

CREATIVE CAREERS

FILM

“It’s a fantastic time to be working in Film. You can get in if you’re good at what you do.”

Daniel Bishop
Camera Operator

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Most people think about directors and camera operators, but there are many more jobs in production across the UK. Even if you’re the type of person who doesn’t want to be on location, there’s still work in the film industry for you. There are also smaller markets like commercials that can offer creative opportunities. Independent video producers have also made their home online.

Zoella, TomSka and CGPGrey are all popular YouTube channels based in the UK. These companies and producers work in a different way to the rest of the industry and have no set entry route. More often than not, the people running the channel are the original creators. If you’re dedicated and want to teach yourself production skills, you can set up something yourself.

The industry is very competitive, and being able to stand out from the crowd is key. Having a degree isn’t necessary when applying for jobs, but they can boost your chances. There are limited opportunities for apprenticeships in film, usually publicised by production companies and the apprenticeship service.

Choosing where to live is important as well. There are major studios in London and emerging markets in Scotland and the South East. Crews also travel away from home to work for several months of the year.

Think outside the box – gaining relevant experience in another sector can be a good alternative. There is no set way into a career in film. The department ladder isn’t for everyone, and people often move between industries before returning to film.

Technology moves quickly. Keeping up to date with the new equipment will help to keep you employable. Attend industry workshops and seminars and follow blogs to stay updated with new productions and what’s developing.

FIRST STEPS

Look up your favourite films on IMDB to find out who directed, edited and produced them. What are these people responsible for? Find out at screenskills.com

MOVING UP

Get out and film something with your phone, camera or your school’s equipment. Learn about story, framing and editing. Put the film online and get feedback from friends.

GETTING IN

Think about how to climb the ladder. Learn about the junior roles in the department you’re interested in and contact local companies and crew members for work experience.