

Exhibition Technician

Kaihangarau Whakakite

Other names for this job

Display Artist, Exhibition Designer, Exhibitions Officer/Installer, Installations Technician, Operations Co-ordinator, Preparator (exhibitions)

What people in this job do

Exhibition technicians prepare, install, maintain and dismantle museum or art gallery exhibitions.

Exhibition technicians may do some or all of the following:

- prepare for an exhibition by constructing props and making object supports
- provide a budget for the cost of installing an exhibition
- plan and co-ordinate new exhibitions in conjunction with designers or curators
- design and build models, furnishings and fittings
- source or order any materials needed for setting up exhibitions
- install exhibitions and arrange artefacts for display
- install exhibition lighting
- arrange for contractors, such as painters, to install parts of an exhibition
- set up any sound and visual effects
- monitor and maintain exhibitions while they are on public display
- dismantle exhibition furniture and props
- run the workshop, and complete maintenance work in the museum or gallery.

Personal requirements

Exhibition technicians need to have:

- knowledge of a wide range of building materials and methods
- skill in reading and interpreting designers' plans
- creative ability
- practical and technical skills such as carpentry, metalwork or spray-painting

- knowledge of occupational safety and health requirements for safe building practices and correct lifting techniques
- computer skills
- organisational skills
- budgeting skills
- good communication and people skills.

Exhibition technicians may need to know about lighting techniques, graphics and 3-D design, conservation practices and fine arts.

Exhibition technicians need to be:

- practical
- good at thinking creatively to find solutions to problems
- accurate, with an eye for detail
- able to work to deadlines
- patient
- able to work well in a team and with a diverse range of people.

Exhibition technicians need to be fit, as the work may involve lifting large objects. They must also have the stamina to endure long hours on their feet while installing an exhibition.

How to get into this job

Exhibition technicians do not need any specific educational qualifications to enter the role. However, it is useful to have a qualification or skills and experience in industrial design, architecture, fine art, graphic design, carpentry or metalwork.

Secondary education: Useful school subjects include maths, art, technology, woodwork, metalwork, and technical drawing at NCEA Levels 1, 2 or 3.

Pay and job outlook

Salaries vary, but exhibition technicians usually earn between \$28,000 and \$50,000 a year, depending on their level of responsibility and the size and type of institution they work in. Many exhibition technicians are contracted to work on a specific project by a museum or gallery.

The outlook for exhibition technicians is average. There is a limited number of permanent positions available now, but this may increase in the future, with extra government funding planned for the film industry. The outlook is good for exhibition technicians employed on contract, with more institutions tending to employ technicians on a casual basis for specific projects.

Related jobs

Artist/Craftsperson, Cabinet Maker, Carpenter, Conservator, Curator, Graphic Designer, Industrial Designer, Joiner, Lighting Technician, Window Dresser/Visual Merchandiser

Further contacts

Museums Aotearoa

WELLINGTON, (04) 499 1313,
mail@museums-aotearoa.org.nz,
www.museums-aotearoa.org.nz

2A