

Sound Engineer

What is it?

As a member of the light and sound sector, you could be responsible for the sound or light at live events (such as concerts, conferences, and theatre) or recorded productions (such as TV, film, photoshoots and recorded music).

Qualifications/Experience Required:

Job competition is intense, and most companies require candidates to have gained a minimum of 5 GCSEs, grades 4 and higher including English Maths and a music related subject. It is also advisable to gain a relevant qualification such as an NVQ in Theatre Theme Support and Light Management.

What the Work Involves:

Sound Engineers set up, operate and maintain a range of technical equipment that is designed to capture, magnify and manipulate words and music. Sound Engineers create 'sound plots', choose equipment and insert sound effects according to the instructions of the director of the production.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Competition for jobs is intense, and you may spend a long time proving your credentials as a runner or gofer.

Theatre sound engineers may go to become sound designers with greater creative input in productions, whereas many sound engineers move to roles as producers.

Culture, media and sports occupations (SOC2)
Standard Occupational Classification

UK growth: +.2% from 2020 to 2025, creating 1,593 jobs.

North East growth: -3.8% from 2020 to 2025, losing 572 jobs

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

You will need to have a good musical ear and excellent sense of timing in order to put together pleasing and appropriate soundtracks/background audio to a range of productions.

Money/Wage Guide:

Starting salaries range from £17,000 to £25,000 per year.

Sound Engineers working on large productions, with big companies, can earn in excess of £40,000.

Related Opportunities:

- Musician
- Lighting Technician

Further Information:

National Film and Television School:

www.nfts.co.uk

Professional Lighting and Sound Association:

www.plasa.org