

Graphic Designer

Graphic Designers create visual branding, adverts, brochures, magazines, website designs, product packaging and displays.

ANNUAL SALARY

£16,000 to £50,000

Average UK salary in 2019 was £29,588
(source Office for National Statistics)

WORKING HOURS

37 to 40 a week

You could work: evenings; occasionally

+2%

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

There will be 2% more Graphic designer jobs in 2024.

In your local area

What's it all about?

What you'll do

Day to day tasks

Depending on your role, your day-to-day tasks may include:

- discussing the client's requirements and coming up with creative ideas
- working out budgets and deadlines
- producing rough drafts and presenting your ideas
- preparing designs using specialist software
- making presentations to clients for feedback and approval
- producing a final layout
- explaining requirements to photographers, printers, manufacturers or games developers
- keeping up with design trends and developments in software tools



Working environment

You could work in a creative studio, in an office or at a client's business.

Entry Requirements

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- a college course
- an apprenticeship

University

You could take a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in:

- graphic design
- art and design
- illustration

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- a foundation diploma in art and design
- 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

College

You could take a college course like a Level 3 Diploma in Graphic Design or Level 4 Higher National Certificate in Art and Design, and use this to join a company as a design assistant.

Entry requirements

You may need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course
- 1 or 2 A levels, a level 3 diploma or relevant experience for a level 4 or level 5 course

Apprenticeship

You could start by doing an advanced apprenticeship in design, specialising in graphics.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

What skills are required?

You'll need:

- design skills and knowledge
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of media production and communication
- knowledge of English language
- the ability to come up with new ways of doing things
- excellent verbal communication skills
- thinking and reasoning skills
- the ability to work well with your hands
- knowledge of the fine arts
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Career tips

There's a lot of competition for graphic design work. You'll need a portfolio that shows your creative ideas, skills and work experience to help you get started.

Professional and industry bodies

You could join the Chartered Society of Designers and the International Society of Typographical Designers for professional development and to make industry contacts.

Further information

You can get more information on working in creative careers from Discover Creative Careers.

Employment by Region

Region	Jobs
East of England	10,614
Scotland	4,184
North East	1,379
Northern Ireland	1,381
East Midlands	5,705
London	33,511
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,659
South West	6,678
Wales	2,154
West Midlands	6,009
South East	17,282
North West	5,629

Career Path and Progression

You could become a senior designer, creative director or move into management.

You could go freelance or start your own design agency.

Another option is to move into teaching or lecturing.

Other Useful Information

You could join the Chartered Society of Designers and the International Society of Typographical Designers for professional development and to make industry contacts.

You can find out more about careers and training in Graphic Design from Creative Choices.