

Fine Art

Fine art graduates develop a range of practical and creative skills, and gain valuable experience of entering exhibitions, competitions and building up a portfolio of work

Job options

Jobs directly related to your degree include:

- Fine artist
- Exhibition designer
- Further education teacher
- Higher education lecturer
- Illustrator
- Museum/gallery curator
- Printmaker
- Secondary school teacher

Jobs where your degree would be useful include:

- Art therapist
- Arts administrator
- Commercial art gallery manager
- Interior and spatial designer
- Museum/gallery exhibitions officer
- Multimedia programmer
- Stylist

Typical employers

Finding jobs in this sector is not straightforward. Short-term possibilities are available on a competitive basis and are a means of becoming established. Roles include artist in residence, developing art-related activities in schools, hospitals and prisons, or bidding for fixed-term funding to carry out a particular project or commission. Many fine artists produce and market their own work.

Skills gained

As well as developing practical and creative techniques in a range of media, a fine art degree gives you skills in using different types of equipment and processes from hand tools and welding gear to digitisation.

Employers will also value the transferable skills you have acquired, including:

- the ability to develop individual ideas and collaborate with others
- strong observational, research and analytical skills
- creativity
- problem solving
- the ability to learn from criticism and be objective about your work
- an openness to new influences and concepts
- working to briefs
- meeting deadlines,
- displaying work to advantage

- time management and organisational skills
- oral and written communication
- adapting styles for different audiences
- teamworking
- attention to detail
- technical and IT skills

Take the quiz on: www.prospects.ac.uk

What do fine art graduates do? (2015/16)

A sixth of fine art graduates working in the UK are employed as artists.

Destination	Percentage
Employed	69.1
Further study	11.7
Working and studying	5.5
Unemployed	6.5
Other	7.2

Graduate destinations for fine art

Type of work	Percentage
Arts, design and media	24.7
Retail, catering and bar work	27.9
Secretarial and numerical clerks	6.7
Caring and education work	7.2
Other	33.5

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Fine Art Careers

Fine Artist <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/fine-artist>

Curator Manages collections of art work and/or historical artefacts. Often involved with the acquisition and care of items. Varied, often involving marketing, events management, public relations and fundraising.
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279189-curator-job-description>

Graphic Designer Creates images and lettering for use across various digital and print media from websites to magazines. Combines technical skill and creativity as well as the ability to communicate clearly to work with clients. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/graphic-designer>
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279603-graphic-designer-job-description>

Illustrator Use creative skills to bring visual elements to a story. May specialise in a particular medium such as digital illustration or drawing. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/illustrator>
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279809-illustrator-job-description>

Printmaker Involved with transferring images to a variety of surfaces using moulds and a variety of different techniques from traditional craft-based methods to more modern computer-generated design.
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/printmaker>

Set Designer Work in Film, Television and/or Theatre creating the set in collaboration with other members of a production crew. Clear communication and creativity are essential for this role.
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/production-designer-theatre-television-film>
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs/job-profile/set-designer>

Teacher Opportunities to teach Art in schools, further education colleges and higher education.
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/primary-school-teacher>

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279173-teacher-nurseryearly-years-job-description>

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279177-teacher-primary-job-description>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/secondary-school-teacher>

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279187-teacher-secondary-job-description>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/further-education-teacher>

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/280551-lecturer-further-education-job-description>

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279191-teacher-special-educational-needs-job-description>

University Lecturer Teaches through lectures and seminars, carry out research and a wide range of administrative and pastoral tasks. A teaching qualification is not required, but usually need a higher degree, normally a PhD. Competition is strong for entry-level academic posts.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/higher-education-lecturer>
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/280553-lecturer-higher-education-job-description>

Web Designer Plan, create and code web pages, using technical and non-technical skills to produce websites that fit their customer's requirements. Involved in the technical and graphical aspects of pages, and may be responsible for the maintenance of an existing site.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/web-designer>

Other related careers

Arts Administrator Manages activities and services which support the arts sector, involving projects and initiatives provided by arts organisations <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/arts-administrator>
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/277703-arts-administrator-job-description>

Art Gallery Manager Can vary widely depending on the type of gallery. May involve more technical aspects such as installation of exhibits and managing facilities. Could also involve marketing, sales and communication. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/commercial-art-gallery-manager>

Exhibitions Officer Involves a great deal of project management including planning, organising, buying and maintaining permanent or travelling exhibitions

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/exhibition-designer> <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279497-exhibition-display-designer-job-description> <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279507-exhibition-organiser-job-description>

Art Therapist Help people who may struggle to communicate verbally to express their feelings through visual art methods. Work with a wide variety of patients experiencing a variety of difficulties.
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/art-therapist> <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/277625-art-therapist-job-description>

Interior Designer Design/renovate internal spaces including structural alterations, furnishings, fixtures & fittings, lighting & colour schemes. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/interior-and-spatial-designer>

Visual Merchandiser Work to promote images, products, services and brands through visual concepts and strategies. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/visual-merchandiser>

Community Arts Worker Job titles tend to relate quite closely to the role or type of work, eg arts development officer, youth engagement officer, youth arts practitioner, and community projects assistant.
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/community-arts-worker> <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/job-descriptions/279067-community-arts-worker-job-description>

Graduate Jobs outside Art Many employers are looking for graduates with good degrees but don't have a preference for the subject studied eg civil service, MI5, OT, graduate management schemes.
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/graduate-jobs> <https://targetjobs.co.uk/search/all>

Self-Employment Is it right for you, what skills you will need and are you ready?
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/self-employment/is-self-employment-right-for-you>

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