

Frequently Asked Questions

These questions were taken from the [Discover Creative Careers Industry Insight: Focus on film and television](#), with [ScreenSkills](#). Margaret Burgin, Head of Careers at ScreenSkills who chaired the session, has responded below:

Where should a young person start when they're not sure which area of the screen sector they want to pursue?

Explore the [job profiles](#) and [career maps](#) on the ScreenSkills website and the job profile matcher. If you're considering the wider creative industries, check out the [Discover Creative Careers finder](#). Also - look at the credits on film/TV to discover job titles, make content, get involved in student and other theatre productions backstage, apply for the [BFI Academy](#) when you're 16.

Where can you look for work experience opportunities?

Unfortunately there is very little work experience in screen for anyone under 18. This is because of Health and Safety and Safeguarding and also many screen companies require NDA's (non-disclosure agreements) to be signed. Also, a large proportion of the companies who make TV and film are small companies who don't have the capacity for work experience.

Apply for the [BFI Academy](#) short courses for 16 – 18s; these are run across the UK, and the [BBC offer taster experiences](#) for 16 – 18s. [Speakers for Schools](#) also offer some work experience opportunities. Look at our '[Getting into the screen industries](#)' e-learning, [job profiles](#) and [career maps](#).

If you are over 18, there are limited work experience schemes. The broadcasters offer some work experience and so do some of the bigger companies like Warner Brothers and Sky. Keep in touch with your local film office, make a profile on LinkedIn, apply for the [BFI Academy](#) short courses for 16 – 25s if you haven't already, [make a profile on ScreenSkills](#) and complete our '[Getting into the screen industries](#)' e-learning and other [e-learning modules](#).

Why can't anyone under 18 create an account on the ScreenSkills website to access the learning modules?

The ScreenSkills website has under 18 versions of our e-learning that under 18s can access that are linked below. All of the other training is for people who are 18 and over. The reason you can't make a profile on our site if you are under 18 is that we ask questions around demographics and diversity which we're unable to track for under 18s, this is part of our funding requirements.

Where do we find out more about the ScreenSkills Trainee Finder scheme?

You can find out more about the Film Trainee Finder and High-End TV Trainee Finder on the [ScreenSkills website](#). It is recruited by department, e.g. art department, camera etc. The scheme is for people with some experience but less than 12 months professional experience and anyone applying needs to be clear about which department they wish to work in and how their experience/skills suits the role.

Where do we find out more about apprenticeships in screen?

There are several apprenticeship routes and options available and we have information on the [ScreenSkills website](#) about this plus there are some links to employer schemes on page 3. The apprenticeship programmes that ScreenSkills recently ran were part of two pilot schemes funded by government and there are currently no plans to continue these due to funding.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have any advice on how a young person with a disability can enter the industry?

Disabled people are under-represented in the screen industries and most training schemes and apprenticeships welcome disabled and neurodiverse people. The best advice initially is to apply for a scheme such as the [BBC's EXTEND scheme](#) as there are large parts of the workforce who are freelancers and the access to work support for self-employed people can be difficult.

What's a good route into the industry for people with corporate writing experience that is not necessarily related to the creative sector?

If you want to go in as a writer, it's very competitive, it's always freelance, and you will need another source of income. There are great writing initiatives and competitions for new writers. Use the [BBC Writers](#) website, it has a useful script library. Most writing initiatives are promoted on LinkedIn.

How do you find out about filming taking place near you so you can potentially get onto the crew?

Your local film office will know what's being made locally as they provide permission, and many also help with sourcing crew. Filming is often done under working titles so that no one knows exactly what it is.

How can you find out about different production and broadcast companies and research them further?

You can look at the end of films and TV shows to view the credits and find who made the content and research them. For film and TV drama, [IMDB](#) will tell you everything about a film or TV drama including who was in the art department, etc. Also, your local film office will know which studios and production companies are near you.

Useful links and resources

E learning modules for under 18s

ScreenSkills now has a number of modules open to under 18s, although they may be a bit too advanced for anyone under 16. These modules don't come with a completion certificate.

- [Getting Into the Screen Industries \(series of 5 modules\)](#)
- [From Script to Screen: An Introduction to How Scripted Content Gets Made \(series of 12 modules\)](#)
- [Tackling Harassment & Bullying at Work](#)
- [Introduction to Mental Health Awareness at Work](#)
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the screen industries](#)

Other useful links from ScreenSkills:

- [Job profiles](#)
- [Career maps](#)
- [Job profile matcher](#)
- [Select endorsed university and college courses](#)

Useful links and resources

- [Bursaries for 18 and over](#)
- [Trainee Finder for 18 and over](#)
- [Find out more about apprenticeships in screen](#)

For teachers and careers leaders

- [Read the ScreenSkills apprenticeship pilots report](#)
- [View lesson plans and other careers resources](#)

Links to training and apprenticeship schemes

- [BFI Academy](#)
- [ITV apprenticeships](#)
- [BBC Apprenticeships](#)
- [BBC Extend for people with disabilities](#)
- [Channel 4 apprenticeships](#)
- [Warner Bros Crew HQ](#)
- [BBC Writers](#)

Links from Alia to support learning and skills development in sound

- [Full Scene Editing Exercise by CineStudy, including Sound and Video](#)
- [Bite-Size Sound Design Exercise by CineStudy](#)
- [Mission Impossible Extract](#) (listen to all the sound effects that were used! Would you add more? Do you want the engines louder, should the wind be blowing harder?)
- [Example of Bad Quality Sound](#) (listen carefully - is the background noise in the way of clear dialogue? Are the actors' voices echoey or unclear?)
- [Free sound effects available at the BBC Sound Effects Library](#)