NORTHERN IRELAND
screen

CAREERS IN THE
SCREEN INDUSTRIES

JOB ROLES IN THE SCREEN INDUSTRY

There are over 253 individual job roles between the 5 Industry Sectors within the Creative Screen Industry: Film, Television, Animation, Gaming and VFX.

The biggest overlaps are between Film and television (especially high end TV) and Animation and VFX.

The broadest range of job roles is within the film and television industries, which requires everything from producers and directors, to lawyers and accountants, to electricians and plasterers.

253 JOB ROLES*

95 ROLES IN MORE THAN 1 SECTOR

FILM ◄····► DIRECTOR ◄····► TV

VFX ◄····► ROTO ARTIST ◄····► ANIMATION

* Creative Skillset

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

The screen industries are highly competitive, so being able to stand out from the crowd is a must. Specific qualifications are essential for some job roles, but not all. What you do need to have, no matter what job role you are interested in, are the Essential Skills highlighted in this diagram.

You can easily develop many of these skills through work experience or volunteering. Even your hobbies and interests can help. In addition to these skills, it's a good idea to have your driving license. This is especially important for the Film and Television sectors.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- WORK ALONE
- SELF STARTER
- ENTREPRENEURIAL OUTLOOK
- FLEXIBILITY
- TEAM PLAYER
- COMMON SENSE
- INITIATIVE / PROBLEM SOLVING
- NEGOTIATION SKILLS
- EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- ENTHUSIASM

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HOW DO I GET IN?

Here are a few tips to help you get into the screen industry:

❶ **Research the post(s) you are interested in.** Contact someone working in that sector and ask for advice. *Important: always notify an adult of any contacts you make, especially if you are arranging to meet someone.*

Not sure what you want to do? Why not read the credits at the end of a film or a game and research the roles that catch your eye? Visit the ScreenSkills (formerly Creative Skillset) website to get an idea of the range of jobs available in each of the sectors.
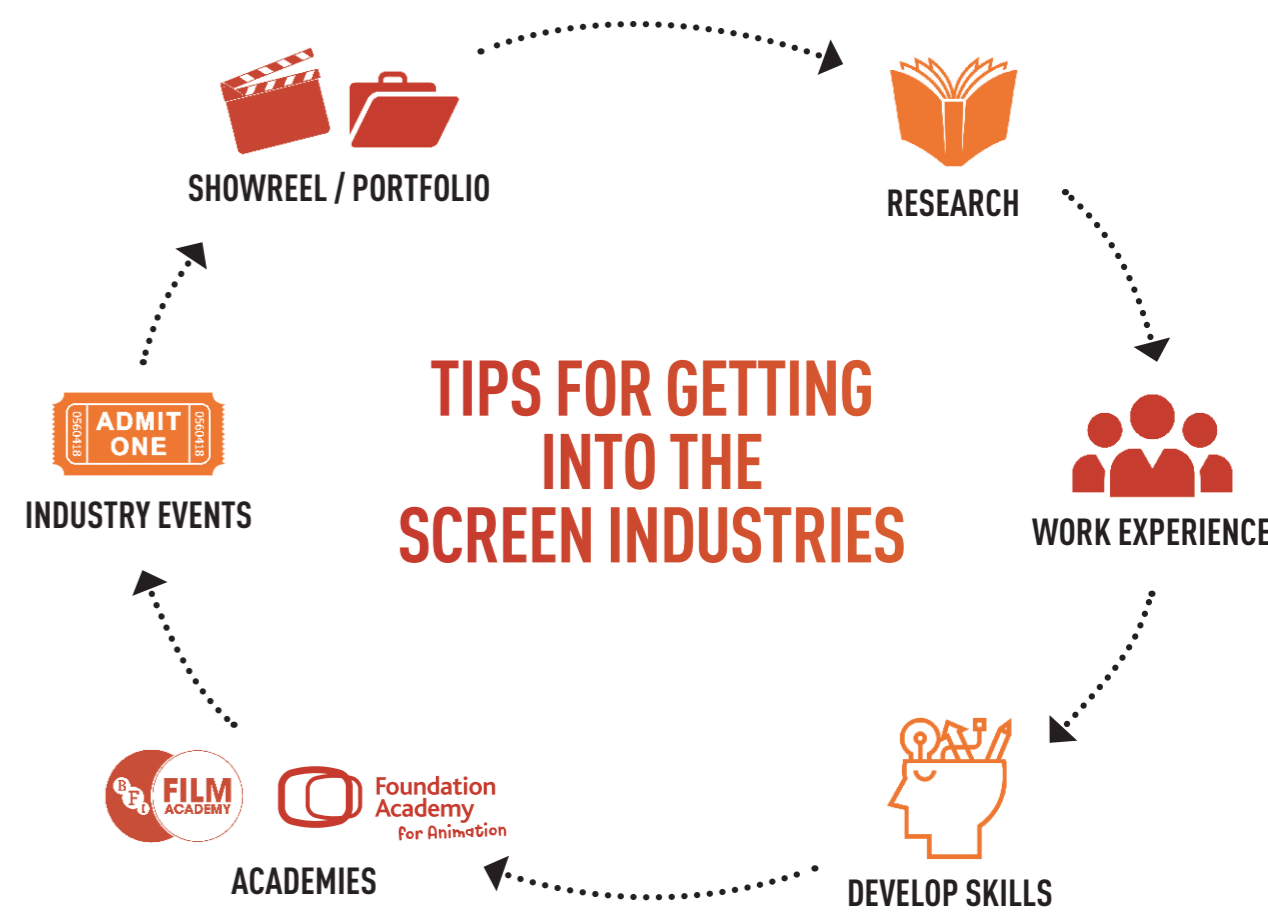
❷ **Get work experience.** Volunteer your time or get work experience as a runner if your interest is in TV/Film/VFX. This is an excellent way to see how your chosen industry sector works. Watch out for "Calls for Crew" on the Northern Ireland Screen website or subscribe to the website to be kept up to date with the latest information. MIA AS or A2 Level students and BFI Film Academy students are eligible for Northern Ireland Screen's Work Experience Programme. Go to www.northernirelandscreen. co.uk/education/work-experience-internships-volunteering/ for more details.

❸ **Develop your skills.** Watch films, make films, write, draw, make models, create games etc. Use these projects to build a **portfolio/showreel** of work. Remember, it's good to show progression, so include your early efforts.

❹ Aged 16–19? Speak to your local Creative Learning Centre (Nerve Belfast, Nerve Centre, the AMMA Centre, Armagh) or Cinemagic about the **BFI Film Academy**. Interested in animation? Contact Nerve Belfast about the new Northern Ireland Screen **Foundation Academy for Animation**.

❺ **Industry events** are great opportunities to network. Many of the local film festivals run premiers (very often with cast and crew in attendance); screenings followed by Q&A sessions with the film's director/editor/chief sound engineer etc. Do a little prep before you go so that you are able to make the most of any networking opportunity.

TIPS FOR GETTING INTO THE SCREEN INDUSTRIES

SHOWREEL / PORTFOLIO

RESEARCH

WORK EXPERIENCE

DEVELOP SKILLS

ACADEMIES

INDUSTRY EVENTS

ADMIT ONE

USEFUL WEBSITES

northernirelandscreen.co.uk

intofilm.org

ammacentre.org

nervecentre.org

nervebelfast.org

cinemagic.org.uk

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

Bafta Guru: guru.bafta.org

BFI Film Academy: bfi.org.uk

Empire: empireonline.com

Games NI: gamesni.com

Games Development Conference: goo.gl/GacWXx

Hiive: app.hiive.co.uk

HMRC: gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-youre-self-employed

Pixel Prospector: pixelprospector.com

ScreenSkills: screenskills.com/education-training/careers-information/job-profiles/

Sight and Sound: bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine