

# MIDLANDS

## SCREEN INDUSTRIES LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

**The UK is world-class when it comes to the screen industries!**

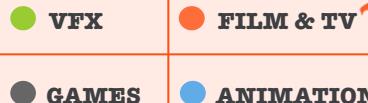
**A career in the screen industries is for anyone no matter your background, neurotype, disability or talent.**

The West Midlands region has been highlighted as a UK centre for creative growth including film & TV, games, creative technology, music and performing arts. It features 15,000 creative businesses which brought £4.2bn to the economy in 2022.

Source:  
[Gov UK](#)



Locations across the whole of the UK have lots of exciting opportunities – there are roles at all levels, not just for university graduates.



### Made in the Midlands

#### FILMS

Peaky Blinders

#### TV

Masterchef This Town Travel Man Kardashians Billion Dollar Dynasty  
Brawn : The Impossible Formula One Story Great British Menu

#### GAMES

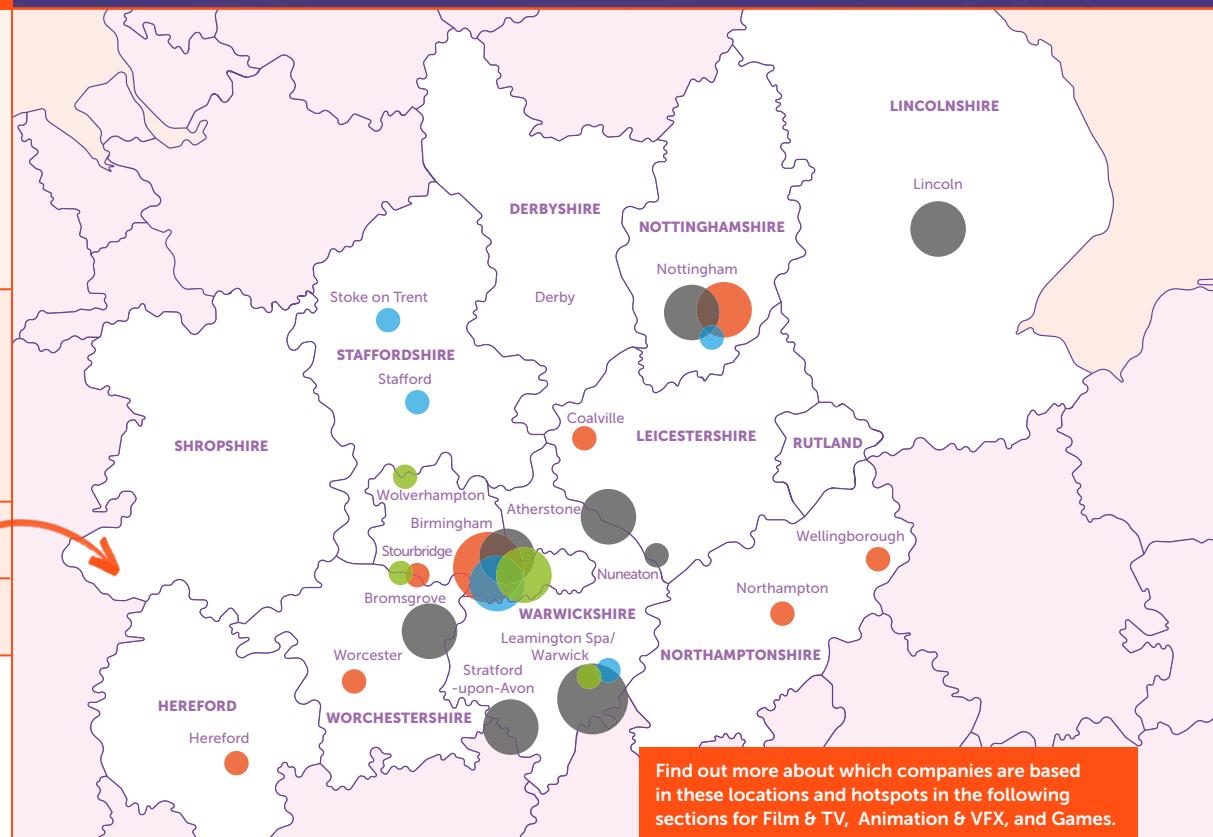
Assassin's Creed Elite Dangerous F1 Forza Tomb Raider  
Runescape Lemmings Planet Zoo Worms Overcooked  
The Escapists V Rising

#### VFX

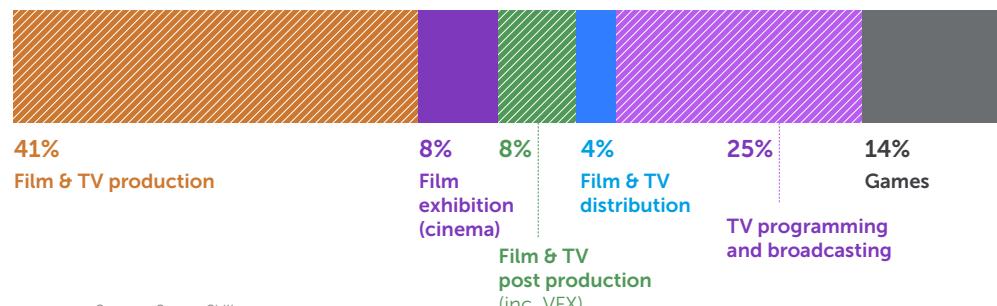
Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them  
Gangs of London The Witchfinder

#### ANIMATION

Number Blocks



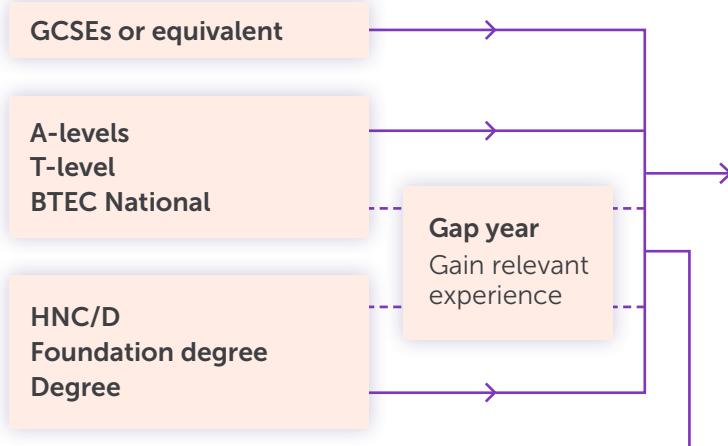
### Screen industry workforce across the UK





### Routes in

For most screen careers there's more than one entry route!



You can access some screen industry entry level jobs and training programmes without formal qualifications

Look out for courses that prepare you for employment. Some are endorsed by [ScreenSkills Select](#).



### Interested in a creative career?

Arts-based subjects can be important but digital and technology skills are valued too.

Specialise in film/TV or start with a course or training suited to your interests.

### Apprenticeship/training scheme

Available at different levels through a range of employers and schemes, such as:

BBC Channel 4 Pinewood ITV  
Prime Video Craft Academy Paramount  
Pact Indie Scheme Grierson DocLab  
Film Distribution Trainee Scheme  
Sky Studios Elstree Warner Bros Discovery  
Elstree Screen Arts Academy (Craft Traineeships)

Look for opportunities on employer websites or search through [apprenticeships.gov.uk](#)

Entry-level role, for example trainee or runner.

**Check your eligibility** – entry qualifications vary and for some programmes you have to be aged 18+, for example. You may have to be prepared to relocate or work in different parts of the UK.

### Five skills you can develop now for the screen industries:

1. Collaboration
2. Problem solving
3. Time management
4. Critical thinking
5. Communication

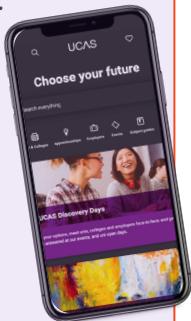


For many screen industry roles, you'll need a portfolio of creative work.

### Did you know?????

The UK has more film and TV studio space than Hollywood! And it's growing!

Search for higher education courses through [UCAS](#)



### What else can I do?

All sorts of activities – often free – can develop your confidence, skills and build on your strengths. Look out for local and national clubs, competitions, work experience, short courses, events and mentoring. Find opportunities through organisations like:

Film Hub Midlands Create Central BFI Film Academy  
BFI Future Film Festival Into Film competitions  
Futures For All ScreenSkills: Training  
Pinewood Futures Festival Young Film Academy  
NFTS Academy Residential National Saturday Club

Get involved in student or community TV/films. Try creating your own short films.



Find the latest opportunities at [linktr.ee/get.into.film](http://linktr.ee/get.into.film)



### Find out more

- [@getintofilm](#)
- [discovercreative.careers](#)
- [ERIC \(16-25\)](#)
- [screenskills.com](#)
- [ukscreenalliance.co.uk](#)

# ANIMATION & VFX

MIDLANDS

SCREEN INDUSTRIES LABOUR  
MARKET INFORMATION

## What is VFX?

VFX is short for visual effects: the digital manipulation of images to enhance, add to, or entirely replace elements of live-action shots in films, TV programmes or commercials.

## Did you know??????

The UK is home to six of the world's biggest VFX studios.

In a blockbuster film more than 80% of the film may be touched by VFX

AI is impacting the sector and AI skills are in demand! ([Gov.UK](#))



## Ways of working

**VFX:** Most people who work in VFX and post-production are employees



**Animation:** Just over half of people working in animation are freelance



## Animation studios based in...

### WEST MIDLANDS

- Yamination Studios
- Second Home Studios
- Carse & Waterman
- One Black Bear
- Tentacle Animation
- Atomhawk
- South West Film

### EAST MIDLANDS

- Bottletop

## Companies offering VFX services based in:

### WEST MIDLANDS

- Real SFX
- Bigtooth Studios
- Mockingbird Film Co.
- South West Film
- Rebellion



These are examples of some of the companies in your area that do this type of work. Some may be large, employing lots of people internationally, and others may be small or micro companies which don't often have vacancies.

Some of the larger companies may offer work experience but a good starting point for gaining skills, knowledge and confidence is through clubs, competitions, short courses and events. For more info go to the '[What else can I do?](#)' section.

## Roles in VFX/animation

There's a demand for people at all levels in technical and creative positions, as well as in financial, legal, admin and other careers found in all sectors. You could be a ...



- [storyboard artist](#)
- [edit assistant](#)
- [animator](#)
- [background designer](#)
- [concept artist](#)
- [marketing executive](#)
- [rigger](#)
- [production co-ordinator](#)
- [compositor \(finishing artist\)](#)
- [model maker](#)
- [lighting artist \(VFX\)](#)
- [assistant technical director](#)
- [matchmove artist \(body tracker\)](#)
- [runner \(VFX\)](#)
- [VFX supervisor](#)
- [software developer](#)
- [ROTO artist \(junior VFX artist\)](#)
- [VFX producer](#)
- [previs artist \(visualise and plan scenes\)](#)
- [VFX editor](#)

## Top tip >>>>

Look at the credits on animations or media that uses animations to get an idea of the range of careers available

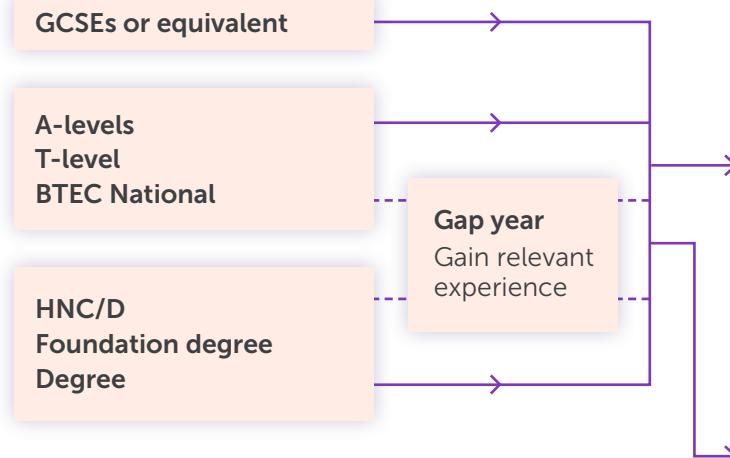
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## Routes in

For most screen careers there's more than one entry route!



You can access some screen industry entry level jobs and training programmes without formal qualifications

Look out for courses that prepare you for employment. Some are endorsed by [ScreenSkills Select](#).



### Apprenticeship/training scheme

Employers, such as:

[FRAMESTORE](#) [Union VFX](#) [DNEG](#)

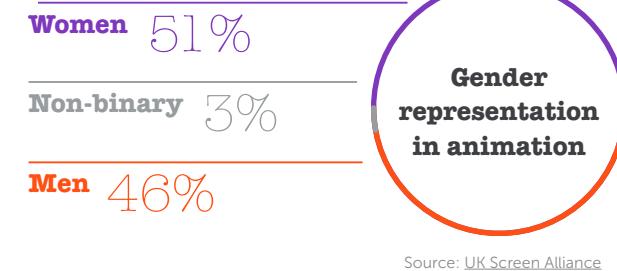
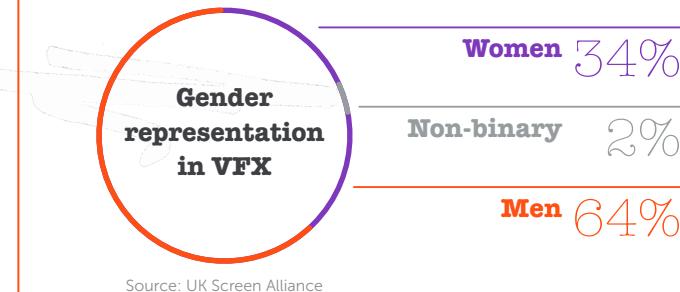
occasionally train apprentices through the

[NextGen Skills Academy](#)

Look for opportunities on employer websites - some are members of [Animation UK](#) - or search through [apprenticeships.gov.uk](#)

Entry-level role, for example trainee or runner.

**Check your eligibility** - entry qualifications vary and for some programmes you have to be aged 18+, for example. You may have to be prepared to relocate or work in different parts of the UK.



## Find out more

<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">@getintofilm</a>		<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">screenskills</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">discovercreative.careers</a>		<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">ukscreenalliance</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">ERIC (16-25)</a>		

## What else can I do?

All sorts of activities – often free – can develop your confidence, skills and build on your strengths. Look out for local and national clubs, competitions, work experience, short courses, events and mentoring. Find opportunities through organisations like:

 For many screen industry roles, you'll need a portfolio of creative work.

<a href="#">Animorsels</a>	<a href="#">BFI Future Film Festival</a>	<a href="#">BFI Film Academy</a>
<a href="#">National Saturday Club (Film and Screen)</a>	<a href="#">Futures for All</a>	
<a href="#">Into Film Competitions</a>	<a href="#">Escapeverse Live</a>	<a href="#">Into Film Clubs</a>
<a href="#">Pinewood Futures Festival</a>	<a href="#">ScreenSkills: Training</a>	<a href="#">NextGen Virtual Work Experience</a>
<a href="#">Young Animator of the Year UK</a>	<a href="#">ACCESS:VFX</a>	

Find the latest opportunities at  
[linktr.ee/get.into.film](http://linktr.ee/get.into.film)



**Top tip >>>> Try creating your own short animations.**

# GAMES INDUSTRY

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## You could work on...

console games    apps    online games  
esports    immersive    VR

## Ways of working



Most people in the games sector are employees.

## Did you know??????

The UK has the largest games development workforce in Europe and it's growing! (TIGA)  
58% of roles are located outside London (UKIE).



## Games companies based in...

### WEST MIDLANDS

- Rare
- Codemasters (EA)
- Sumo Digital
- Playground Games
- Ubisoft Leamington
- Epic Games
- Rebellion
- Mediatonic
- Unity Technologies
- Maverick Games
- Full Fat Games
- Hardlight Studio
- Flix Interactive
- Exient
- Pixel Toys
- Facepunch Studios

### EAST MIDLANDS

- Rockstar Lincoln
- Team 17
- Sumo Digital
- Dambuster Studios
- Synx



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Some of the larger companies may offer work experience but a good starting point for gaining skills, knowledge and confidence is through clubs, competitions, short courses and events. For more info go to the '[What else can I do?](#)' section.

## Roles in the games industry

There's a demand for people at all levels in technical and creative positions, as well as in financial, legal, admin and other careers found in all sectors. You could be a ...



- [texturing artist](#)
- [sound designer](#)
- [AI programmer](#)
- [engine programmer](#)
- [writer \(games\)](#)
- [games tester](#)
- [assistant games producer](#)
- [concept artist](#)
- [QA build engineer](#)
- [level designer](#)
- [esports producer](#)
- [gameplay designer](#)
- [games publisher](#)
- [music composer](#)
- [network programmer](#)
- [technical artist](#)
- [UX designer](#)
- [VR programmer](#)
- [gameplay programmer](#)
- [audio programmer](#)

## Top tip >>>>

Look at the credits on games to get an idea of the range of careers available

Writer Matthew Ningate  
Camera Bruce Tibbey  
Editor Cerys Evans  
Casting Director Alex Mullane  
Art Director Claire Mulligan  
Music Composer Juliet Chambers  
Sound and make-up Sarah Wilby  
Costume Designer Dijek Origi  
Producer Mo Salah  
Assistant Director Aoife McCarthy  
Director or Photography Rory McIlroy  
Lead cast Greg Refeld  
Electrician Runner Maeve O'Reilly  
Caterer Beau Crouse  
Production Manager

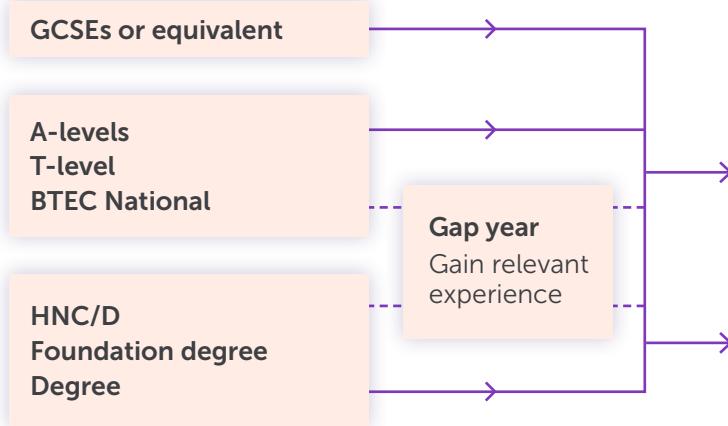
# GAMES INDUSTRY

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## Interested in a creative career?

Arts-based subjects can be important but digital and technology skills are valued too.

Specialise in film/TV or start with a course or training suited to your interests.

[intofilm.org](#)

## Five skills you can develop now for the screen industries:

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## Apprenticeship/training scheme

Look for opportunities on employer websites – some are members of [Ukie](#) – or search through [apprenticeships.gov.uk](#)

## Entry-level role, for example trainee or runner.

**Check your eligibility** – entry qualifications vary and for some programmes you have to be aged 18+, for example. You may have to be prepared to relocate or work in different parts of the UK.

## What else can I do?

[BAFTA Young Game Designers](#)

[Create Central](#)

[Digital Schoolhouse](#)

[Escapeverse Live](#)

[FOCUS: Meet the Makers](#)

[Into Games Events](#)

[Into Games Training](#)

[BFI Film Academy](#)

[NextGen Virtual Work Experience](#)

[Futures For All](#)

[National Saturday Club \(Film and Screen\)](#)

[British Esports Student Champs](#)

[ScreenSkills: Training](#)

Take part in game jams or produce your own games.

Find the latest opportunities at [linktr.ee/get.into.film](#) >>>>>>>



## What about pay? 💰💰💰💰💰

Salaries vary widely depending on your location, area of work, and level of expertise/experience. People who work in the screen industries earn on average £10,000 a year more than the average UK salary. (DCMS)

Many are freelancers who agree their own pay – their income will depend on the type and number of contracts.

## Find out more

[@getintofilm](#)

[screenskills](#)

[discovercreative.careers](#)

[ukscreenalliance](#)

[ERIC \(16-25\)](#)

