

Illustrator

Illustrators produce drawings, paintings or diagrams for use in products like books and greetings cards, or on packaging.

What you'll do:

You may specialise in one area of illustration, like technical, children's books or advertising.

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- discussing requirements, or 'briefs', with authors, editors or designers
- negotiating prices and timescales
- deciding on the right style for illustrations
- creating illustrations using hand drawing, painting or computer design packages
- If you work for yourself, you'll also need to promote your business and manage your own finances

Working hours, patterns and environment

If freelance, you'll usually arrange your own hours depending on your workload and the deadlines you have to meet.

You could be based at home or in a studio, and may spend time visiting clients to market your work and discuss briefs.



Watch this video from a student studying graphic design

<https://cdn.unifrog.org/video/376mbemcrt/480.mp4>

These university subjects are related to this career:

[Graphic Design](#)

[Fine art](#)

[Media and Communications](#)

East Midlands growth: +5.3% from 2017 to 2027

Overall UK median earnings: £27,619

Skills You'll need:

- excellent time management
- attention to detail
- the ability to work to a brief
- creativity and imagination

Qualifications and grades

If you want to study graphic design:
Level 2 (e.g. GCSEs)

At least five GCSEs, with a minimum of Grade 4 in English and Maths and a strong grade in Art or Design.

Level 3 (e.g. A-Levels, BTECs)

3 A-levels (or the equivalent), one of which should be in an art-related subject. You should also have created a portfolio of work at this stage too.

You could also:

Get into this career through a creative [apprenticeship](#)

Many illustrators have a degree in illustration or other arts-related subject like graphic design.

Even without a degree you can still be successful if you have artistic flair and a strong collection of work (portfolio).