What is Visual Effects (VFX)?

VFX uses digital technology to combine Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) with moving images from a camera. This is a creative industry, founded on digital technology which produces some of the spectacular effects you’ll see on the big screen.

Why choose a career in VFX?

The UK, and London in particular, is the centre for internationally renowned VFX work in film, television and the advertising industry. Film that is shot in or around the UK, or is going to be seen in the UK, is subject to a 50% tax relief on VFX spend.

But VFX is not all about monsters and spaceships – it’s also used to repair or improve images that are invisible – changing colours or erasing mistakes within the image.

Your VFX career guide

This booklet provides an introduction to VFX and a guide to the industry’s career routes and progression.

The map on the reverse of this booklet describes career progression paths within the VFX industry and gives you the roles and describes possible educational entry points to get you employment in VFX.

Getting in: Choosing the right course

Historically, entry to the VFX industry has been through various routes (see below for more). In order to remain competitive, candidates must ensure they continually demonstrate their artistic and technical abilities with their showreel.

Getting into: Developing the right skills

In order to be able to make images that look real, artwork and photography are used. With the help of biologists, and other scientists, you can begin to imagine and recreate the process. Assemblers, armed with these images, work to make these shapes come to life. The science of VFX used in the form of animation is so complex. Concepts of concrete, digital realities. Some people have a strong affinity for the programming and maths side, while others see themselves as creative artists.

Getting in: On the industry

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Why choose a career in VFX?

Why choose a career in VFX? If you’re interested in creating, making things look and feel like they’re real, then VFX may be for you. This is a dynamic and expanding industry. The UK, and London in particular, is the centre for internationally renowned VFX work in film, television and the advertising industry.

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VISUAL EFFECTS (VFX) CAREER MAP

These can be combined into a single 'cgi generalist' role in some companies or on some projects.