews.

- **Competency based interviews**
  These are designed to allow you to give examples of skills (competencies) that the employer is looking for, see below for more details.

- **Skype/video interviews**
  These are increasingly common. Video interviews are usually used in the early stages of graduate recruitment schemes for large organisations. Skype interviews are very common as they allow the interviewer a similar experience to face to face interviews. This enables interviews to be conducted when participants are in different towns, cities or countries.

- **Panel interviews**
  This simply means that there is more than one interviewer, each interviewer will ask you a set of questions, each individual may focus on one aspect, such as your technical skills or your motivation for the role.

- **Strength based interviews**
  These types of interviews are becoming more common and often used by large employers, they focus on identifying your strength and assessing how successful you might be in the role.

- **Values based interviews**
  Values based questions will probably be used in conjunction with interview other questioning techniques. They have been devised in order to establish trustworthiness and integrity.

For more information about types of interviews please go to [prospects.ac.uk](http://prospects.ac.uk)

Preparing for interviews

Researching the employer, the job and the sector are vital. For example you may be applying for graphic design roles in a small agency, the NHS and a large international bank. The role and responsibilities are likely to vary in each of the organisations. Key areas to research are:

What does the role involve? What skills will you need to showcase?

Who is the employer? Who are their clients and who are their competitors?

It is almost certain that you will be asked why you are interested in the role (“Why do you want the job?”) and the organisation (“What appeals to you about our business?”)

Practicing for your interview is a great way to help combat some of the stress you might experience. By giving yourself the opportunity to answer questions under pressure you will be more prepared for the real event. Ask a friend to pose some questions, you could do this face to face, over the phone or by video, such as Skype.

Avoid over preparing your answers and rehearsing your responses, it will be obvious to the interviewer and may put them off.
During the Interview

Dealing with nerves, interviewers will expect you to be nervous. It is perfectly normal and can demonstrate that you are really keen to secure the role. If you feel overly nervous, take some deep breaths to help you to relax.

Body language is a vital component of a successful interview, how you look and conduct yourself is very important. If your nerves may make you fidget, this could be a distraction for the interviewers. Being aware of this will help you manage your body language, perhaps by placing your hands on your lap. Try to smile and look relaxed, even if you don’t feel relaxed. Typically you will be expected to shake hands at an interviews, if you do shake hands, make sure it is a firm handshake, as this gives the impression of confidence.

Dress for the occasion, for large employers dressing formally for an interview may be expected. Other organisations may have a different approach, it’s important to err on the side of caution if you are unsure. If the organisation is very informal, it’s still important to ensure that you are well presented.

Use the STAR technique to help you answer competency based questions. This a process of providing a detailed example of how and where you demonstrated a particular skill. Examples include: tell us about a time where your communication skills made a difference to a situation or can you tell us how you build relationships with other members of your team? Employers are looking for evidence of the skills that they are require, this technique helps you to answer these questions effectively. STAR stands for situation, task, action and result:

S Explain the situation or event.
T What was your task? What needed to be done and why?
A What specific actions did you take to overcome the difficulty or achieve the goal?
R What was the result? What did you learn? How was this evidenced?

Take a look at prospects.ac.uk and targetjobs.co.uk for more tips and examples of how you might approach particular interview questions.
Employment outside the UK

Many UAL graduates look for employment opportunities outside of the UK, this may be because you are returning to your home country or because you are exploring career options elsewhere. It’s important to undertake thorough research to establish where and how many opportunities there may be in your chosen career path. Consider that you may need to be flexible about the location and the type of role you undertake.

Also appreciate that there will be local customs and ways of working that you may be unfamiliar with. Working and recruitment practices vary from country to country. In some countries jobs may not be widely advertised and often shared through informal networks, being prepared for this is very important.

Remember that language skills may be a prerequisite for certain industries/countries/roles. Understanding the variations will help prepare you for the job market.

Take a look at the resources below to build a picture of recruitment practices in different countries.

Resources
www.prospects.ac.uk/working-abroad
targetjobs.co.uk/working-abroad

Where to look for roles

Once you have decided which career areas interest you (and understand what you need to do secure work in that area), you should plan to get some experience or find relevant opportunities. Gaining relevant experience will boost your chances of securing the roles that interest you or to build up a portfolio of experience. Take a look at UAL’s Creative Opportunities jobs board for a current list opportunities. Refer to our sector guides for details of relevant recruitment sites.

LinkedIn is also a great source of vacancies - advertised roles include fashion styling, graphic design, photography, interior design, 3D animators and prop design to name a few.

Using your network

Whatever career option/path you intend to pursue, it is helpful to hear from others with relevant experience. Your network consists of everyone you know, and those that you know through your network. This could be that your neighbour’s mum works in graphic design and may be to offer you some insights into the job and their employer.

Take a look at LinkedIn to identify UAL graduates that may be able to offer you some support. This could be to identify contacts, point you in the right direction in terms of opportunities or provide advice and information relating to career options.

This is general advice as the sector profile guides will have more detailed information relating to specific sectors.
Self-employment/freelancing

Many UAL graduates go on and work on a freelance or self-employed basis, some will have multiple income streams. If this a path that you are considering, being flexible is crucial.

What is freelancing?

Freelancing often means working on short term projects for clients who pay for your time to complete set work, examples include writing content for a website or designing a leaflet. Freelancing falls under the wider term of self-employment, but has some differences. Some descriptions refer to the ‘loanning’ of your skills, this may frequently be to multiple clients/customers, undertaking roles to plug a gap. It is possible to freelance full time, but if you are starting out you may consider having a fixed role elsewhere in order to build up your experience and client base.

Freelancers will probably be paid according to a daily or project rate (determined by the amount of time/resources it is expected to take).

When freelancing you’re not employed by the company/individual that you are undertaking some work for, so you will not usually benefit from the perks offered by a company to its regular staff. You will not be entitled to sick or holiday pay. You are also liable to pay all tax and National Insurance contributions.

There are numerous advantages to freelancing including; setting the schedule and manage your work/life balance; writing your own job description; and deciding what clients to work for.

What is self-employment?

If you are self-employed you will be selling goods or services to your customers/clients. The types of goods or services vary enormously, examples may include one of the following categories:

- **Design/creative services** – web design, graphic design, branding, scriptwriting, video editing.
- **Products** – anything you make or manufacture and sell on to retailers, buyers or direct to customers.
- **Licensing your designs** – selling a design, illustration or pattern to a company who will manufacture the product themselves and pay you either a design fee or royalties.
- **Passive income** – blog posts, digital products such as e-books, self-publishing, online courses etc.
- **Teaching/workshop facilitation.**
- **Funding** – for research, exhibitions, residencies etc.
- **Sub-contracting** – offering services outside of your skill set as part of a package and including a commission in your costing.
- **Consultancy/coaching** – offering advice rather than delivering work.

There are a few different types of self-employment, these include: being a sole trader, being in partnership with at least one other person, and setting up a limited company. You may also be considering running a social enterprise or creating a community interest company. It’s possible to be both employed by someone, whilst also being self-employed.

You can register and access lots of useful information and advice on the different types of self-employment on the [HMRC website](https://www.hmrc.gov.uk) or alternatively you can call the self-assessment helpline on 0300 200 3310.

Multiple income streams

Without the security of a full time job and salary, many freelancers adopt the approach of having multiple income streams. Sometimes referred to as slasher, multi-hyphenate or previously portfolio careers, it means being paid to do a variety of things. For example you may be a graphic designer, arts educator and motion graphic designer. This is a way of working that can provide freelancers with a more stable and secure income and a more diverse working life. Gone are the days where you are either expected or able to pick a job for life. Slashers or multi-hyphenates are now much more accepted and, in fact, often more
desirable as they are able of offer additional skills or services. People are inherently multi-dimensional and as a creative there is no reason your career should not reflect that.

**Side hustle**

Some freelancers adopt the approach of a full or part time job and build up their freelance work alongside. This is often referred to as a side hustle and is a good way of starting out or testing the water without too much risk. Your side hustle may become your main hustle or for some it may just be something that consistently runs alongside employment. Creative graduates frequently work in this way, so that there are able to establish or sustain their practice. 69% of artists make money outside of their practice to help pay for living expenses such as rent and bills. Artists may work in roles within galleries, teaching or technician work, or in unrelated roles.

**Self-employment tips**

Whichever option you take, you will be subject to the taxation system of the UK (tax and National Insurance), or the country in which you are residing in. There are several factors to consider when deciding which option to take.

- **Price your work or daily rate**
  Work out how much you will charge for your products (wholesale and retail) or services on an hourly or daily basis.

- **Promote your products or services**
  - Create a website and social media accounts to promote yourself.
  - Set up a client contact list.

- **Clients**
  - Have a variety of long term and one-off clients; one-off clients can be good for quick cash injection. Do not rely on one big client, you will need other sources of income to stay afloat.

- **Manage your accounts**
  Set up a new bank account to keep your work and personal finances separate. If necessary look for accounting software.

- **Inform HMRC and pay National Insurance**
  As self-employed you are required to submit an annual tax return to HMRC, stating how much income you have made and what your expenses are. You will also need to pay National Insurance contributions. You will need to register as self employed by 5 October in your second year of trading.

- **Get insurance**
  As a freelancer you will need public liability insurance and some clients will ask to see proof of your policy. If you are giving advice you will also need professional indemnity insurance in case anything goes wrong.

- **Business plan**
  A business plan is not always necessary and many businesses grow and thrive organically without one. However if you need external funding, you will need a business plan.

- **Manage you Intellectual Property (IP)**
  Owning and managing your intellectual property is an important part of a creative business.

**Resources**

- How to set up as a sole trader
- Setting up business partnership
- Setting up a limited company
- prospecs.ac.uk/self employment
- Exhibit and sell your work
- startupdonut.co.uk
- fsb.org.uk/writing-a-business-plan

Exhibit and sell your work
Intellectual Property

Legally intellectual property, also known as IP, exists to help you manage and protect the way your work is represented and enjoyed. It strikes a balance between making sure you are recognised for your contribution to society and equally represents the interests of society to benefit from your work.

- IP protects creative works (copyright), the design or look of your product (design rights), brand identity, reputation (trademarks), inventions, the way things work (patents).
- IP does not protect ideas. They have to be ‘fixed’ in some way. e.g. a sound recording, a digital file. Different types of IP last for different amounts of time. Copyright (life of creator + 70 years), Trademarks (10 years), Design rights (25 years), Patents (20 years) when registered. Automatic rights (no registration) applies to copyright works and unregistered design rights.
- Copyright generally protects: Artistic, Literary, Musical, Dramatic, Films, Sound Recordings, Broadcasts and published Typographical Arrangements.
- People can jointly own IP and one person can own more than one type of IP. Always make an agreement in writing.
- IP is owned by the creator unless created whilst employed, in which case it belongs to the employer.

Top tips

Know your value
IP is your personal currency. It allows you to transform your creative ideas into ways to inspire, invest and make an impact. When working with and influencing others, remember that they should value you as much as you value them.

Know your legal rights
IP is a set of exclusive legal rights. Unless otherwise agreed in a contract, they belong to you as a creative and/or inventor.

Protect your rights
IP does not protect ideas alone, but expressions of an idea. Keep all your sketches, files, renders, photos, models, prototypes and name and date them. If necessary register your work (trademarks, design rights, patents). Use a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) if you need to share your idea before registration.

Manage your rights
IP is like owning physical property. You legally own it. You can sell it (Assign) give it away (Waive) or rent (License) it to someone else.

Respect your rights, and the rights of others
Always use a © credit line (for copyright works) and date to enforce your rights. Equally always attribute others who you work with, have inspired you or have given you permission to use their work. If in doubt, seek legal advice.

Resources

creativeip.org
Business legal advice
Graduates with a disability or health condition

If you have a disability or health condition and are now looking for work, this guide will help you to develop an understanding of how to make good applications, where to look for work or how to set up your own practice/business.

In the UK many organisations actively recruit students and graduates from a diverse range of backgrounds. This is because they recognise that diversity brings many benefits, including different experiences and skills.

If you have a disability or health condition, this section will help you to navigate through the information about job hunting and making career decisions. This section of the guide should help you focus on what you can bring to roles and help you consider some of the challenges you may experience.

Some disabilities and health conditions may present some challenges, particularly for smaller organisations that may not have the resources to combat the lack of knowledge or understanding in their work force. It’s also important not to dismiss roles and opportunities because you think that a disability will be a disadvantage. It’s essential be aware of these issues, it should not prevent you from making applications.

Deciding on a career

Having a disability will not exclude you from most careers, so it’s very important to research your career interests thoroughly before ruling anything out.

Careers in the creative industries may present other challenges which might include irregular work, long hours, perhaps working away from home. Take a look at the sector guides to start your research into career options that are linked to your areas of interest.

Using some of the tools in the Understanding Yourself section of the guide to help consider your skills, interests and motivations to help you identify some career ideas.

Declaring a disability

Deciding on whether to declare a disability or health condition is a personal choice when applying for work is an individual’s choice.

Should I declare?

There are many factors which contribute to deciding whether to declare a disability or health condition. You can declare your disability at any point of the application process. You maybe obliged to declare your disability/health condition on medical questionnaires provided by employers if it impacts the job. Employers are not allowed to ask questions about your health if they are not relevant to the job.

Deciding to declare a disability or health condition may present concerns around possible discrimination. Also, some individuals may feel that their specific disability or health condition does not impact their work.

Advantages of declaring

If your CV has many of gaps, declaring your disability or health condition will allow you to explain these to a prospective employer.

If you have declared your disability or health condition you will have greater protection under Equality Act.

Disability Rights UK list the following as possible advantages:

- Some employers are keen to employ disabled people
- It could provide an opportunity to talk about yourself positively
- Adjustments can be put in place earlier
- You might build a better working relationship
Ultimately, the decision whether/when to declare has to be made by you, you should do this after considering all factors and deciding what is right for you.

**When is the right time?**

The extract below from [Remploy](https://www.remploy.org) provides helpful advice about declaring your disability or health condition at various stages.

**Application stage** - mention it, if it will affect the role you are applying for

**Pre-interview stage** - if your disability means that you need some adjustments, then let the employer know as soon as you can

**In the job** - you may decide to disclose your disability once you've been offered the job or when you start work. You can decide who to tell, your manager or HR and you can also request that colleagues aren't told. If your condition affects the way you work, it may be helpful to be open with colleagues so they understand and can help you with anything you may need.

Don't assume they'll have a negative attitude. Your experiences and skills may give you the edge over other individuals.

Avoid focusing the whole of your application or interview on the issue of your disability.

Your main focus should be on showing the employer your suitability for the job.

**Things to consider when declaring a disability**

As mentioned above, when discussing your disability or health condition, avoid being negative. Instead focus on the things you can do.

Once you have declared your disability you are protected by the Equality Act, which makes it unlawful for an employer to discriminate against you.

**Reasonable adjustments**

Disclosing your disability at work makes you eligible for support and reasonable adjustments.

Reasonable adjustments can be defined as adjustments to usual conditions in order to make premises, jobs, education, services, etc accessible to people with disabilities.

Examples of reasonable adjustments include - based on [gov.uk](https):

- changing the recruitment process so a candidate can be considered for a job
- doing things another way, such as allowing someone with social anxiety disorder to have their own desk instead of hot-desking
- making physical changes to the workplace, like installing a ramp for a wheelchair user or an audio-visual fire alarm for a deaf person
- letting a disabled person work somewhere else, such as on the ground floor for a wheelchair user
- changing their equipment, for instance providing a special keyboard if they have arthritis
- allowing employees who become disabled to make a phased return to work, including flexible hours or part-time working
- offering employees training opportunities, recreation and refreshment facilities
Access to work is a scheme offered by the government to support disabled people to take up employment and to remain in work. Those eligible should be:

- in paid employment
- self-employed
- apprentices
- trainees
- supported interns
- doing self-directed work experience
- on Jobcentre plus promoted work trials
- going to a job interview

**Self-employment**

If you decide to become a freelancer or set up self-employed (see for explanation of the differences on page 23), some of the opportunities available to individuals include:

- Developing options allied to your career interests, practice and skills.
- Creating a career path, progression and development which may be harder to achieve using other routes.
- Providing opportunities where you have more ownership over the timing, location and control of employment that meet your specific requirements
- Allowing you to enhance your community engagement whilst providing services in your local community.
- Improving health and independence through the increase of economic and social engagement. Which could lead to better developed community connectedness, skills, and knowledge.

For full details of this scheme go to disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work

**Resources**

Read about what UAL alumnus, Iddo Gruengard is doing now.

**Access Advice:**

- [Disability Rights UK: telling people you are disabled clear and easy guide for students](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work)
- [Access docs for Artists: Templates, examples and institutional feedback](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work)
- [Ecologies of Care: Toolkit and information, access documents](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work)
- [Sisters of Frida: Bringing disabled women together through lived experiences](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work)
- [Disability Law Service: free legal advice](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work)
- [Personal Independence Payments](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work): a fund replacing Disability Living Allowance

**Self Employment Useful Links**

- [British Association of Supported Employment](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work) - self employment info and case studies.
- [Mutually Inclusive self employment toolkits](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work) - general self employment info and toolkits.
- [Turn 2 us](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work) - self employment and benefits guide.
- [New Enterprise Allowance](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work) - mentoring and allowance to develop or set up a new business idea.
- [SCOPE](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work) - pro’s and con’s, reasonable adjustments and resources.
- [Disability Grants](disabilityrightsuk.org/access-work) - search engine to help you find the right source of funding.
● **MiEnterprise** - online hubs (Facebook / Linkedin) and mutual support groups.
● **Disabled Entrepreneurs' Network (DEN)** - online network, resources and links.

**Other Workplace Support**

● **Exceptional Individuals** - employment partnership for dyslexic and neurodivergent people.
● **Into Work** - help disabled people find, build and maintain great jobs.
● **Remploy** - a leading provider of specialist employment and skills support for disabled people and those with health conditions.
● **Employ-ability** - opportunities for disabled and dyslexic students and graduates.
● **MyPlus Students’ Club** - offers specialist careers advice to disabled students or those with long term health condition.
● **Change 100** - brings together the UK’s top employers and talented disabled students and graduates to offer three months of paid work experience.

**Creative and Cultural Support**

● **Shape Arts** - provides opportunities and support for disabled artists and cultural organisations to build a more inclusive and representative cultural sector.
● **Unlimited** - an arts commissioning programme that enables new work by disabled artists to reach UK and international audiences.
● **Disability Arts Online** - are an organisation led by disabled people, set up to advance disability arts and culture through the pages of our journal.
● **Adam Reynolds Memorial Bursary** - set up in memory of sculptor Adam Reynolds to support mid-career disabled artists.
● **The National Disability Arts Collection and Archive** - a project that brings to life the heritage and rich history of the UK Disability Arts Movement.
● **outsidein.org.uk** - aims to provide a platform for artists who face significant barriers to the art world

**Additional Resources:**

● **Doing Careers Differently** – A useful guide for every stage of your career, whether you are starting out or looking for a career change.
● **Reasonable adjustments disability passports, TUC Disabled Workers Committee, 2018.**
● **bdadyslexia.org.uk** - British Dyslexia Association
● **dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk** - Dyspraxia Foundation
● **lexxic.com** - Lexxic Information and resources on Neurodiversity Conditions.
● **mathematicalbrain.com** - The Mathematical Brain (Professor Brian Butterworth)
● **autism.org.uk** - National Autistic Society
● **tourettes-action.org.uk** – Tourettes Action
● **arts council.org.uk** – Making a shift

**Disability led artist organisations**

Across the country there are organisations supporting disabled artists. There are opportunities for training, securing work, getting involved in projects and residencies (to name a few). Take a look at this link to find details of organisations in the UK and beyond [disabilityartsinternational.org](http://disabilityartsinternational.org)
Sector Profiles

Careers in Architecture, Interior and Spatial Design
Careers in Fashion and Textiles
Careers in the Film Industry
Careers in the Gaming Industry
Careers in Journalism, Writing and Publishing
Careers in Industrial / Product / Furniture / Jewellery / Ceramic Design, (3D Effects)
Careers in Theatre
Careers in Television
Careers in the Visual Arts
Careers in Visual Communications - Graphics, Illustration, Media, Animation & Photography
Careers in Architecture, Interior and Spatial Design

Careers in this arena are diverse but will require a combination of technical, creative and soft skills. Roles are typically offered in a variety of sectors including: commercial, residential, hospitality and construction to name a few.

Sector overview

In recent years it has become apparent that architects are in short supply, this has led to the Government adding the role to the Shortage Occupation List, which will open up opportunities to architects from around the world.

Spatial and interior designer roles are available across the UK, the number of roles available is often linked to the construction projects taking place in specific locations.

Job titles in the field

- Architect
- Interior and spatial designer
- Architectural technologist
- CAD technician
- Exhibition designer
- Urban designer
- Production designer - theatre, TV and film
- Graphic designer

Where are the roles based:

Roles are based across the UK, in 2015, London’s architecture sector employed around 22,800 people. Twenty-five percent of architect related occupations in the UK are based in London.

Specialist consultancies are mostly based in London and the South East. Most roles are undertaken in studios, self-employed designers may work from home or in rented spaces.

Where to find work/training schemes/work experience

- architectsjournaljobs.com
- careersinconstruction.com
- jobs.architecture.com
- designdirectory.co.uk
- adremgroup.com
- bd4jobs.com
- justengineers.net
- biid.org.uk/jobs

Stories from our alumni:

UAL graduates that have studied Architecture, Interior and/or Spatial Design have entered a wide variety of roles. These include Assistant Architect, Part 1 Architect, Architectural Designer, Designer/CAD Technician, Freelance Interior Designer, Architect's Assistant, Interior Design Intern, Freelance Space Designer, Interior Design Assistant, 3d Designer and Social Media Intern.

Some of the employers have included Three Dogs Studio, Dawson Design Associates, AMD Interior Architecture, Haverstock, Conran and Partners, Levitate, Woods and Partners and Natalie Leiwy Architects. Some graduates are freelancing.

Below are some stories from UAL alumni working in this sector:

Gwendoline Porte
Anna Koroleva
Resources
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists - ciat.org.uk
RIBA – Royal Institute for British Architects - architecture.com
architectsjournal.co.uk
How to Become an Interior Designer – advice for UAL students and graduates
London's Architecture Sector – Report by GLA Economics
British Institute of Interior Design biid.org.uk
**Careers in Fashion and Textiles**

Fashion and Textiles are major industries in the UK, with roles ranging from design, production, textile design, buying and merchandising to name a few. Whether you are interested in working in *haute couture*, with recognisable high street brands such as Topshop and H&M or a new start-up brand, fashion remains a thriving industry to build a career in.

**Sector overview**

The sector contributes over £32 billion to the economy, creating over 800,000 jobs. The UK is also the 15th largest textile manufacturer in the world, continuing to be synonymous with heritage and quality.

Due to the competitive nature of the industry, relevant work experience is a necessity. Industry internships are a great way to develop skills and knowledge, as well as to make industry contacts and build a personal network.

Working freelance is another option, which means you can work for a wide variety of brands and people, adding real depth and experience to your CV. However, it’s vital to build a strong portfolio to showcase your work and to develop industry relationships, word of mouth and recommendations will be advantageous for ongoing freelance work.

**Job Titles in this field**

A range of job titles are available in this field including:

- Garment technologist
- Fashion designer
- Fashion stylist
- Textile designer
- Product manager
- Pattern cutter
- Trend forecaster
- Fashion buyer
- Fashion merchandiser

**Where are the roles based?**

UK Fashion has an international outlook and originality, making it one of the most influential fashion hubs in the world. Employment opportunities are available both locally and internationally. Roles can be found with global brands, fashion houses, SME’s, manufacturers and everything in between.

**Where to find work/training schemes/work experience**

Opportunities will be advertised on generic job boards such as Indeed and Reed, but it is also recommended to look at Fashion/Textile specific job boards including:

- fashionworkie.com
- fashionunited.uk
- uk.fashionjobs.com
- drapersjobs.com/jobs
- retailchoice.com
- businessoffashion.com
- fashionpersonnel.co.uk
- www.fsrl.co.uk
- textileinstitute.org

LinkedIn is also a great way to find opportunities so it’s useful to keep your LinkedIn profile up to date. Social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are becoming an increasingly popular method for employers to promote job vacancies. Larger employers often have dedicated Twitter handles for their vacancies so make sure to ‘follow’ your brands of interest.
Stories from our alumni:

UAL graduates have gone onto secure a range of roles in the fashion/textile industry including Junior Garment Technologist, Freelance Fashion Blogger, Press Officer, Junior Art Director, Workroom Assistant, Design Room Assistant, Textile Technician, Print Room and Dye Lab Technician, Junior Designer, Footwear Designer, Menswear Design Assistant and Accessory Design Intern. Many graduates have set up their own businesses, are working freelance or for employers such as Zara, Victoria Beckham, Topman, Dr Martin’s, Hill House Interiors and London Cloth Company.

Below are some stories from UAL alumni.

Aly Tobin - Assistant Footwear Designer, Stella McCartney
Jade Gellard - Garment Technologist, Playful Promises
Leanne Claxton – Freelance (Textiles)
Patrice Morgan – Owner, Bermuda Born
Charlie Craggs – Founder Nailtransphobia

Resources

targetjobs.co.uk
www.prospects.ac.uk
businessoffashion.com
thecreativeindustries.co.uk
fashionpersonnel.co.uk
textileinstitute.org
Careers in the Film Industry

The film industry has a massive appeal because of the creativity, glitz and glamour associated with it. The reality maybe quite different, with working long or unsociable hours. Roles may last for weeks or months, or maybe for just a few days depending on the project.

Sector overview

The sector is very broad and offers roles in varied careers, in technical, creative and business arenas. When you think about the film industry, it may conjure up images of Hollywood. However, the sector can also include short films and music videos.

In the UK there are over 14,000 film and video production companies in the UK. In 2018 the industry generated a revenue of £3.37bn. This is made up independent and studio productions.

As well as financial success, British talent has frequently been recognised during the awards season, with accolades for acting, screen writing and costume design amongst others.

Job titles in this field

There are hundreds of occupations associated with the film industry from the obvious such as, directors, actors, producers to prop makers as well as, post production roles. Roles extend to include business operations such as the finance, marketing and distribution functions.

Sound technician
Lighting technician
Casting director
Actor
Makeup artist
Film director
Animator
Director of photography/cinematographer
Producer
Runner
Location manager

Where are the roles based?

Depending on the type of work you opt for the roles can be based anywhere in the country or the world, so it is important to consider the impact of this on your relationships family and friends.

Where to find work/training schemes/work experience

Opportunities are advertised through sites including:

mandy.com
jobs.theguardian.com
productionbase.co.uk
4rfv.co.uk
shootingpeople.org
pinewoodgroup.com
warnermediagroup.com/careers
theunitlist.com

Standing out from the crowd

As the sector is so vast, it’s impossible to list all of the information for individual roles. However, the key message is that you should secure plenty of experience. Gaining experience alongside studies or your
current role will help you to develop your network, add to your CV, increase your skills and expand your knowledge of the sector.

It’s import to note that not all roles will be advertised, many will be offered through networks, therefore building contacts and your reputation is essential.

UAL alumni

UAL graduates have gone on to secure roles in a range of roles within the film industry including: Set Design, Lighting Technician, Film Runner and Camera Trainee. Some of the recruiters include Working Title Films, Everyman Cinema and Millstreet Films.

Below are some stories from UAL alumni working in the film industry.

Chema Gomez - Technical Operations Manager
Nirvana Jalalvand - Hair and makeup artist for film, TV and theatre
Larissa De Filippo - Media Producer
Brad Silby - Senior Animator

Resources

BAFTA Scotland
statista.com
screenskills.com
myfirstjobinfilm.co.uk
Careers in the Gaming Industry

If you are considering a career in this exciting and growing industry, then a passion for gaming is essential. The sector is broad and has a number of career paths, including the obvious developer, games producer and designer roles. Have you considered that marketing, finance and audio/sound roles that are also essential to this industry? There are many opportunities: some fall into technical /non technical categories and others are business and creative.

Sector overview

It is important to develop an understanding of the sector, this includes knowing where the jobs are, what type of jobs exist, key recruiters as well as acquiring up to date knowledge of the gaming industry.

In 2018, £5.7bn was spent in the UK on video games, an increase of 10% on the previous year. The UK gaming industry is estimated to be worth £3.9bn to the UK economy, it is also the 6th largest market for video games in the world, after China, USA, Japan, Republic of Korea and Germany.

There are over 2,000 gaming companies based in the UK, these include both large and small businesses collectively employing over 47,000 people. For updates and insights into the gaming industry, take a look at the websites of the trade organisations ukie and TIGA you can also follow them both on Linkedin.com

Typical job titles
Games designer
Game writer
Games artist
Games producer
Games coder/programmer
Games audio roles
QA/testing roles
Animator
Marketing

For current vacancies take a look at the links below:
Grads In Games
gamesjobsdirect.com
sigames.com
ea.com/careers – UK and International roles
jobs.gamesindustry.biz – UK and International roles
jagex.com
team17.com
rockstargames.com – UK and International roles
ubisoft.com – UK and International roles
jobs.mcvuk.com
rocksteady ltd.com
sigames.com
linkedin.com
Where are the jobs located?

Working in the games industry offers opportunities across the world. Whilst a large number are based in London, there are significant numbers in other UK cities such as Manchester, Bristol and Glasgow. ukie has created a comprehensive map of businesses in the games industry based in the UK.

Standing out from the crowd

When applying for roles, you'll definitely need some experience (job shadowing, work experience or an internship) to help you stand out. Building contacts will also help you develop insights into the different jobs/roles available. Your CV/applications should:

- Highlight your relevant technical skills
- Highlight all relevant experience
- Demonstrate your love of all things gaming
- Be clear and easy to read

Stories from our alumni

Many UAL graduates have secured roles in this industry, job titles include Games Designer, IT Technician, Games Developer, Junior Producer, Freelance Artist and Freelance Illustrator and Game Writer. Some graduates are working as freelancers, whilst others are working for employers such as mobile phone app developers, independent games companies and betting companies.

Read about Jai Bunnag, LCC graduate, MA Games Design

Resources

ukie Factsheet
prospects.ac.uk
askaboutgames.com
screenskills.com
Careers in Journalism, Writing and Publishing

Careers in this field are varied and graduates often secure roles based on experience and passion for this sector. Whilst there are some graduate schemes listed below, this is not the only way into the sector. Taking time to secure internships and work experience will help you build experience and contacts. For writing roles in the film, TV or theatre industries – please take a look at those individual sector guides.

Sector overview

As the largest exporter of books in the world, the UK Publishing industry is buoyant. In 2017 the industry saw the highest ever sales of books and journals, £5.7bn, of which 60% were sales from the from the export market.

Journalism is a rapidly changing sector, opportunities have increased as traditional print journalism faces competition from online content suppliers. Journalists work across a large variety of sectors, including fashion, sport, politics, music and the environment.

As opportunities have increased, the sector has also become more reliant on short term contracts and freelance writers, which has led to some reduced job security for some.

Job titles in the field

- Broadcast journalist
- Magazine journalist
- Newspaper journalist
- Advertising copywriter
- Publishing copy editor/proofreader
- Editorial roles in publishing
- Magazine features editor
- Commissioning editor
- Writer

Where are the roles based:

Roles are in journalism are based across the country, many may be freelance. They may be with large organisations such as TV news companies, national or local/regional newspapers and magazines. Roles in broadcast journalism (primarily TV and radio), often require journalists to travel to different locations. Roles are also based within national, regional or local TV and radio stations.

The south of England is home to the largest book publishing companies in the country. Whilst London is key to the sector, regional locations such as Edinburgh and Oxford are important too. In addition, there are thousands of smaller companies that are located across the UK.

Where to find work/training schemes/work experience

- journoresources.org.uk
- bookcareers.com
- thebookseller.com
- atwoodtatepublishingjobs.co.uk
- careermovesgroup.co.uk
- inspiredselection.com

Graduate schemes

Here is a small selection of graduate recruitment schemes

- bbc.co.uk
- journalism.co.uk
- haymarket.com
Diversity schemes

Students from BAME backgrounds or those with disability may be eligible for schemes designed to increase diversity within the sector. Here is one that we found:

theguardian.com/positive-action-scheme

the-scheme.co.uk/ - Penguin Random House

Standing out from the crowd

As with most career sectors, experience is crucial, whether that is writing for a student magazine, blogging or work experience. The best time to start gaining experience is during your studies, but it is never too late to gain experience. Employers will want to see examples of your work.

Roles in publishing are not always advertised, speculative applications are very common. Identify potential contacts in the industry, let them know that you are looking for work. You can use LinkedIn.com to identify contacts and also check for adverts.

UAL alumni:

UAL graduates have gone onto secure roles in a range of roles within this sector, including: Freelance Beauty Journalist, Freelance Writer, Journalist, Writer and Researcher, Press Assistant, Website Producer, Blogger and E-Commerce and Media Co-ordinator. Recruiters in the past have included: Bloomberg TV Africa, Marie Claire, Sky Sports, City A.M., Daily Star / Daily Express and Look Magazine. Read the stories of some of our alumni working in this sector:

Deek Hussain Jama
Aurore Kaddachi
Ella Alexander
Molly Taylor

Resources

nuj.org.uk
bjtc.org.uk/
ncti.com
ppa.co.uk

Your first graduate job in magazine publishing
Getting work experience in the media and publishing industry
The Society of Young Publishers
Women in Publishing
Society for Editors and Proofreaders
Publishers Association
Publishing Scotland
writersandartists.co.uk
Careers in Industrial / Product / Furniture / Jewellery / Ceramic Design, (3D Effects)

Working in this area is particularly appealing as you get to realise your creative work in physical form and enjoy how consumers benefit from and enjoy your work. A combination of a strong understanding of materials, production processes, three dimensional thinking, hands on making skills with an understanding of people and how they consume and use objects in everyday life is essential.

There tend to be two main starting points to working in this area:

Starting out as self-employed creating your own brand, designing and making your own products selling them online and through wholesale/retailers. This option although very alluring is particularly challenging and especially making a living from retail. One of the biggest challenges is paying for and accessing a workshop, tools, materials and equipment to make and produce your products. It can also be challenging finding enough buyers to sustain a new start up designer maker business and paying yourself a salary. Generally; aiming at the bespoke and luxury end of the market is the most viable option. It can help to collaborate with a business partner and develop expertise in different parts of the business rather than manage everything yourself.

Starting out as a junior / apprentice designer/ maker within a design/craft studio or within a larger organisation working “in-house”. This is often the best option as you learn how an established studio works and can progress to more senior roles within the organisation which is fairly typical. It can be easier to find entry level roles and work your way up rather than apply for more senior roles. Opportunities arise regularly although not in great numbers and competition is fairly strong. It can take some determination and significant effort to get into your first role, but once you are in, gaining a reputation will take you a long way further in this sector. It is important to actively network and get to know people and ensure they know you and your work. A good portfolio demonstrating a strong combination of designing (software), making and people skills is essential.

Job titles in this field

There are hundreds of occupations associated with the Design sector from the obvious such as, Junior, mid level, senior and head designer, to Client manager, CMF or experience designer. Roles extend to include business operations such as the research, testing, marketing and distribution functions.

Product designer
Furniture designer
Jewellery designer
Ceramics designer

Sector overview

The sector is very broad and offers roles in varied careers, in technical, creative and business areas. These roles exist in anything from small creative independent studios like Tangerine to highstreet retailers like John Lewis or big global brands like Nestle, Unilever and Apple.

Not all roles are necessary creative and when you think of the design sector, it often is categorised by “celebrity” designers like, Jonathan Ive, Tom Dixon, Orla kyle etc. However, the sector contains a wealth of very innovative designers/ makers doing ground-breaking work and leading in the global market place.

Where are the roles based?

Depending on the type of work you opt for the roles can be based anywhere in the country or the world, so it is important to consider the impact of this on your relationships family and friends.
UAL alumni

UAL alumni have gone on to secure roles in a range of roles within this broad arena. Job titles have included: Self-Employed Illustrator, Freelance Creatures Fabricator, Product Designer, Junior Designer, Product Design Intern, Industrial Designer and Freelance Designer. Graduates have gone on to work for employers such as Swarovski, PearsonLloyd, Lego Group, Ikea Group, Tangerine, Bow & Arrow, Phillips, Unilever, Pinewood Studios and Liberty.

Where to find work/training schemes/work experience

Opportunities are advertised on the links below:

Recruitment Sites

benchpeg.com/jobs
adremgroup.com
jobs.designweek.co.uk
creativepool.com
glassdoor.co.uk
jobs.mad.co.uk
the-dots.com
ifyoucouldjobs.com
smashingmagazine.com/jobs
www.behance.net/joblist
campaignlive.co.uk/jobs
deezenjobs.com

UK + International

International

Standing out from the crowd

As the sector is fairly large although with tight knit communities of practice, it’s impossible to list all of the information for individual roles. However, the key message is that you should develop a strong portfolio of work with a good ability using relevant software and knowledge of consumer needs. Gaining experience alongside studies or your current role will help you to develop your network and portfolio. It’s common to participate in competitions such as DandAD, Red Dot, Creative Review etc, (Design boom).

It’s import to note that not all roles will be advertised, many will be offered through networks, therefore building contacts and your reputation is essential.

UAL alumni

UAL alumni have gone on to secure roles in a range of roles within the Design industry, some of the roles have included Freelance Creatures Fabricator, Product Designer, Junior Designer, Product Design Intern, Industrial Designer, Studio Co-ordinator, Graphic Designer and Freelance Designer.

Whilst many graduates are freelancers or have set up their own businesses, others have gone onto secure work in the organisations such as Pinewood Studios, Strohacker Studio, Sabichi, Cameron Design House, Roust and Rowan & Wren.

Below are some profiles of UAL alumni working in the design industry.

Sophie E Ellis – Senior Creative Detail designer at Jaguar Land Rover
Jack Godfrey Wood - VP Design at Native
Yuichi Ishihara - Head of Japan Business and Creative Lead at Tangerine
Hannah Martin- Founder and Creative Director Hannah Martin Ltd
Nam Tran - Ceramicist and founder of Cernamic
Resources

Design Council
Creative Review
Craft and Design Council
Guild of Jewellery designers
Dexiner
Dezine
The Furniture Makers Company
Guild of Master Craftsmen
Careers in Television

If you are interested in a career within the TV sector, the variety is huge, whether that is working in front of the camera or behind the scenes. Roles exist in all manner of functions, from business operations to technical and production roles.

Sector overview

In the UK TV industry there are some obvious employers such as the BBC, Sky and Channel 4, however there are also hundreds of companies in or allied to the sector - large and small, spread across the UK.

The period between 2011 and 2017 – saw a 24% increase in roles within Film, TV, Radio and photography sector.  
This equates to around 13% of jobs within the creative industries sector.

Starting out in TV requires plenty of get up and go, along with bags of resilience.  If you want to work behind the scenes, many people start as runners. These roles are a mixed bag of duties which include admin, making teas, running errands.

It is important to note that some of the more technical roles may not be advertised, they may be short term are often secured through networks.

TV, especially live TV requires high levels of organisation and planning, junior members of the team are also critical to the smooth running of the process.

There are a number of distinct areas (excluding journalism) within TV, these include Documentaries, Drama, and Unscripted TV.  Unscripted programmes are those that don’t have actors, they include sports coverage, Children’s TV and entertainment programming. Its seems as though some roles do not cross genres, for example editing roles in live sports and those in cooking shows have different requirements

Job titles in this field

Production assistant  
Runner  
Set designer  
Camera operator  
Producer  
Researcher  
Location manager  
Sound technician  
TV presenter  
Makeup artist  
Actor

Where are the roles based?

The BBC broadcasts from a number of locations across the UK including: several in Scotland, Salford London, a number in Wales (BBC TV Wales is based in Cardiff).  Depending on what you are working on, the roles maybe in different locations.

Take a look at the Pact website to identify companies in your preferred location. Pact is the trade association which represents independent TV companies, amongst others in the UK.
Where to look for jobs:

There a large number of recruiters in this sector, below is a list of some of the organisations that run various programmes/training schemes, whilst others offer work experience programmes. There are also links to recruitment sites.

List of links to recruitment sites

Broadcastjobs.co.uk
https://careerssearch.bbc.co.uk – covering huge variety of roles from animation, business analysis, social media, researchers, HR, journalists and production roles.
https://careershub.bbc.co.uk/members/index.php careers.sky.com - roles in marketing, journalism and finance amongst others.
productionbase.co.uk
corporate.uktv.co.uk
grapevinejobs.com
mandy.com
bbc.co.uk/writersroom

Graduate programmes/training schemes

https://www.bbc.co.uk/careers/what-we-do/television
BBC Production Trainee Scheme
BBC Production Apprenticeship Scheme

careers.sky.com - The graduate programmes focus on the business operations aspects (e.g. finance)

Work experience

Sky runs a work experience programme which covers a host of careers from make up, media, film making, production, graphic design. Take a look at careers.sky.com for more information. They also run summer internship programmes, as well as insight days.

tigeraspect.co.uk
careers.channel4.com
www.bbc.co.uk/work-experience

Diversity Information

diversity.pact.co.uk/schemes
https://www.tigeraspect.co.uk/career-pathways/
https://creativeaccess.org.uk/interns/

If you are from an underrepresented group and between 18 and 25, then you could be eligible for the Sky diversityplacements programme.

The BBC is committed to ensuring that it increases the number of disabled people amongst its workforce, the BBC Extend hub portal covers apprenticeship and trainee roles.

Standing out from the crowd

Employers will be looking for previous experience, whether that’s an internship, job shadowing or some work experience. They will also be looking for organisation skills, have you planned events in the past? Make sure that you mention these in applications and interviews.
Stories from our alumni

Many UAL graduates have secured roles in this sector, job titles include: Costume Junior Trainee, Junior Researcher, Freelance Short Film Maker, Freelance Actor and Set Designer.

Employers have included Hat Trick Productions, Liverpool Academy Productions, BBC, Sky and Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA).

https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/london-college-of-fashion/people/nirvana-jalalvand

https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/people/brad-silby - animation

Resources

Entry level television production graduate areas of work
How do I get a graduate job in television
BBC - What We Do - Television
Careers in TV - Editorial and Production Roles
Careers in TV - Craft and Technical Roles
BBC - Writers Room
Creative Diversity Network
Careers in Theatre

The theatre industry offers a diverse range of roles, you don’t have to have studied drama or performing arts to establish an interesting and varied career in this sector. Roles will vary according to function, responsibilities and employers. Some roles maybe with touring theatre companies, others may be freelance and some roles maybe permanent and based in a particular venue. Careers are available in four key areas, these are Creative roles, Production Roles, Administration and Customer Service.

Sector overview

Despite facing cuts to financial support, the UK theatre industry continues to thrive. In 2018 there were over 62,000 performances, with audiences of 34m. Ticket revenues generated over £1.2b, an 8% increase on the previous year, the majority of this increase in attributed to the larger venues.

In general theatres are split into two categories, presenting theatres and producing theatres, although some do both.

Presenting theatres typically host productions, which have been created elsewhere and maybe on a tour, presenting at numerous theatres over a period of time.

Producing theatres put together new shows, they comprise of teams with a broad range of skills and develop productions. These will include set designers, producers, sound and lighting professionals to name a few.

Job titles in the field

Set designer
Director
Theatre stage manager
Makeup artist
Sound engineers and technicians
Actor
Lighting
Agent
Costume designer
Stage designer
Theatre manager
Marketing
Finance
Customer service

Where are the roles based?

There are around 1,300 active theatres based across the UK, you can search Theatres Database to find ones local to you.

Where to find work/training schemes/work experience

artsprofessional.co.uk
thestage.co.uk
uktheatre.org
mandy.com
jobs.theguardian.com
artsjobs.org.uk

The Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme, supports a number of programme including placements and residencies.

www.ryds.co.uk
The National Theatre runs a Work Placement Programmes for current UG students and those that have graduated in the last 12 months. They also have paid internships and volunteering opportunities.

nationaltheatre.org.uk

Graduate schemes

atgtickets.com – Theatre Management and Operations

Contact your local theatre to establish whether they run any work experience schemes.

Stories from our alumni

Many UAL graduates have secured roles in this sector, job titles include: Actor, Art Director (Set design), Volunteer Floor Manager, Lighting Technician, Freelance Director, Costume Designer and Theatre Intern. Employers have included the National Theatre, local theatres, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Mercury Theatre, English National Opera and Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG).

https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/people/anna-driftmier
https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/people/zahra-mansouri

Resources

How to become a set designer
Theatres Database
Rates of Pay
Get Into Theatre
Careers in the Visual Arts

Many graduates from fine art courses or similar might leave University with the intention of having a career as an artist, earning a living from making their work. A regular 9-5 money job might not feel right for you, but the reality is that in most cases emerging artists won’t earn enough (or even any) regular income from their art.

This does not mean you’re failing as an artist. It can take many years before you start earning money from your practice, and even when you do this income can be inconsistent. Even more established artists have periods where they need to take on other work to top up their income.

Striking a balance between time you spend on your art and time you spend earning money is one of the biggest challenges for artists. Over the course of your career you might find yourself see-sawing between periods where you’ve had to take on more paid of work to times when you may have been concentrating on creative projects and have been running low on cash. The important thing is not to be discouraged. This is part and parcel of an artists working life.

The first thing you should consider is how you can cut your spending. The less money you need to live, the less time you have to spend in a money job and the more time you have to push your practice and artistic career forward. Rent is one of the biggest expenditures your likely to face, so finding **affordable housing** is an important step.

Finding the right kind of job/work can come with other benefits other than the income it brings and different sorts of roles will suit you depending on what your priorities are and your circumstances.

**A full time job** will likely give you more financial security, coming with other benefits such as annual leave, sick page and a pension. All of this allows you to plan for the future better, but you’ll have limited time (and energy) for your own practice and all the other things you need to do push your career forward.

**Part-time jobs** are often attractive to artists as they provide a balance between regular income and time spend on making art. Part-time roles are a little harder to find though and you may still need to take on the occasional additional bit of freelance work to top up your income.

**Freelance work** at first glance gives you more flexibility as you choose when and for who you work. It takes time and energy to drum up work though, and many freelancers feel compelled to take on a job as they’re not sure when the next one will come along.

Often artists have **portfolio careers** and do a combination of different freelance roles or part-time work supplemented with the occasional paid gig.

The next thing you might want to consider, is whether you find work in the arts sector or outside of it? Working in the arts sector means you’ll get a better understanding of how to navigate it as an artist. You’re likely to meet other artists and organisations of interest and grow your networks through your job. If you work in the arts though, it can be difficult to separate your professional identity as an artist from that of your salaried role.

Jobs directly related to your field

- Commercial art gallery manager
- Community arts worker
- Exhibition designer
- Fine artist
- Graphic designer
- Higher education lecturer
- Illustrator
- Printmaker
- Secondary school teacher
- Art technician
Jobs where your degree would be useful include:

- Art therapist
- Arts administrator
- Concept artist
- Estates manager
- Interior and spatial designer
- Museum/gallery curator
- Museum/gallery exhibitions officer
- Multimedia programmer
- Stylist

Working outside of the arts can feel frustrating if you’re only doing it for the wage, but it can bring benefits too. Shift work in bars or retail can give you flexibility and headspace for your practice. Even better if you work in an arts material shop you can buy the materials you need your practice for less. Some jobs (Photography studio, editing, foundry) might give you access to otherwise expensive materials or equipment that you need for your work.

Once you’re relatively stable with finances, it’s time to start thinking about developing and pushing your practice forward. Arqquest have a free publication PRIMER that goes into more detail about this. But there are a number of activities an artist needs to do to build a career (on top of the very important business of making the work)

**Apply for opportunities and create your own** - Don’t sit around and wait for invitations to participate in exhibitions come to you. Go out and find or create them by applying to the many open call opportunities, for residencies, exhibitions, grants and other prizes. Or, if you can’t find any that suit you create your own: Organise your own group show with peers. Approach organisations about residencies. Be proactive not reactive.

**Be an active member of the art community** - Go regularly to exhibitions, private views, gallery talks. You’ll gain a better understanding of what’s going on in the art world and at the same time you’ll inevitably meet new people who learn about your work. Build a community of supportive artists around you by setting up a peer mentoring group. Groups like this are vital in giving each other feedback on developing work but can also be a great place of sharing opportunities and contacts.

**Promote your work** – Most artists hope to eventually progress from applying and creating their own opportunities to being invited to participate in things. This will only happen if you make your practice visible to the right people. Research the organisations you want to build relationships with and ask if you can put them on your mailing list. Share news of important developments in your practice, like exhibitions, prizes and awards with them and your peers. Keep in touch with the people you meet on your working journey as an artist. If you’re good to work with they’ll be your biggest advocates.

**UAL alumni**

UAL graduates that have studied visual arts subjects Gallery intern, Freelance Artist, Developing a Professional Portfolio, Self Employed Artist, Freelance Art Fabricator, Mixed Media Artist, Fine art technician, Studio Artist and Exhibition Curator.

Visual art graduates have gone on to freelance, work as a practising artist, secured paid work, whilst others maybe undertaking a combination. Some of the employers have included: the Federation of British Artists, V&A Museum, Artfinder, Halcyon Gallery, the Harlow Art Trust, the National trust and Somerset House.

Sisi Savidge
Rom Isichei
Rayvenn Shaleigha D'Clark
Resources and recruitment sites

The Association of Illustrators - theaoi.com
thecreativeindustries.co.uk
sofaa.org
artscouncil-ni.org
artscouncil.org.uk/
arts.wales
creativescotland.com
museumsassociation.org
artsprofessional.co.uk
craftscouncil.org.uk
nationalmuseums.org.uk/jobs
engage.org/jobs-and-careers
londonsartistquarter.org
museumjobs.com
artquest.org.uk
gem.org.uk
a-n.co.uk
axisweb.org
theolist.oess.uk
english-heritage.org.uk
ccskills.org.uk

UK and international contemporary art artists, architects opportunities
Careers in Visual Communications - Graphics, Illustration, Media, Animation & Photography

Depending on the path you choose, a career in the visual communications sector can get you designing everything from consumer electronics to corporate identities, interiors to interactive interfaces, and furniture to classic album covers.

Good design puts people first and uses creativity to solve problems, challenge thinking and make lives better. Professionals in this industry can be seen operating across the whole economy and are influential in helping to shape the physical and digital worlds we live in by creating better places products, services, as well as challenge our perceptions and thoughts on a wide range of topics.

Each pathway allows you to explore your creative skill sets that you have developed to communicate your ideas and offer your audience an inspiring and engaging user experience. Some of these roles are based in a variety of design agencies that focus on branding, graphics, advertising and marketing, and other roles are available in the national press/media as well as Film and TV studios across the country.

If you have a natural eye for visual composition and can communicate your ideas which offer an inspiring user experience, this is the route for you.

Sector overview

The Design sector is at the forefront of new developments, with design services increasingly employed in healthcare, for the digital age, or for services. The design economy generated £85.2bn in gross value added (GVA) to the UK in 2016, according to a report by the Design Council.

Successful UK businesses and iconic brands such as Virgin, Jaguar Land Rover, O2, Dyson, and Diageo all regard design as essential to innovation and market expansion.

Between 2009 and 2016 the design economy grew by 52 per cent, spreading far beyond the creative industries and across the UK economy. Designers operating in non-design industries such as aerospace, automotive and banking created the majority of this value (68 per cent).

Job titles in this field

- Advertising art director
- Animator
- Artworker
- Concept artist
- Creative director
- Graphic designer
- Illustrator
- Printmaker
- Production designer, theatre/television/film
- VFX artist
- Multimedia programmer
- Digital marketer
- Web content manager
- Photographer
- Press photographer
- Television camera operator
- Magazine publishing roles

Where are the roles based?

Roles in the design industry can be found in large design agencies, media organisations and Film and TV studios within London. Other roles can be found outside of London with smaller organisations too. You also have the opportunity to work as a freelancer in this sector across the country and even worldwide.
Where to find work/training schemes/work experience

Typical roles in these industries can be found in the links below. In addition to this, UAL alumni and current students have submitted speculative applications to various companies and agencies to find work and gain industry experience. Some have even started their own successful businesses too.

- artsjobsonline.com Delivering a diverse range of jobs in arts, culture and heritage via web, email and social media.
- screenskills.com Investing in skills driving the success of UK film, TV, VFX, animation and games
- jobs.designweek.co.uk Design Week Jobs is the number one website in the UK for design professionals to keep afloat of current job opportunities and plan their next career. Covering every design discipline, from Branding to Graphics, as well as Account Management and Planning roles, the jobs board caters for the entire design industry.
- jobs.theguardian.com advertising a wide range of roles (including photographers and graphic designers) across many sectors

Graduate schemes

It’s not very often you come across a graduate scheme within the creative arts sector, but here is one that we have come across.

- careers.amvbbdo.com

Jobs are frequently advertised as graduate entry or graduate level, but do not usually have formal training programmes.

Stories from our alumni:

Recent UAL graduates from these programme have gone on to secure work in roles such as a Freelance Illustrator, Junior Graphic Designer, Freelance Illustrator and Designer and Video Editing Intern. They have gone on to work for organisations like: Fifty Nine Productions Ltd, Collage Arts, Ruth Kaye Design, Unilever, Fluid, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London, NET-A-PORTER, Bluefrog and Apple.

Below are stories from our alumni:

- Jan Pautsch - award-winning Digital Creative Director
- Chris Bethell - MA Photojournalism and Documentary Photography
- Abi Wright Artist Graphic Designer & Creative Director
- Rachel Brown - Director of Photography at Harpers Bazaar

Resources

designcouncil.org.uk Design Council champions the power of design to tackle the biggest challenges of our time and bring about real, positive change in people’s lives.

lectureinprogress.com Lecture in Progress inspires and informs the next generation of talent by providing advice and insight into the creative industry.

99u.adobe.com 99U is Adobe’s resource and event series to help creatives supercharge their work and make their ideas happen.

artscouncil.org.uk Champion and develop art and culture across the country

artshub.co.uk ArtsHub has been one of the arts industry’s leading online portal, providing its strong and loyal subscriber base with the latest industry news and jobs.

animationmagazine.net
the-dots.com
theaoi.com  The Association of Illustrators is the professional body for illustration in the UK.
axisweb.org  An independent charity, we are committed to providing a platform to support [artists] and profile what they do.
designweek.co.uk
artsthread.com  The world's leading network for new creatives - bridging the gap between education & industry
creativereview.co.uk  We are here for everyone involved in commercial creativity, anywhere in the world. We share insight and inspiration across disciplines and borders, connecting brilliant minds to make brilliant things happen.
the-aop.org  The Association's aims are: to promote and protect the worth and standing of its members, to vigorously defend, educate and lobby for the interests and rights of all photographers, especially in the commercial photographic industry.
bipp.com  The British Institute of Professional Photography is an internationally recognised qualifying organisation with experience in supporting and networking professional photographers since 1901.
rps.org  The Royal Photographic Society exists to educate members of the public by increasing their knowledge and understanding of Photography and in doing so to promote the highest standards of achievement in Photography in order to encourage public appreciation of Photography.