

Art and Design

Do you have creative flair and like to use your imagination? Maybe you enjoy designing or making things using different materials? If you have good practical ability or always have some sort of creative idea going through your head, then art and design is a great career area for you to think about.

Artists and designers are involved in designing and creating almost everything we buy, from book covers to high fashion and furniture – and create works of art in many different forms, from paintings and textiles to sculptures and photographs.

What areas can I work in?

According to the [Student Art Guide](#), there are over 150 careers to choose from in art and design!

You can work in areas such as furniture design, book illustration, animation, designing washing machines to fashion design and special effects for films and TV.

Art and design roles fall in the following areas: 3 dimensional design, fashion or textile design, fine art or graphic design, interior design or display and photography.

What kind of companies can I work for?

Possible employers include:

- museums, art galleries and cultural heritage organisations
- advertising, publishing and marketing agencies
- architectural, interior and graphic design agencies
- textile and knitwear manufacturers
- theatres, broadcasting and film media companies
- digital design and media companies
- teaching and educational institutions.

What's the job market like?

There is a huge amount of competition for full time work in the art and design world, with many people working on a self-employed or part time basis.

Art and Design graduates often find it takes time, and relevant work experience, to build up a portfolio and develop the contacts for freelance or commissioned work. So, it's not always easy to make a living, and many artists take on other jobs with a steady income so they can survive when freelance work is in short supply.

The Cultural Enterprise Office states that the UK has the largest design sector in Europe and the second largest design sector in the world, employing around 132,000 people.

Facts and figures

- It is estimated that 43,000 people work in the photography industry in the UK, with around 5% of that figure in Scotland.
- In 2017, there were 24,240 people employed in the visual arts sector in Scotland.
- In the 2016/17 academic year 36.4% of fine art graduates in the UK found full time employment within 6 months of graduating, with 29.9% working as art, design and media professionals.
- Design graduates still have the highest rate of full time employment in this career area, at 56.8%. Of those, 46.6% found work as arts, design and media professionals. Graphic designer is still the most common job.
- 21.4% of UK fine arts graduates were either self-employed or freelance, compared to 13.8% of design graduates. By comparison all other graduates working either freelance or were self-employed was at 4.9%.
- More females than males graduate from this area of study, but in terms of jobs the creative sector is more male dominated, with 63% of roles filled by men.

Want to find out more?

Why not take a look at the [Creative Choices](#) website for information on getting into the arts? You will find information specifically about visual arts and crafts careers. You can also find detailed information about entry into the creative industries relating to animation careers by visiting the [ScreenSkills](#) website (formerly SkillSet UK).

Sources

- What do graduates do? Prospects in association with HECSU and AGCAS (2018-19)
- [Cultural Enterprise Office](#) website (2019)
- Growth Sector Statistics Database: Table 2.5 – Employment, Scotland 2009-2017, Scottish Government (October 2018)