Career of the week

Audio visual technician

Audio visual technicians install and run screens, sound and lighting equipment at events and performances.

Average salary (a year): £18,000 (starter) to £35,000 (experienced)

Typical hours (a week): 39 to 41

You could work: evenings/weekends/bank holidays, attending events or appointments

You can get into this job through:
College
There is no set entry route to become an audio-visual technician.

It might help to do a level 3 Diploma in Creative Media Production and Technology or a T Level in Media, Broadcast and Production. These courses will teach you some of the skills you'll need in an audio-visual technician role.

Once you've finished the course, you could apply for a trainee job at a theatre, college or events company. Some employers might want you to have experience helping at a live event.

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

You can also do a Level 2 course in Creative Media (you'll need a minimum of three GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English)

Apprenticeship
You could become an audio visual technician by doing a:

- Creative Venue Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship
- Live Event Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship
- Audiovisual Technician Level 5 Higher Apprenticeship

If you'd like to install cinema, lighting or security systems in homes, you could do the Smart Home Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship.

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.*
  - *4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship*

Work
You could start as an assistant technician and work your way up.
You might find it useful to have experience and qualifications in broadcasting, sound technology or electronics.

Volunteering
You could volunteer with a charity, college or theatre group. This could help you get experience of setting up and running audio visual technology and software.

Career tips
When applying for jobs, you'll find it useful if you have experience of setting up and using audio, visual and computer technology.
Find out more information about creative careers here:
https://www.screenskills.com/developing-your-career/

https://discovercreative.careers/#/

Skills and knowledge
You'll need:

- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- knowledge of audio-visual operating systems, hardware and software
- the ability to work on your own
- the ability to work well with your hands
- physical skills like movement, coordination and dexterity
- to be flexible and open to change
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently

Day-to-day tasks
As an audio visual technician you could:

- set up and test equipment
- carry out safety checks and deal with faults
- operate equipment during events
- check and repair equipment
- train other people to use equipment

Working environment
You could work at a conference centre, in a theatre, at a recording studio, at a college or at a client's home.
Your working environment may be physically demanding.
With experience, you could:

- manage an audio visual department
- specialise in lighting or sound design
- become an events manager
- move into equipment and services sales
- become self-employed and install equipment in homes