

# Graphic designer

## How to become

Explore the different ways to get into this role.

You can get into this job through:

- A university course
- A college course

## University

You could take a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in a design related subject like:

- graphic design
- art and design
- communication design
- illustration

Getting work experience during your course will give you an advantage when you start applying for jobs. Talk to your university careers service about work experience, internship and year placement opportunities, as well as any support offered to help you build a portfolio.

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- a foundation diploma in art and design
- 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

## More Information

- [equivalent entry requirements](#)
- [student finance for fees and living costs](#)
- [university courses and entry requirements](#)

## College

You could take a college course in graphic design or art and design, and use this to join a company as a design assistant.

You would need a good portfolio to showcase your skills to employers.

### **Entry requirements**

Entry requirements for these courses vary.

## **More Information**

### **Career tips**

There's a lot of competition for graphic design work. You'll need a portfolio that shows your creative ideas, skills and work experience to help you get started.

Experience of using publishing software will also give you an advantage.

### **Professional and industry bodies**

You could join the [Chartered Society of Designers](#) and the [International Society of Typographical Designers](#) for professional development and to make industry contacts.

### **Further information**

You can get more information on working in creative careers from [Discover Creative Careers](#).

## **What it takes**

Find out what skills you'll use in this role.

### **Skills and knowledge**

You'll need:

- design skills and knowledge
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of media production and communication
- knowledge of the fine arts

- the ability to come up with new ways of doing things
- excellent verbal communication skills
- thinking and reasoning skills
- to be flexible and open to change
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

## What you'll do

Discover the day to day tasks you'll do in this role.

### **Day-to-day tasks**

As a graphic designer, you could:

- discuss the client's requirements and come up with creative ideas
- work out budgets and deadlines
- produce rough drafts and present your ideas
- prepare designs using specialist software
- make presentations to clients for feedback and approval
- keep up with design trends and developments in software tools

### **Working environment**

You could work in a creative studio, in an office, at a client's business or from home.

## Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities.

With experience, you could:

- become a senior designer or creative director
- move into project or studio management
- go freelance or start your own design agency
- move into teaching or lecturing