

# 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.

**VFX**

**FILM & TV**

**GAMES**

**ANIMATION**

## 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

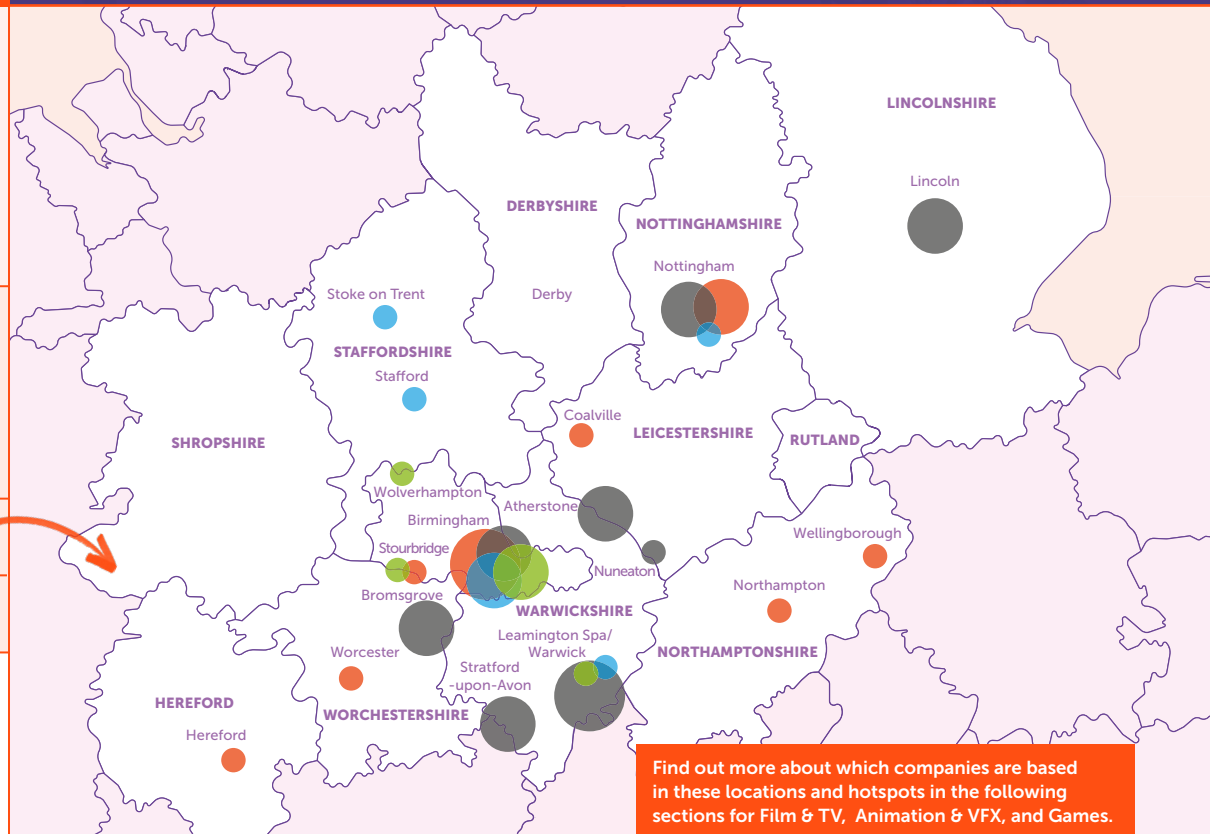
Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

Gangs of London

The Witchfinder

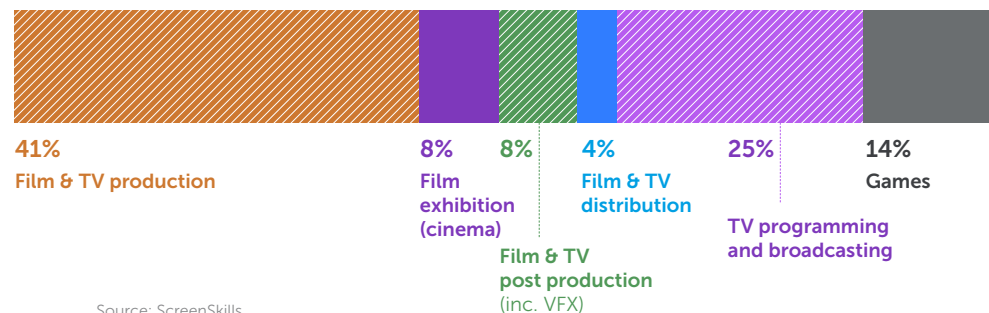
### ANIMATION

Number Blocks



Find out more about which companies are based in these locations and hotspots in the following sections for Film & TV, Animation & VFX, and Games.

## Screen industry workforce across the UK



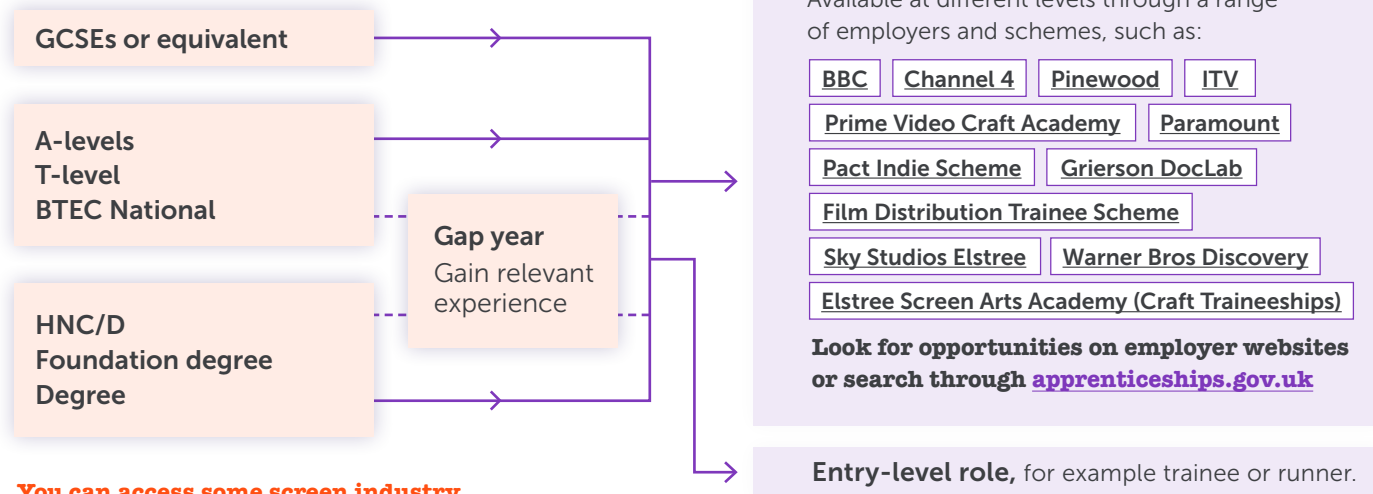
Source: ScreenSkills

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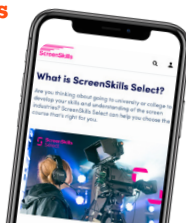
## Routes in

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](https://www.screenskillsselect.co.uk).



**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?

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](https://linktr.ee/get.into.film)



## 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](https://intofilm.org)

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

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

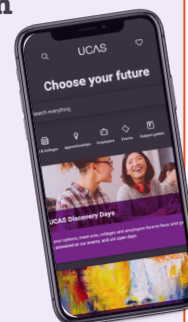


For many screen industry roles, you'll need a portfolio of creative work.

## 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](https://www.ucas.ac.uk)



## Find out more

- ☐ [@getintofilm](https://www.getintofilm.co.uk)
- ☐ [discovercreative.careers](https://www.discovercreativecareers.co.uk)
- ☐ [ERIC](https://www.eric.ac.uk) (16-25)
- ☐ [screenskills.com](https://www.screenskills.com)
- ☐ [ukscreenalliance.co.uk](https://www.ukscreenalliance.co.uk)



# ANIMATION & VFX

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## 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



Freelance

Employed

Source: ScreenSkills

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



Freelance

Employed

Source: ScreenSkills

## 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

Camera  
Editor  
Casting Director  
Art Director  
Music Composer  
Visual Effects Supervisor  
Visual Effects Editor  
Visual Effects Artist  
Visual Effects Assistant  
Visual Effects Coordinator  
Visual Effects Producer  
Visual Effects Manager  
Visual Effects Designer  
Visual Effects Animator  
Visual Effects Compositor  
Visual Effects Rigger  
Visual Effects Matchmove Artist  
Visual Effects Body Tracker  
Visual Effects Runner  
Visual Effects Supervisor  
Visual Effects Producer  
Visual Effects Manager  
Visual Effects Designer  
Visual Effects Animator  
Visual Effects Compositor  
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Visual Effects Matchmove Artist  
Visual Effects Body Tracker  
Visual Effects Runner

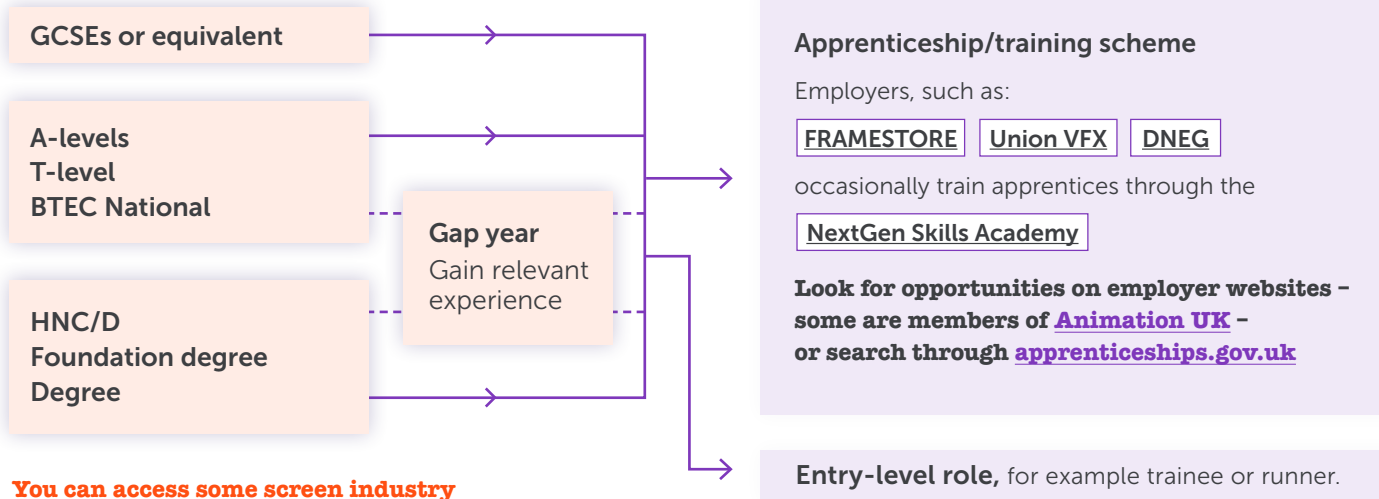
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## Routes in

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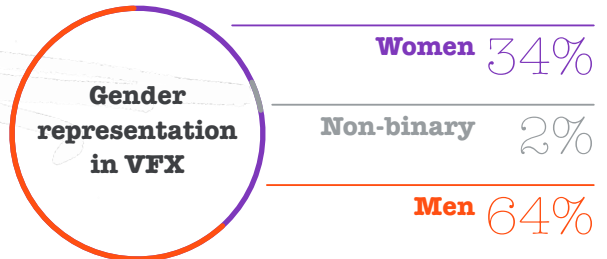


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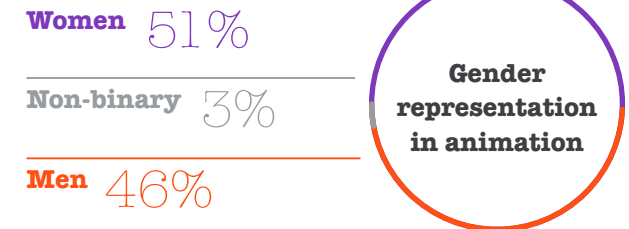
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**Check your eligibility** - entry qualifications vary and for some programmes you have to be aged 18+, for example. You may have to be prepared to relocate or work in different parts of the UK.



Source: UK Screen Alliance



Source: UK Screen Alliance

## Find out more

- ☐ [@getintofilm](https://www.getintofilm.co.uk)
- ☐ [discovercreative.careers](https://www.discovercreativecareers.co.uk)
- ☐ [ERIC \(16-25\)](https://www.eric.co.uk)
- ☐ [screenskills](https://www.screenskills.co.uk)
- ☐ [ukscreenalliance](https://www.ukscreenalliance.co.uk)

## 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:

- Animorsels**
- BFI Future Film Festival**
- BFI Film Academy**
- National Saturday Club (Film and Screen)**
- Futures for All**
- Into Film Competitions**
- Escapeverse Live**
- Into Film Clubs**
- Pinewood Futures Festival**
- ScreenSkills: Training**
- NextGen Virtual Work Experience**
- Young Animator of the Year UK**
- ACCESS:VFX**

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

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



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

# GAMES INDUSTRY

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## You could work on...

console games

apps

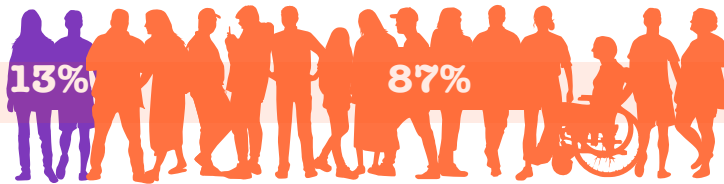
online games

esports

immersive

VR

## Ways of working



Freelance

Employed

Source: ScreenSkills

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**).

Women  
30%

Gender  
representation in  
the games sector

Source: UK Screen Alliance

Non-binary  
3%

Men  
67%

## 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

ScreenSkills  
Camera  
Editor  
Casting Director  
Art Director  
Music Composer  
Hair and make-up  
Assistant Director  
Costume Designer  
Producer  
Director or Photography  
Lead cast  
Electrician  
Runner  
Financier  
Andrew Hanger  
Bryce Tibbey  
Cerys Evans  
Alex Mollane  
Claire Mulligan  
Juliet Chambers  
Sarah Wilby  
Matthew Kent  
Djovak Origi  
Mo Salah  
Aoife McCarthy  
Rory McIlroy  
Greg Relford  
Maeve O'Reilly  
Benjamin Davies



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