

Working for Exposure

As explained by (Lee-Rekers, A. (2021) Unpaid work or also known as working for exposure, is a fundamental component of the creative industries economy that has existed for a long time and will continue to do so. Even though not everyone agrees with this concept, it is important to remember that not every unpaid job is one that has to be avoided. What is key is to be able to distinguish between the good and the bad opportunities, and to select those that are not going to exploit or minimize you, since working through exposure can bring many long-term benefits professionally and personally if done appropriately.

As mentioned previously, I think that if you are studying or can afford to work on exposure for a week or two, I would highly recommend it. I say one or two weeks, because more than that seems a little excessive to me, because if you are a student you surely have work and projects to do and deliver, and if you are already graduated, you have to support yourself, so you need a source of income. Ultimately, exposure work should be something that helps you, not something that gets in the way of your career or distracts you from it.

Working by exposure (2023) can make you discover and try a lot of new things and expand your skills and learn completely new techniques or skills in your field of interest, so it's incredibly helpful. Based on the fact that it is an appropriate site that will not exploit you. Apart from trying new things, it is also a way to test if you are going to like this job or to check if this future is right for you, although obviously it is not a clear example, since perhaps it is not the same position and duration of work time, but it's easier to get an idea. It gives you a taste of what is like working in that field or department and working in that environment without having to commit fully to an actual job. Working through exposure is also an easy way to get your foot in the door of the industry you want. Mainly in the film and theater industry, having contacts and being known is of crucial importance. Since many times you can be recommended for a job by word of mouth and within the industry people will share their opinions regarding your work and behavior. So if you can start little by little either while you are studying, doing exposure work is one of the quickest and simplest ways to start this process.

In the creative industries it is quite important to help each other, so if you can and it doesn't cost you extra, why not? At the end of the day, art is something we do to give, rather than to receive, so there is always a certain satisfaction in contributing your touch to projects like this, and helping your colleagues and community. Also being part of an artistic creation always brings great satisfaction to a personal level. That is part of the beauty within art and this industry, since it cannot be done with just one person. As stated by (Lee-Rekers, A. (2021)) this artistic industrie is usually considers the artist to sacrifice themselves for this art, so working by exposure can also help you set some boundaries and respect for yourself to learn how much to charge for future works. Obviously not all artistic work has to be done for free, as previously stated, that's not how this industry works, but if it is going to bring you some kind of benefit and you have the time and can afford it then it is a good concept to support the artistic industry.

Now one of the ways that work serves us the most through exposure to professional time is when we go to a job interview. Mentioned by (Milkround) the more things you have on your resume the more you can talk to interviewers. Thousands of questions can come from these

small jobs and you have more topics of conversation with the interviewer. If you are a student it is quite important for the first time you apply for a job, because this way they see that you have already started a little in the industry. It is always better to have some exposure jobs on your CV than none, or only have jobs not related to the industry. So in the long term it is always something useful. Likewise, if you have many jobs per exposure, the company where you want to be hired will see you as having more experience, and perhaps you give an image of being more hard-working or more willing to carry out the necessary tasks.

After having worked for exposure myself, it is something that I would recommend doing. I made it for a Halloween festival in Cardiff, and it's actually one of my favorite moments from my university studies. Not only because of everything new that I learned, but because of the people with whom I had the opportunity to work, and because of that feeling of having been part of a team and of having created something that will be seen by the public and that will have an impact in the way they live their festival experience. So I think it is something that is worth trying at least once, but as I have previously mentioned, it is something that I would recommend doing at most for a couple of weeks, so as not to deviate from your responsibilities and something to do when you are sure of that this offer is a good opportunity, and simply ensuring that the company is safe and trustworthy and that they are not going to exploit you. Other than that, you have nothing to lose.

Carmarthenshire County Council (2023) *Benefits of Work Experience* available at:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/jobs-careers/work-experience/benefits-of-work-experience/#:~:text=What%20are%20the%20benefits%20of,you%20hadn't%20previously%20considered.&text=Gain%20valuable%20skills%20such%20as,confidence%20within%20a%20working%20environment.>

(accessed: 25/04/2024)

Lee-Rekers, A. (2021) *Paid in Exposure: When Should You Work for Free?* Available at:

<https://www.stagemilk.com/when-should-you-work-for-free-as-an-actor/>

(Accessed: 25/04/2024)

Milkround. *Work Placement pros and cons* available at;

<https://www.milkround.com/advice/work-placement-pros-and-cons#:~:text=The%20main%20benefits%20of%20a,pressures%20of%20the%20working%20world>

(accessed: 25/04/2024)