



** Please note – the information contained in this handout is accurate as at January 2011. Information regarding employment prospects/salary/growth is based on information derived from www.skillsinfo.gov.au, www.joboutlook.gov.au and Careers and Employment's own research.

2011

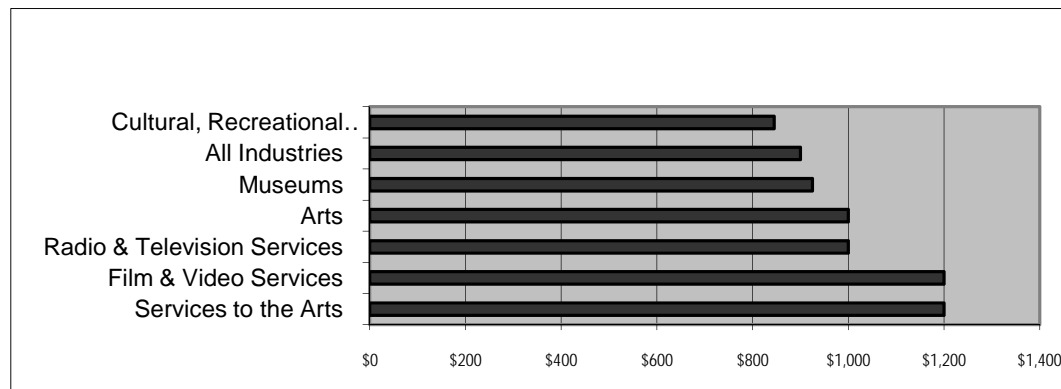
Please note: the information contained in this document was current as of January 2011. Refer to www.swinburne.edu.au/courses/ for the most recent updates. Refer to the School of Visual, Performing and Circus Arts website www.tafe.swinburne.edu.au/visual/ for further information and a list of the courses offered in this area.

Industry Overview

Cultural and recreational services is a relatively small but diverse industry employing approximately 193 000 people. Although constituting less than 1.7% of the Australian workforce, the sector has experienced steady growth over the past 5 years (by 18.1% or 42,300 people). The largest number of workers in the industry are employed in Sydney (66 500 people), Melbourne (58 800 people) and Brisbane (43 500 people).

It is projected that the industry will grow by an additional 1.5% per annum within the next 5 years (14 600 new jobs) although it is acknowledged that some risk is attached to this outlook, as the industry is influenced by economic variables, including household spending.

Cultural and Recreational Services Sector - Median Weekly Earnings (Full Time and Before Tax)



Source: ABS Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership

Swinburne University of Technology's TAFE division has a longstanding reputation for the quality of its Arts graduates, and is well regarded for the range of courses offered across the Lilydale, Prahran and Wantirna campuses. Specialist facilities for arts students include painting and drawing studios, photographic facilities, and digital media laboratories including an editing suite for video, printing presses and sculpture facilities including welding, casting and outdoor areas.

The Department of Arts also operates The David Williamson Theatre and two galleries, Gallery 369 and Gallery PB. The Department maintains valuable industry links, with teaching staff maintaining a significant involvement and practice in the arts. Courses train students for industry employment, as well as providing a foundation for further study.

Job Titles

- Actor
- Circus Performer
- Choreographer
- Costume Designer
- Dancer
- Entertainer
- Exhibition Designer
- Makeup Artist – Photographic and Fashion
- Fashion Designer
- Tailor
- Milliner
- Set Production Worker
- Makeup Artist – Theatrical and Performance
- Music Director
- Photostylist
- Retail Merchandiser
- Retail Store Visual Merchandiser
- Visual Merchandising Consultant

Costume

The *Diploma of Costume for Performance* is designed for students who wish to pursue or enhance their careers as theatre technicians in the area of costume making and related areas. This course combines theory, practical studies, industry simulation, and industrial placement to enhance students' overall knowledge, experience and networks. Career opportunities available to graduates are broad-based within the theatre, television and film industry, and extend to costume hire outlets, costume fashion promotions, festivals and creative novelty wear outlets. Graduates generally begin their careers as wardrobe assistants before moving up to roles such as costume designer. Other roles include clothing patternmaker, milliner, set production worker and tailor. Fashion designers currently have good employment prospects with slight growth expected over the next five years.

Specialist Make-Up Services

Make-up artists currently have average employment prospects and employment in this industry is expected to grow strongly to 2014-15. Graduates of the *Diploma of Specialist Make-Up Services* gain application skills in prosthetics, special effects, stage, photographic, bridal, period, television, film and fashion make-up. They also gain skills in hairstyling, facial hair, manufacture and wig styling and maintenance. Graduates may gain employment in the film, television, theatre, photographic, beauty therapy and fashion industries.

Theatre Arts

Theatre technicians currently have average employment prospects, with the employment market expected to remain steady over the next five years. Students completing the *Diploma of Theatre Arts* gain skills necessary to organise a performance, event or project and undertake the associated administrative tasks. The course is considered ideal for people wanting a broad-based vocational qualification enabling them to seek work in the theatre and entertainment industry. The course also offers individuals a chance to establish their own companies and work on a range of event projects. The industry placement provides valuable on-the-job experience. Employment may be gained as a theatre worker in a small company, or on specific projects with other artists.

Visual Arts

Graduates of the *Diploma of Visual Art*, after specialising in Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking or Photography (black and white, video, Photoshop and film), will find rewarding careers in the visual arts industries where traditional practices converge with new video and digital technologies. Overall, employment for Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals to 2014-15 is expected to remain relatively steady, employment for Photographers to 2014-15 is expected to grow strongly, however unemployment for photographers is relatively high. Employment in this small occupation (9 000 in November 2009) remained relatively steady in the past five years, and fell markedly in the long-term (ten years), but with small occupations employment estimates can fluctuate. Visual arts and craft professionals have below average employment prospects, thus it is essential to develop strong networks within the visual arts industry.

Graduates may be employed in roles such as art therapist, artist, cartoonist, painter, printmaker and sculptor in fields such as graphic design, event management and public relations. Most Australian artists and craftspeople operate their art practice under a sole trader business model. This model may mean working across a number of employment options including time working as a studio artist, accepting commissions or short-term assignments, working as an artist-in-residence, developing concepts that require grant funding, licensing intellectual property, developing manufacturing or multiple production concepts and creating work for exhibitions, awards and other professional opportunities.

Circus Arts

Entertainers currently have average employment prospects, but employment in this field is expected to grow slightly over the next five years. The National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) has been established at Swinburne as a national centre of excellence for professional training in circus arts. Students interested in careers within the circus and physical theatre industries, in stunt work, corporate entertainment or festivals, can choose from a range of available courses. Swinburne University offers a *Bachelor of Circus Arts* through NICA; the degree is structured over 3 years, and is based on vertical integration of skills and methodology. These skills are introduced in the embedded two-year TAFE award, then built on in the Bachelor year. Job prospects for Actors, Dancers and Other Entertainers are average. Employment for Actors, Dancers and Other Entertainers to 2014-15 is expected to grow moderately. Employment in this small occupation (6 500 in November 2009) rose very strongly in the past five years.

Live Production, Theatre and Events (Technical Production)

The *Diploma of Live Production, Theatre and Events (Technical Production)* reflects the range of job skills needed to become a multi-skilled technician to work in areas such as drama, musical and dance shows. Graduates will have also gained a fundamental understanding of the technical considerations required when implementing any production or event for small and large venues such as lighting, audio and staging within the entertainment industry. Job prospects for Performing Arts Technicians are average. Employment for Performing Arts Technicians to 2014-15 is expected to grow strongly. Employment in this medium sized occupation (16 100 in November 2009) rose very strongly in the past five years, and in the long-term (ten years).

Performing Arts Technicians are employed across several industries including Information Media and Telecommunications; Arts and Recreation Services; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; and Retail Trade. The internet vacancy level for Performing Arts Technicians is very low. The proportion of workers leaving the occupation (and needing to be replaced) is 10.6 per cent (annually) compared to the average for all occupations of 13.1 per cent.

Further Education and Pathways

Credit pathways may be available from TAFE to Higher Education.
For a full list of credit pathways and requirements see the Swinburne website:
www.future.swinburne.edu.au/pathways

For entry and admission requirements: www.swinburne.edu.au/courses

References and Relevant Websites

- www.myfuture.com.au
- www.joboutlook.gov.au
- www.skillsinfo.gov.au
- www.visualarts.net.au
- www.artshub.com.au

What help does Swinburne Careers and Employment offer?

Career Services

- Career Counselling for Students
- Careers in the Curriculum (CIC) – Higher Education Students
- Plan Skills Development
- Career Seminars/Workshops for Students
- Resume and Cover Letter Checks
- Interview Practice
- Student Recruitment Service (Final Year Students)

Career Resources

- Career Resource Library
- Job Search Handouts
- Interactive Career Planning
- What Can I Do With My Degree/ TAFE Qualifications? (see website for resource)

SwinEmploy Employment Service

- All job advertisements for graduate placements, casual, vacation, part-time and full-time employment
- Links to employer websites
- Enables students to book online for events such as workshops, employer information sessions and interviews
- Access to Going Global (over 10,000 job vacancies listed across Europe, Asia-Pacific, UK and US. Global key employer directories, work permits & visa regulations, country-specific cultural & interviewing advice & more)

Download Careers and Employment job search handouts from SwinEmploy, including:

- Addressing Selection Criteria
- Assessment Centres
- Cover Letters or Letters of Application
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Employer Expectations of Graduates
- Interviews - How to Plan, Prepare and Perform
- Informational Interviewing
- Job Hunting
- Networking: What Is It and How Do You Do It?
- Online Applications
- Psychometric Tests
- Skills and Attributes
- Thinking About Changing Your Course?
- Tips for facing the work environment and your first professional job

Careers & Employment

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