

Role Outline: Lighting Department Placement

Responsible to:	Lighting Supervisors/Managers
Liases with:	Lighting Managers, Lighting Supervisors, Senior Technicians and Technicians (all disciplines)
Guidance from:	Lighting Supervisors, Senior Lighting Technicians, Technicians

The National Theatre

The National Theatre is central to the creative life of the country. In its three theatres on the South Bank in London it presents up to 25 new shows a year and productions also play in the West End and on tour. It broadcasts to cinemas worldwide through National Theatre Live, streams plays free to UK schools and produces a wealth of digital content about theatre.

Through an extensive programme of amplifying activities – platform performances, backstage tours, publications, exhibitions and outdoor events – it recognises that theatre doesn't begin and end with the rise and fall of the curtain.

The Lighting Department

The Lighting Department's vision is to maintain a cohesive, progressive and likeminded team, utilising the wealth of experience and enthusiasm from across the 3 Theatres, Control and Resources teams, allowing each Lighting Designer to experience the same standard of excellence and support, regardless of which theatre their production is being staged, to realise their design.

The department contains on average 30 staff, including a Lighting Apprentice, working in the following areas:

- The Lighting Operations manager looks after the team of venue based operational staff in each of the 3 theatres, consisting of Lighting Supervisors, Senior Technicians (with either a programming or supervisory bias) and Technicians,
- The Lighting Control Manager, who along with the Lighting Control Technician and the theatres programmers, look after the theatre's control & networking technology, liaising closely with suppliers and nurtures the programming abilities of the Senior Technicians and training for aspiring programmers.
- The Lighting Resources Manager and the Resources team's duties include running the internal "hire shop" for equipment available to the 3 theatre spaces, supplementing their basic rigs for productions in the Rep. They also take responsibility for the many events at the NT that require lighting and power, such as Watch This Space, The Deck and Family Days. They also try to support West End transfers and tours where possible.

The Placement

Production placements generally last between 2-4 weeks to allow candidates to experience the production process from pre-production to the press night of one show; however placements are able to get involved with other NT venue productions & Events and Lighting Resources at various stages during their time at the NT. Placement hours are approximately 10am-6pm, Monday to Friday, but with some flexibility; shorter hours when projects are quieter and longer hours around the fit up and tech periods, including occasional Saturday hours. Placements are welcome to use quieter periods to work on own projects/coursework, upon agreement of supervisor.

Likely Tasks

1. Assist the Lighting Supervisors and Technicians and their team members during pre-production work:
 - Carry out research as required.
 - Assist the team in the design and build of practical lighting effects and props.
 - Assist the team, under supervision, with the rigging of lighting equipment and effects
 - Carry out production work as agreed.
 - Help the team to prepare colour calls.

2. Act as a technician (under supervision) during fit-ups and onstage Production periods:
 - Assist in the rigging and focusing of lighting equipment
 - Run internal errands to departments within the NT.
 - Carry out simple technical tasks as agreed
 - Shadow the Lighting Designer and Programmer, at appropriate times.

Person Specification

- Excellent communicator with aspiration for a career in Lighting, Design or Technical.
- Previous experience in technical theatre, preferably Lighting.
- The ability to demonstrate a high level of initiative, attention to detail and thoroughness.
- Resilient and with the ability to demonstrate and communicate enthusiasm.
- Exceptional track record in reliability and punctuality.
- The ability to manage a variety of competing tasks and confident in time management skills.

Ideal Preparatory Qualifications & Experience

- Should be in second or third year of a relevant course in Technical Theatre, preferably Lighting specific
- Intermediate computer literacy.
- Basic awareness of electrical safety.
- Comfortable with working at height.

Applications should be made via the question sheet available on <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/about-the-national-theatre/careers/work-placements>
All question sheets should be submitted to workplacements@nationaltheatre.org.uk