

Job of The Week

Live Sound Engineer

Key Skills

- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of computer operating systems, hardware and software
- the ability to work well with others
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be flexible and open to change
- persistence and determination
- customer service skills
- knowledge of media production and communication
- to be able to use a computer and software packages competently

Salary

£25,000 - £40,000

Working hours

39 – 41 per week
Evenings/weekends/bank
holidays
Away from home

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Live Sound Engineer

Other Routes

Several drama schools offer degrees and diplomas in technical theatre accredited by the Federation of Drama Schools. Some of these courses include lighting and stage management as well as sound.

College

Some sound engineers start by taking a college course to develop their skills before looking for work. Qualifications include:

- Level 2 Diploma in Sound and Music Technology
- Level 3 Certificate in Technical Theatre: Sound, Light and Stage
- T Level in Media, Broadcast and Production

Entry requirements

2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D) for a level 2 course

4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C for a level 3 course

4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) including English and maths for a T Level

Volunteering

You can get practical experience of using sound equipment to help your career prospects:

- Helping backstage in a theatre
- Being a roadie for a band
- Rigging sound in amateur or student theatre, or for local bands
- Working for a sound equipment manufacturer or hire company

Apprenticeship

You could apply for an apprenticeship to get into this role, for example:

- Creative Industries Production Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship
- Audio Visual Technician Level 5 Higher Apprenticeship

These take around 2 years to complete.

Entry requirements

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

4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels for a higher or degree apprenticeship

University

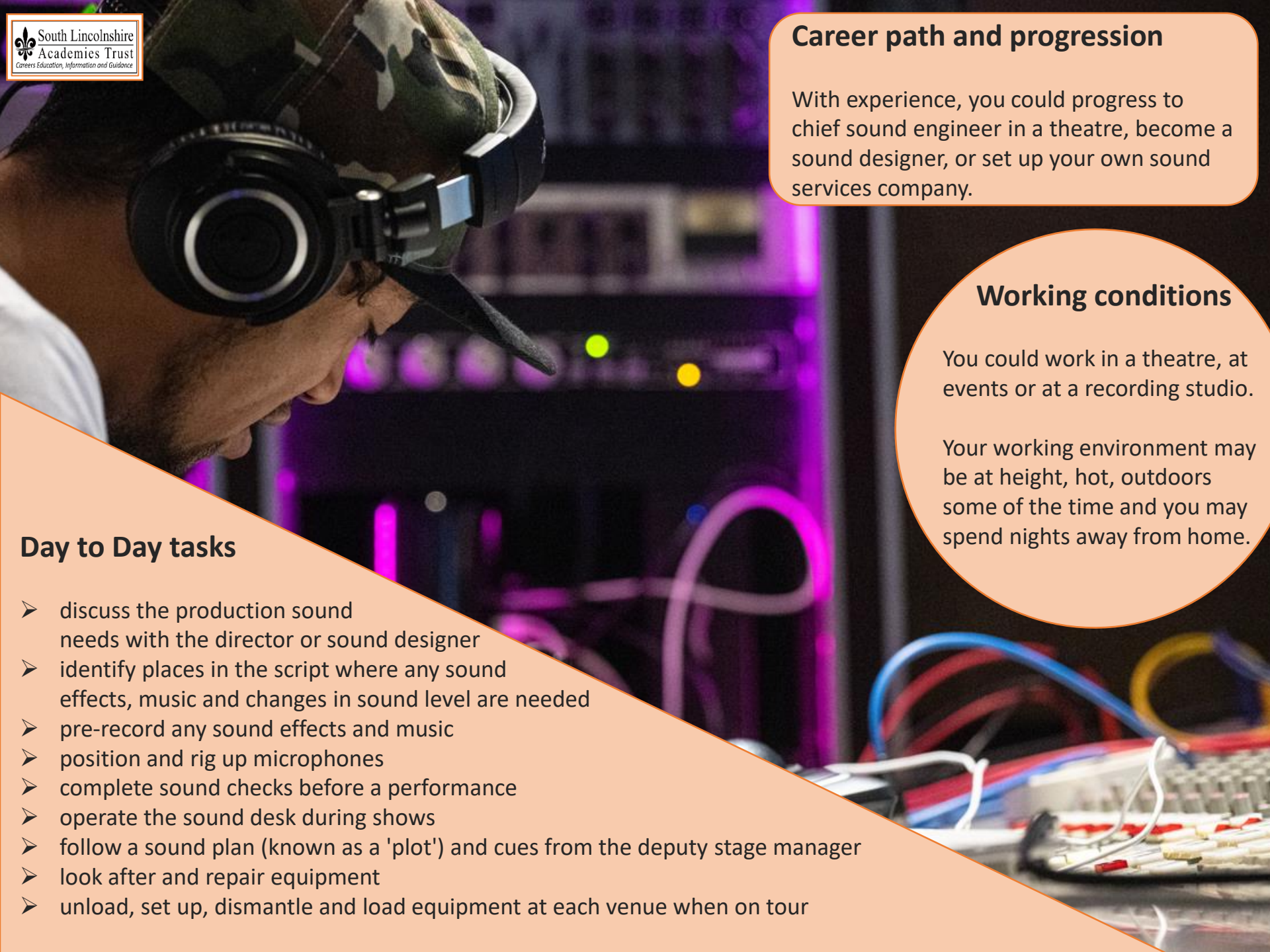
You can do a foundation degree, higher national diploma, or degree in a related subject like:

- Sound and live event production
- Live sound and lighting technology
- Music technology
- Technical theatre art

Entry requirements

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



Career path and progression

With experience, you could progress to chief sound engineer in a theatre, become a sound designer, or set up your own sound services company.

Working conditions

You could work in a theatre, at events or at a recording studio.

Your working environment may be at height, hot, outdoors some of the time and you may spend nights away from home.

Day to Day tasks

- discuss the production sound needs with the director or sound designer
- identify places in the script where any sound effects, music and changes in sound level are needed
- pre-record any sound effects and music
- position and rig up microphones
- complete sound checks before a performance
- operate the sound desk during shows
- follow a sound plan (known as a 'plot') and cues from the deputy stage manager
- look after and repair equipment
- unload, set up, dismantle and load equipment at each venue when on tour



Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Electrical engineers

Weekly Pay
£1,040
Hours/Week
42h

Annual Pay
£54,080
Hourly Pay
£25

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth
11.1%

The workforce is projected to grow by 11.1% over the period to 2035, creating 3,800 jobs.

You might find this job in

Specialised construction
Wholesale trade
Electricity, gas, etc
Land transport, etc
Architectural & related

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Electrical and electronics technicians

Weekly Pay
£770
Hours/Week
47h

Annual Pay
£40,040
Hourly Pay
£16

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth
7.3%

The workforce is projected to grow by 7.3% over the period to 2035, creating 1,400 jobs.

You might find this job in

Specialised construction
Architectural & related
Repair & installation
Health
Telecommunications

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Photographers, audio-visual and broadcasting equipment operators

Weekly Pay
£610
Hours/Week
42h

Annual Pay
£31,720
Hourly Pay
£15

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth
11.1%

The workforce is projected to grow by 11.1% over the period to 2035, creating 10,500 jobs.

You might find this job in

Services to buildings
Film & music
Arts & entertainment
Libraries, etc
Other professional

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Labour Market Information

Electrical engineers

Electrical engineers undertake research and design, direct construction and manage the operation and maintenance of electrical equipment, power stations, building control systems and other electrical products and systems.

Common tasks in this job:

- conceives and develops engineering designs from product ideas in electrical engineering
- supervises, controls and monitors the operation of electrical generation, transmission and distribution systems
- determines and specifies manufacturing methods of electrical systems
- ensures that manufacture, operation and maintenance comply with design specifications and contractual arrangements

Back

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Electrical and electronics technicians

Electrical and electronics technicians perform a variety of miscellaneous technical support functions to assist with the design, development, installation, operation and maintenance of electrical and electronic systems.

Common tasks in this job:

- plans and prepares work and test schedules based on specifications and drawings
- sets up equipment, undertakes tests, takes readings, performs calculations and records and interprets data
- plans installation methods, checks completed installation for safety and controls or undertakes the initial running of the new electrical or electronic equipment or system
- diagnoses and detects faults and implements procedures to maintain efficient operation of systems and equipment

Back

Clear card

Photographers, audio-visual and broadcasting equipment operators

Photographers, audio-visual and broadcasting equipment operators operate and assist with still, cine and television cameras, operate other equipment to record, manipulate and project sound and vision for entertainment, cultural, commercial and industrial purposes and operate drones to provide aerial video and photographs.

Common tasks in this job:

- selects subject and conceives composition of picture or discusses composition with colleagues
- arranges subject, lighting, camera equipment and any microphones
- inserts lenses and adjusts aperture and speed settings as necessary
- operates scanning equipment to transfer image to computer and manipulates image to achieve the desired effect

Back

Clear card



Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Sound Technician Insight



[Sound technician](#)

Audio Engineering



[Why Audio Engineering is so Cool | Career Spotlight](#)

Professional and industry bodies

You can join [The Institute of Sound and Communications Engineers](#) for professional recognition, training opportunities and to make industry contacts.

Further information

You can find out more about becoming a live sound engineer from [Spotlight](#).

You can get more information on working in creative careers from [Discover Creative Careers](#).