

# **My Career in Graphic Design and Print**



With a *Certificate in Graphic Design and Print Technology 1 and 2*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Sign Maker
- Machine printer
- Plate-maker
- Pre-press Operator
- Bindery Worker
- Graphic Designer
- Reprographic Assistant
- Assistant Animator
- Digital Photographer

NB: Although the job titles may vary, some of the tasks executed are very similar from one title to another and hence combined.

### **Careers in Graphic Design and Print Technology**

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

#### **Career Overview**

To bring creative ideas to life, through the use of computer software and presses. You may plan print jobs, agree supplies of materials, provide quotes for customers and work in sales. In addition, you may copy and bind a range of printed materials in bulk, using photocopying and/or printing equipment. Operate and maintain printing presses.

#### **Typical Duties:**

- Match colours to the pre-press proofs.
- Restock ink levels.
- Feed the print materials into the presses.:
- Put job data into computerized control units.
- Discuss the job requirements with the customer.
- Carry out quality checks during the print run.
- Identify problems and fixing faults.

**Typical Duties cont'd:**

- Scan digital images to put into documents.
- Retouch images and creating example proofs.
- Lay out artwork to plan how a finished page will appear (known as imposition).
- Use desktop publishing (DTP) software packages to set out the artwork, images and text to match design plans.
- Proofread and check the whole document for accuracy and visual impact preparing the item for reproduction in a format specified by the printer (known as reprographics).
- Transfer the final image from film onto printing plates, using an image setter.
- Design signs using computer software.
- Measure and calculate letter and logo sizes.
- Deal with paperwork and administration.

**Work Environment**

You would normally work a 40 hour week, Monday to Friday, but shift work and overtime maybe available along with weekends depending on project deadlines. Most of your work may be in an office, studio or large printing warehouses. The workplace maybe noisy depending on the type and age of the machinery.

You will need protective clothing and equipment due to chemicals and solvents used in the printing process. The job may involve some lifting and standing for long periods of time.

**Qualifications and Licenses**

You will need a good standard education such as CXC Maths, English, Science, Art, IT. You can also complete a print related qualification like a Certificate in Graphic Design and Print Technology from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, certification through City and Guilds or C/NVQ certification.

## Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ Conscientious and caring attitude
- ❖ Practical skills and technical knowledge
- ❖ Awareness of health and safety
- ❖ Great communication skills
- ❖ Reliability, responsibility and motivation
- ❖ Willing to work flexible hours
- ❖ A steady hand and an eye for detail
- ❖ Discretion and trustworthiness.
- ❖ An artistic flair

## References

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/printingadministrator.aspx> Retrieved March 2016

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/reprographicassistant.aspx> Retrieved March 2016

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<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/signmaker.aspx> Retrieved March 2016

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/pre-pressoperator.aspx> Retrieved March 2016