



| NSW Department of Education

Photographer

In an era of digital platforms and social media, images are king. Photographers are visual thinkers whose artistic creativity, eye for light and composition and technical knowledge are used to create compelling images of people, places or events.

What photographers do

Photographers combine technical expertise with creativity to produce images that paint a picture, tell a story or record an event. They may enhance a subject's appearance with natural or artificial light, shoot the subject from an interesting angle or use various lenses to capture unexpected details.

No two days are alike due to changing subject matter. One day a photographer will be drinking champagne with the bride and groom, the next they'll be shooting a corporate speaking event, then the next day editing pictures. Photographers get to explore different places, see different faces and exercise their flexibility on every shoot.

Photographers can follow their passion into fine art, fashion, lifestyle, weddings, portraiture, industrial, scientific, photojournalism or commercial photography.

Photographers who own their own business must also prepare a business plan, submit bids, arrange advertising, schedule appointments, purchase supplies, keep financial records, bill customers, chase outstanding payments and manage employees.

Will I get a job?

There are currently 16,000 photographers in Australia. That number is expected to grow by 700 over the next four years.

What will I earn?

Average salary:
\$44,000+

You'll like this job if...

People energise you. You're artistic. You can make people relax in front of the camera. You have good hand-eye coordination. You're patient, accurate and detail-oriented. You work well with others. You're technically minded and adept at using computer software programs. You like to act spontaneously and keep your plans flexible.

A day in the life...

Work as a photographer may involve these tasks:

- consult with clients to determine the objective of photographic assignments
- select the type of camera, film, filter, and lighting
- work from a studio or transport and set up equipment on location
- measure light levels and determine exposure
- adjust camera angles, aperture settings and subjects to achieve the desired composition
- adjust lighting and filters to accentuate highlights and colours
- if using film, mix photographic chemicals, process film, and develop prints
- if using a digital camera, manipulate images using computer software
- make enlarged prints and mount and frame prints.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate IV in Photography and Photo Imaging (CUA41115)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 82.1%*

Diploma of Photography and Photo Imaging (CUA50915)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Graduates employed or in further study: 76.8%*

Roles to look for

- Photographer
- Photojournalist

Main employing industries

- Professional, scientific and technical services (e.g. photography services)

Other jobs you may like...

- Visual arts and crafts professional
- Film / television director
- Radio director
- Stage director
- Artistic director
- Media producer or presenter
- Graphic designer
- Illustrator
- Web designer



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

Information sources

Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Career trend: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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