

THIS WEEK'S STAFF MEMBER CAREER HISTORY (1ST – 7TH FEB. 2021)

FOCUS ON: MRS SMITH

What job did you want to do when you were in primary school? **professional ballet dancer or a missionary in Africa**

Dancers use movement to perform for live audiences or in recorded performances.

Dancing is very competitive and you'll need to develop your skills by getting as much practical experience of dancing as possible. You could do this through:

- amateur dance clubs
- college and university dance societies
- student dance festivals and competitions

This can also help to put you in touch with people in the dance profession, who could be useful contacts when looking for work.

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- a college course
- applying directly
- specialist courses run by private training organisations

To get on to a degree course you will need A Levels or equivalent and to pass an audition

There is a variety of qualifications available at college, eg. Level 2 Technical Certificate in Performing Arts, Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts – Dance

You'll spend time:

- rehearsing
- preparing for and going to auditions
- going to dance classes
- promoting yourself and finding work

Your working environment may be physically demanding and you may spend nights away from home.

Qualifications required:

You will not necessarily need any formal qualifications, but you'll need:

- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- knowledge of the fine arts
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- persistence and determination
- ambition and a desire to succeed
- the ability to use your initiative
- physical skills like movement, coordination, dexterity and grace
- physical fitness and endurance
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

A **missionary** is usually a member of a religious group sent into an area to promote their faith, although their organization could be humanitarian rather than religious. Missionary work depends on where the individual or group of missionaries are going (international or local communities) and what is needed in the community. A missionary may perform their work through formal teaching in a classroom or religious setting or through informal communication. Many missionaries perform

acts of community building. Missionaries get paid through donors or supporters through fundraising, churches, sending agencies, and/or by a career. This income is used to support the missionary's simple living and work in ministry.

Qualifications required:

Missionaries are sent by an organization - religious or humanitarian - so the ability to learn the rules, goals and doctrines of that organization is important. They also need to be:

- good with people.
- a strong communicator.
- self-motivated.
- a lifelong learner.
- a leader and a follower.
- positive in their attitude.

What job did you have in mind when you took your options? **midwifery or graphics and design**

Midwives care for mothers before, during and after the delivery of their babies. The average salary for midwives in UK: **£28,973**. Those that are employed directly by the NHS work standard hours of 37.5 per week. Some work in community settings, while others are based in hospitals. Their work is likely to include day and night shifts.

Qualifications required:

You'll need to have completed an approved degree programme to do this, which lasts three years full time. Half of the course is spent studying at university, while the other half is based around practical placements to provide you with hands-on experience.

Part-time courses are available for those who are working in a relevant role and usually take five to six years. If you're already a qualified nurse, you can take a short programme, which allows you to qualify sooner.

You could do a degree-level apprenticeship, meaning that as well as completing the apprenticeship training, you will also have to satisfy the requirements of the university to get a degree before you can begin to practise.

Skills and knowledge

- the ability to communicate well and clearly with a diverse range of women
- a caring and calm manner for dealing with emotional situations
- the ability to react quickly and effectively in times of stress or when immediate decisions need to be made
- the ability to multi-task
- strong team working skills to liaise with different medical professionals
- strength, stamina and physical fitness
- a commitment to equal treatment for all women, irrespective of their background or circumstances.

Here are just a few jobs involving **graphic design**:

- Art Director
- Creative Director
- Drafter (Architecture and Engineering)
- Film and Video Editor
- Graphic Designer
- Industrial/Product Designer
- Marketing Manager
- Multimedia Artist/Animator
- Technical Writer
- Web Designer
-

Starting salaries for junior graphic designers are in the region of **£15,000 to £19,000**. Once you've gained some experience, salaries can rise to **£27,000**.

At a middle level, you can expect to earn **£25,000 to £35,000**.

Salaries for senior graphic designers or creative leads range from **£35,000 to £55,000**. A creative director can make **£60,000+**.

As a freelancer, you can earn between **£200 and £400** a day with experience. You'll be able to charge more once you have an impressive track record and recommendations.

Qualifications:

Relevant subjects for graphic design work include those that involve visual arts. In particular, a degree or HND in the following subjects may increase your chances:

- 3D design
- communication design
- film and television
- fine art
- graphic design
- illustration
- photography
- visual art.

Any design-based course will give you a good grounding and knowledge of design, art history and printing techniques.

Some roles don't require a degree or HND, as job offers may be based on the standard of portfolio work and not on educational qualifications. However, progress without formal training is extremely difficult, and the vast majority of graphic designers have higher qualifications.

A pre-entry postgraduate qualification isn't needed, but pre-entry experience is essential.

Current job: Teaching Assistant

Teaching assistants (TAs) support pupils in their educational, emotional and social development either individually, in groups or as a whole class. They support teachers by undertaking duties that

will free up their time for teaching, such as preparing the classroom for lessons, making resources and creating displays of children's work. Some TAs work exclusively with pupils who have special educational needs (SEN) or other specific needs. Starting salaries for full-time, permanent TAs (level 1) are typically around **£17,364**. With increased responsibility (level 2), you can expect to earn **£18,000 to £20,000**. Experienced TAs (level 3) and those with additional specialisms or SEN responsibilities can earn **£25,000**. Most TAs are employed on part-time, term-time only or casual contracts, so actual take-home pay is a lot less.

Qualifications required:

For entry-level positions, you'll need to have basic literacy and numeracy skills, usually GCSE or equivalent in maths or English, and experience of working with children. Although not essential, the following qualifications can provide a useful introduction to the sector and an understanding of the knowledge and skills you need to work with children or young people in primary, secondary or special schools:

- Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
- Level 2 Award in Support Work in Schools
- Level 3 Award in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools.

You can take these without working in an education setting. For some Level 2 and 3 courses, however, you'll need to be working or on a practical placement in an education setting (either paid or voluntary).

It's also possible to train to be a teaching assistant through taking an intermediate or advanced apprenticeship (Levels 2 and 3). You'll work in a school during your training and will be paid a salary.

Individual schools set their own entry requirements for jobs, so check vacancies carefully to find out what skills, experiences and teaching assistant qualifications they're looking for. You'll also need to undergo an enhanced criminal records check through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Previous jobs: **Jeweller / Corn merchant shop / Sewing underwear for marks and spencer / Stationery shop / Chicken factory**