

Advertising Account Executive

An advertising account executive acts as the link between the advertising agency and the client. They liaise with the clients and manage the whole advertising campaign.

The Work

You could be:

- acting as a link between client and agency
- working with colleagues to devise a campaign that meets the client's needs
- deciding how to take the campaign forward: for example, either a single advertisement (newspaper, television or radio) or a whole series of adverts using different forms of media
- creating a portfolio of the proposed campaign to present to the client
- acting as a link amongst the different departments in the advertising agency: the art department, copywriting, and media team
- working closely with the advertising account planner
- managing the budget, account costs, invoicing and ensuring all deadlines are met
- evaluating the effectiveness of the campaign
- handling more than one client account at a time.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual salaries may vary, depending on:

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

Starting salaries for graduates may start around £25,000 a year. With experience this can rise to between £35,000 and £45,000. High earners at account director level may earn £70,000 a year and above.

Conditions

- You will be office based, but will travel about a lot to meet clients.
- You will work very long hours, including evenings and, if necessary, weekends.
- Advertising work can be very stressful as deadlines are tight – some teams stay on overnight in the office to get the work finalised on time.

Getting In

There are several ways to get a job as an advertising account executive.

- Most entrants have an HND (SCQF Level 8) or degree (SCQF Level 9-10) in a relevant subject. Advertising, business studies, communication studies, marketing or media studies are particularly relevant.

- For entry to an HND course you normally need 1-2 Highers plus some subjects at National 5. For a degree course you need 4-5 Highers.
- Courses with psychology or economics related subjects are also useful.
- Entry is very competitive. Getting work experience or a student placement in marketing, sales or communications is a distinct advantage.
- Some move into this job from other advertising jobs.
- A driving licence is useful.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- creative and imaginative
- well organised
- able to remain calm under pressure and work to deadlines
- able to give and take constructive criticism
- confident speaking to groups and making presentations
- able to motivate and influence others
- persuasive and a good negotiator
- business aware and able to manage a budget.

You should also have:

- excellent written and spoken communication skills
- an adaptable nature
- ability to quickly grasp and analyse large amounts of information
- tact and diplomacy
- an awareness of new communications and IT technologies.

Training

- Training is mostly on the job.
- Some agencies have a training programme for new entrants.
- The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA) offer a range of qualifications.

Getting On

- There is fierce competition for jobs in the advertising industry. Most Scottish agencies are in Glasgow or Edinburgh.
- After gaining experience as an advertising account executive, you might apply for promotion to posts such as account director.
- You could also move into freelance or consultancy work, or set up a small or specialist advertising agency of your own.

More Information

There are many different types of advertising agencies, but they generally fall into one of two categories:

- creative – services include company branding and the creation and management of advertising campaigns, which could be for TV, radio, magazine/newspaper or digital
- media – services include buying advertising space for clients' adverts and advising clients on how, when and where to spend their budget.

Some agencies, referred to as integrated or full service, offer a range of both types of services.

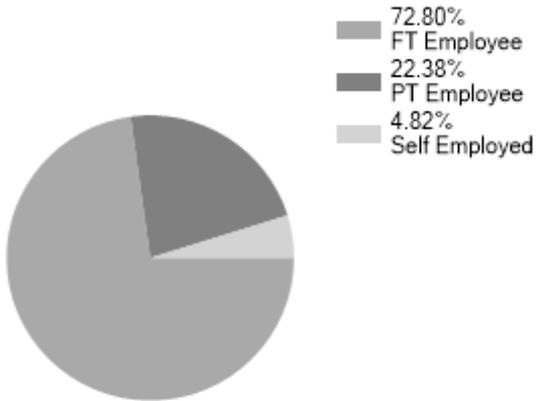
Contacts

Institute of Practitioners in Advertising

Website: www.ipa.co.uk

Statistics

Employment Status UK %



Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.