

Technical Writer Career Information

Technical Writer

What does a technical writer do?

A technical writer prepares information that helps users. This can include:

- *instructions for programming your video*
- a maintenance guide for your car
- *on-line help for a computer program*
- procedures for large businesses or local authorities
- *multimedia presentations for schools*
- the content of web pages on the Internet

Where does a technical writer work?

A technical writer may work in many places, such as

- *in manufacturing industry*
- in financial institutions
- *in software companies*
- for government agencies

What skills does a technical writer need?

A technical writer needs a variety of skills, such as

- *an excellent standard of written language*
- curiosity about the way things work
- *interviewing skills*
- graphic design awareness
- *planning and analysis skills*
- ability to communicate information
- *structure information logically*

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How can I become a technical writer?

You can train to become a technical writer in a number of ways:

- *higher education courses leading to City and Guilds certification*
- specialised degree courses
- *related degree courses followed by practical training*
- practical training and on-the-job placement

Details of courses are available on the ISTC web site <http://www.istc.org.uk>

Who does a technical writer work with?

A technical writer will work with

- subject matter experts
- *graphic designers*
- training developers
- *printers and publishers*
- development engineers and designers
- *and most important of all, with users*

Related occupations:

- other professional writing in marketing, journalism and advertising
- *editors and proofreaders*
- printing and publishing
- *graphic design*
- multimedia design

More information

The professional body for technical writers in the UK is the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators (ISTC)

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