

# Job of the Week – **ILLUSTRATOR**



Corby Business Academy  
Careers Education Information and Guidance

## Job description:

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

## Pathway routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- applying directly

At college or through an apprenticeship you could do a Level 2 or 3 Art and Design course. Whilst at university, you could do a higher national diploma or degree in illustration or a related subject like fine art or graphic design.

## Entry Requirements

You will usually need:

- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A\* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course
- between 1 and 3 A levels *or* equivalent, for a higher national diploma or degree

## Subjects:

You'll usually need:

- Art and Design
- IT / Computer Science

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## Skills and knowledge

You will need:

- knowledge of the fine arts
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- design skills and knowledge
- the ability to use your initiative
- to be flexible and open to change
- knowledge of computer operating systems, hardware and software
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- thinking and reasoning skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

## Day-to-day tasks

You may specialise in a particular field of illustration, like publishing, merchandising or fashion.

Day-to-day you may:

- discuss requirements, or a 'brief', with authors, editors or designers
- negotiate prices and timescales
- research your creative ideas
- decide on the right style for illustrations
- create rough, hand drawn sketches
- create final illustrations using hand drawing, painting or computer design packages
- if you're self-employed, promote your business and manage your finances

**Salary: £18,000 as a starter, rising to £40,000 for an experience Illustrator.**