

Job of The Week

Lighting Technician

Key Skills

- knowledge of building and construction
- The ability to use, repair and maintain machines and tools
- Maths knowledge
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- analytical thinking skills
- the ability to use your initiative
- leadership skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Salary
£15,000 - £40,000

Working hours
42-44
Evenings/ Weekends/
Bank Holidays

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Lighting Technician

Top Tips

It's a good idea to build up a portfolio of your work. This could be a showreel DVD or online profile of productions you've worked on, which you can show to potential employers.

College

You could complete a college course like:
Level 3 Certificate or Diploma in Production Arts
Level 3 Certificate in Technical Theatre: Sound, Light & Stage
T Level in Media, Broadcast and Production

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a Level 3 course; 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and Maths for a T Level

Apprenticeship

You may be able to start in this job through the following advanced apprenticeships:

Live event rigger
Live venue technician
Creative venue technician
Installation electrician and maintenance electrician

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and Maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

University

You could do a Foundation Degree, Higher National Diploma or Degree in:

- Performing Arts (production)
- Lighting Design
- Lighting and Performance Technology
- Technical Theatre

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 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

Work

You could qualify as an electrician first and then get practical experience in production lighting

Volunteering

You will need relevant practical experience. You may be able to find a traineeship with a specialist lighting company. You could also look for experience in the following settings:

lighting equipment hire companies
theatres or concert venues
amateur theatre

student or community film projects

You can search for film and TV companies to approach for experience through media business listing services like PACT and The Knowledge

Career path and progression

You could work on more complex events, or specialise in areas like electrical safety, inspection and testing, pyrotechnics or rigging

Day to Day tasks:

Lighting technicians set up and operate lighting for concerts, conferences and theatre, or film and TV productions

- interpret a lighting designer's plan
- help to rig and check the equipment
- carry out risk assessments for health and safety purposes
- plan where to run cables and place lights at film locations
- take cues from the stage manager in theatre or the floor manager in TV
- programme and operate manual and computer-controlled lighting systems
- take down equipment after shows or filming

Working conditions

You could work at a film studio, on a film set, at events, in a theatre or at a TV studio

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

You may need to wear protective clothing



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'.

Photographers, audio-visual and broadcasting equipment operators

Weekly Pay £600	Annual Pay £31,200
Hours/Week 36h	Hourly Pay £17

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 0.9%	Replacement 57.9%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.9% over the period to 2027, creating 900 jobs. In the same period, 57.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 59,800 job openings.

You might find this job in
Employment activities
Film & music
Other professional
Arts & entertainment
Publishing activities

[More info](#) [Clear card](#)

Electricians and electrical fitters

Weekly Pay £670	Annual Pay £34,840
Hours/Week 45h	Hourly Pay £15

Workforce Change (projected)

Contraction -6.7%	Replacement 51.3%
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The workforce is projected to contract by -6.7% over the period to 2027, losing 15,700 jobs. In the same period, 51.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 121,200 job openings.

You might find this job in
Specialised construction
Construction
Retail trade
Civil engineering
Wholesale trade

[More info](#) [Clear card](#)

Engineering technicians

Weekly Pay £760	Annual Pay £39,520
Hours/Week 35h	Hourly Pay £22

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 1%	Replacement 43.2%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 1% over the period to 2027, creating 900 jobs. In the same period, 43.2% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 41,900 job openings.

You might find this job in
Specialised construction
Head offices, etc
Public admin. & defence
Metal products
Machinery, etc

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Labour Market Information

Photographers, audio-visual and broadcasting equipment operators

Workers in this unit group operate and assist with still, cine and television cameras and operate other equipment to record, manipulate and project sound and vision for entertainment, cultural, commercial and industrial purposes.

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;

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Engineering technicians

Engineering technicians perform a variety of technical support functions to assist engineers with the design, development, operation, installation and maintenance of engineering systems and constructions.

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;
- prepares estimates of materials, equipment and labour required for engineering projects;
- diagnoses and detects faults and implements procedures to maintain efficient operation of systems and equipment;

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Electricians and electrical fitters

Electricians and electrical fitters assemble parts in the manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment, and install, maintain, and repair electrical plant, machinery, appliances and wiring.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines drawings, specifications and wiring diagrams to determine the method and sequence of operations;
- selects, cuts and lays wires and connects to sockets, plugs or terminals by crimping, soldering, brazing or bolting;
- cuts, bends and installs electrical conduit;
- assembles parts and sub-assemblies using hand tools and by brazing, riveting or welding;

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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...

Lighting behind
'Wicked' The Musical



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUKDU3r6MYQ>

Typical day on a film /TV set
for a Lighting Technician



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71XSiptm_w

Stage and lighting set-up
for music gig



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgGuRKgvWQ4>

Lighting Operator in a
nightclub



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTCevMQ0SUI>

Useful Websites

[Lighting technician | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Search – UCAS](#)

[Homepage - Association of British Theatre Technicians \(abtt.org.uk\)](#)

[Careers for all - Creative and Cultural Skills \(ccskills.org.uk\)](#)

[Jobs – Production Services Association \(psa.org.uk\)](#)

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