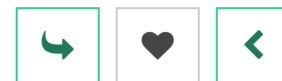


1 2 3

# Special effects (SFX) make-up artist



Special effects (SFX) make-up artists specialise in making other-worldly characters, or gore, look realistic in film or TV.



## What you'll do

Your day-to-day duties can include:

- applying make-up to performers
- creating prosthetics such as fake limbs or fake facial features
- making small models or mock-ups of what you will be aiming to create on the performers
- meeting with your Head of Department or other design teams to discuss the director's artistic vision
- travelling to film sets in remote locations
- touching up make-up throughout filming as weather and lighting conditions change

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

## Working hours and environment

You'll normally work freelance, which means you'll be given a temporary contract for each TV production or film you work on. This can mean some very busy periods, as well as some much quieter ones in between contracts.

Working days can be long, and you'll need to be flexible. Filming can start very early in the morning or run late into the evening.

## Career path and progression

You could build your skills in other areas - like other physical special effects (such as making weather look realistic) or pyrotechnics - by attending more courses or training schools. You could then take on a flexible job title (e.g. Special effects technician and Make-up artist) depending on which project you are working on.

With experience, you could become a Head of Department on-set, managing other SFX make-up artists.

## Skills required

You'll need:

- attention to detail / observation
- creativity / innovation
- problem solving skills
- artistic skills
- communication skills
- teamwork
- adaptability / personal effectiveness

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

## Entry requirements

There are no set entry requirements. However, it's helpful to have a qualification in make-up, preferably theatrical or media make-up in this role. You could gain this through an [apprenticeship](#).

Your progression is largely based on industry experience, so apply for entry-level roles in film and TV as an assistant or runner, to begin with.

You could build your skills by studying a special effects course at a film studio, like Pinewood or Elstree (UK), The Cinema Make-up School (USA), or Vancouver Film School (Canada).

It might also be useful to have a driving licence, so you can travel easily with your kit to remote filming locations.

## Related university subject profiles

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- [Drama and Theatre studies](#) >
- [Film and Photography](#) >
- [Textiles and Fashion](#) >

## Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- [Prop maker](#) >
- [Make-up artist](#) >
- [Costume designer](#) >
- [Set designer](#) >

## Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

### Drama and Theatre studies at uni:

[USA](#) > [UK](#) > [Canada](#) > [Europe](#) > [Asia](#) > [Australasia](#) > [Middle East and Africa](#) > [Ireland](#) >

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### Apprenticeships:

[UK](#) >

## College / Sixth Form:

UK &gt;

## Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Special effects (SFX) make-up artist profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

● UK USA

 **Jobs**

Hairdressers and related services



# 245,863

 **1,791** in your local area of Liverpool
**Top 5 local areas**

1	Essex	7,471
2	Kent	6,607
3	Hampshire	6,326
4	Lancashire	5,489
5	Hertfordshire	5,233

 **Salaries**

Beauticians and related occupations



# £19,026

Hairdressers and related services



# £19,487

 **(Not enough data for this region)** in your region of North West
**Top 3 regions**

1	South East	£20,965
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 **Growth**

2020-2035

Leisure, travel and related personal service occupations

**-4.2%** ↓ 30,919 jobs

📍 **-10.4%** in your region of North West, an decrease of 7,632 jobs

Save to Favourites? ❤️

You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

## People also liked...

Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



### Make-up artist



Make-up artists style hair and apply makeup for clients attending special events or appearing on camera

[Read the profile >](#)



### Costume designer



Costume designers are responsible for designing, making, and hiring costumes for everyone on a stage or screen production.

[Read the profile >](#)



### Actor

Actors bring stories and characters to life on television, on the stage, in audiobooks, and in film.

[Read the profile >](#)