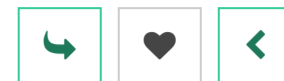


1 2 3

# Sound technician (TV or film)

Also called: Production mixer, audio recordist

Sound technicians record actors' voices and any background noise on TV and film shoots.



## What you'll do

You could specialise in:

- production sound – recording sound on set or location
- post-production – putting the final soundtrack together in an editing studio

On a production sound team, your day-to-day duties may include:

- setting up equipment to suit the acoustics and the sound designer's instructions
- selecting and placing fixed microphones
- operating the boom (a microphone on a pole used to get close to the sound source)
- checking sound quality
- recording sound onto digital devices
- servicing and repairing equipment
- playing music or sound effects into a live programme

On a post-production team, your duties may include:

- following a sound designer or sound supervisor's instructions
- mixing and balancing speech, effects and background music
- editing speech to fit the action on screen
- creating extra sound effects and adding them into the soundtrack

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

## Working hours and environment

You'll often work long and irregular hours, including early mornings or late nights, according to the demands of the production. You may also need to be flexible and work at short notice.

For production sound recording, you could work anywhere from studios to outside locations, in all weather conditions. Location work could be anywhere in the UK or overseas.

Post-production sound editing takes place in soundproofed studios and editing suites.

## Career path and progression

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You could progress from working for a small, regional company or station to working for a large, national one. You could also move into studio management.

## Skills required

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You'll need:

- excellent hearing
- excellent practical skills
- a high level of attention to detail
- the ability to cope with long hours and tight deadlines

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

## Entry requirements

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There are no set requirements, but it will help if you have experience. A good knowledge of sound technology and equipment will also be helpful.

You could gain experience by:

- working on student or community film or radio projects
- setting up ('rigging') sound equipment for amateur theatre or local bands
- working for a sound equipment manufacturer or hire company
- assisting in a recording or editing studio

An FE / community college course in a subject like music technology, sound engineering, or media production could also develop your knowledge and skills.

You could also do a course run by a private provider, like the National Film and Television School Sound Diploma in the UK.

You could get into this job through an [apprenticeship](#) if you live in a country that offers these as a qualification.

## Related Know-how guides

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Explore Know-how guides related to this career:

- [Get on the ladder: TV, radio and film production](#) >

## Related university subject profiles

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

- [Film and Photography](#) >
- [Media and Communications](#) >
- [Music](#) >

## Related career profiles

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You may also be interested in:

- [Live sound engineer >](#)
- [Studio sound engineer >](#)
- [DJ >](#)
- [Broadcast engineer >](#)
- [Lighting technician >](#)
- [Audio visual technician >](#)

## Explore

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

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### Apprenticeships:

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### College / Sixth Form:

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## Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Sound technician (TV or film) profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

UK
  USA

### Jobs

Artistic, literary and media occupations

**342,899**

 **2,417** in your local area of Liverpool

#### Top 5 local areas

1	Surrey	8,868
2	Hackney	8,587
3	Kent	8,466
4	Hertfordshire	8,120
5	Lambeth	7,261

### Salaries

Photographers, audio-visual and broadcasting equipment operators

**£29,047**

Artistic, literary and media occupations

**£32,914**

📍 **£30,531** in your region of North West

**Top 3 regions**

1	South East	£35,849
2	London	£34,864
3	North West	£30,531

**Growth**

2020-2035

Culture, media and sports occupations

**+.2%** ↑ 1,593 jobs

📍 **-4.8%** in your region of North West, an decrease of 2,325 jobs

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**Studio sound engineer** ❤️

Studio sound engineers record music, speech, and sound effects in recording studios.

[Read the profile >](#)



**Director (TV or film)** ❤️

TV and film directors are responsible for the artistic vision of a script. They make key decisions including cast choices and production design.

[Read the profile >](#)



**Music producer**

Music producers oversee the creation of a soundtrack, or album.

[Read the profile >](#)