

Arts Administrator

Arts administrators plan and organise activities and projects within the arts sector. These include festivals such as Celtic Connections, the Edinburgh International Festival or the Festival Fringe, as well as individual concerts, plays and tours. They also work in galleries, museums, theatres and arts centres.

The Work

You could be:

- working for an organisation such as Scottish Opera, the Scottish Book Trust or Creative Scotland
- arranging artists and venues
- organising ticket sales and dealing with security and catering
- organising publicity and promotions and working with the media
- negotiating sponsorship and funding and liaising with the culture departments of local authorities
- managing finances, working within a budget, keeping records and doing general administration
- recruiting and supervising staff
- managing operational aspects such as venue accessibility and health and safety
- at senior level, planning future strategy.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

The starting salaries for arts administrators are around £22,000 a year for trainees or assistants. Experienced arts administrators can earn between £23,000 and £35,000 a year and upwards.

Conditions

- The work varies a lot depending on the project.
- You work in an office but you may have to travel and work away from home, especially with festivals and tours.
- Most arts organisations struggle to find funding and sponsorship from Arts Councils and private companies. You will have to do a lot of persuading.
- Most arts events are in the evening and at weekends. Your working hours can be long and irregular.
- In small organisations you could be involved in all aspects of the day-to-day running of things. In a large organisation you may specialise in one area, such as finance or education.
- Jobs may be full time permanent, or for a specific duration tied to the length of a festival or exhibition.

Getting In

There are no formal entry requirements but most entrants have relevant degrees or work experience. You certainly need to have an interest in the arts.

- Relevant subjects include arts, festival and events or entertainment management, as well as art specialisms and the history of art.
- You could take an NC (SCQF Level 4-6) or NQ (SCQF Level 4-6) in events, or an HNC (SCQF Level 7) or HND (SCQF Level 8) in events or conference and events management.
- For an NC or NQ course you need 3-4 subjects at National 4 including English and Maths. To get on an HNC/HND course you normally need 1-2 Highers or equivalent.
- Entry requirements for relevant degree (SCQF Level 9-10) courses are 4-5 Highers including English plus National 5 Maths.
- A business-related degree and a good knowledge of one area of the arts is also relevant; for entry you usually need 4-5 Highers.
- You could take a postgraduate qualification in cultural or event and festival management.
- Employers expect you to have experience, possibly voluntary. It helps to have worked in student or amateur productions such as drama, dance or music. Volunteering in museums and galleries is also helpful.
- You will need to have general office administration and IT skills, with bookkeeping, word processing and budget management skills being particularly useful.

Competition for jobs is fierce, because so many want to work in this field. There are jobs in various organisations including: local government, theatre, dance and opera companies, concert halls, art galleries, arts festivals and community arts projects.

Vacancies are in specialist magazines such as Arts Professional, Mailout, The Stage, and in the national press. See also websites such as [Mandy](#), [The Stage](#) and [Creative Scotland](#).

What Does It Take

You need to be:

- enthusiastic about the arts
- imaginative
- assertive
- a good communicator and negotiator
- persistent and persuasive, when trying to find sponsorship and funding
- able to manage a budget
- able to work under pressure to meet deadlines.

You need to have:

- IT skills
- excellent organisational skills
- knowledge about current economic and political issues in the arts sector.

Training

- You will be trained on the job.
- Your training will be ongoing throughout your career, usually by attending short courses, seminars or workshops.
- Training may include skills in law, marketing, human resources and accountancy.

Getting On

- Once you gain more experience and skills, you may be able to move on to senior positions such as manager or director.
- You could get promotion by moving to a larger company, such as a local authority.
- You might be able to work on various projects or for organisations on a freelance basis.

More Information

The [Discover! Creative Careers website](#) has information for young people on the types of jobs and pathways that exist across the creative industries.

Contacts

Creative Scotland

Email: enquiries@creativescotland.com

Website: www.creativescotland.com

Website (2): opportunities.creativescotland.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland

Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.