“It is really diverse, there is something for everyone in VFX.”
Shani Vizma, VFX assistant coordinator

The visual effects (VFX) industry creates sequences for film and TV that are too difficult to film on a camera. The artists combine computer-generated imagery (CG) with live-action pictures to create alien landscapes, explosions and wild creatures. They also repair footage through tasks like removing pylons from the landscape of a period drama.

Did you know?
The VFX industry employs more than 10,000 people and is the fastest growing part of the UK film industry. It’s not uncommon for UK-based companies to create the VFX for Hollywood movies – and to win Oscars for them. DNEG won the VFX Oscar for First Man in 2019. The year before Double Negative and Framestore received the award for Blade Runner 2049. Most VFX companies in the UK are based in London.

Study
Most people in the VFX industry have got degrees and many have a postgraduate qualification as well. Go to screenskills.com/courses to find courses recommended by ScreenSkills. Some studios offer apprenticeships.

Portfolio
For many roles employers and admissions tutors will want to see proof of your creativity. They will look for a portfolio that showcases your work. This is often more important than a CV. Go to screenskills.com/portfolio to learn how to start building your portfolio.
First steps

Watch out for the VFX in films and TV series. Think about how the effects might have been created. Look up the different roles and find out how you can get into them at screenskills.com/careers-in-VFX

Next steps

Try out free or demo software such as Natron and Nuke. Practise modelling and compositing, two of the key skills. Upload your project online*, ask for feedback and start building a portfolio.

Getting in

Get to know people that work in VFX by going to industry events, such as ScreenSkills’ Open Doors. Research companies to see if they offer work experience**. Apply for entry-level roles and apprenticeships.

For further information go to: screenskills.com/careers

* If you are under 18 ask your parents’ permission
** Most opportunities are for over 18s.