

# National Competitions



 Funded by  
UK Government

## SFX, Make Up for Film & TV Technical Handbook 2025

### Table of Contents

Sponsors	1
WorldSkills UK	2
Sector Overview	2
Career Pathway	2
Competition Cycle	3
Competition Overview	3
Entry Criteria	7
Competition Specific Rules	7
Pre-Competition Activity	7
Digital Badges	7
Judges Top Tips	9

### Sponsors

Coleg Cambria

## WorldSkills UK

WorldSkills UK is an independent charity and a partnership between employers, education and governments. Together, they are raising standards in apprenticeships and technical education to enable more young people get the best start in work and life. They are leading the charge to ensure that all young people have equal access to high quality apprenticeships and technical education, by:

- inspiring young people through their careers advice resources, to choose excellence through apprenticeships and technical education as a prestigious career route on their path to reaching their potential, whatever their background.
- developing excellence in young people by testing and assessing their skills and knowledge against their peers through their national and international competitions programmes, improving their confidence and potential.
- innovating to mainstream global excellence to help improve the standard of teaching, training and assessment through international benchmarking to help young people, employers and the UK economy succeed.

They are also part of WorldSkills, a global movement supported by over 80 member countries, which celebrates young people achieving world-class standards in the biennial 'skills Olympics'.

[This link](#) can be used to access more information about WorldSkills UK and the work it undertakes:

## Sector Overview

SFX, Makeup artists for Screen use the human body as a canvas to create a desired character or appearance through the skillful use and application of makeup, hair styling, wigs and SFX or prosthetics under strict time constraints. They need to have a range of common makeup artistry skills including special effects as well as natural and high fashion, they spend hours developing their model into the desired finished product.

The competition focuses on the role and tasks of a Makeup Artist working in TV, Film and the media, working on a given theme over a number of hours using the specialist skillset needed for the creative industry sector with excellent attention to detail and the ability to work well under pressure – all whilst demonstrating patience, concentration, good time management and excellence in client care.

## Career Pathway

Career options for available include, becoming a makeup artist, doing clients for evenings and events, bridal makeup, makeup for photo shoots and editorial makeup, fashion shows and e-commerce along with starting a career as a trainee in the TV and Film industry or Theatre.

## Competition Cycle

Date	Stage
March	Registration
March - April	Entry
May-June	National Qualifier
July	Announcement of Finalist
October	Bootcamp
November	National Finals

# Competition Overview

## About the Competition

This competition assesses the skills and abilities of competitors entering the field of Creative Media Makeup and Special Effects for Film and TV.

This competition consists of:

- An entry stage, a remote assessment in which you must complete work in your own time and submit this for judging
- A qualifying heat, which will be face to face
- You must attend and complete a series of tasks on a specific day, or a set of tasks that you will be sent and must be completed within a given timescale;
- A UK national final, taking place in November as part of WorldSkills National Finals.
- Selection for International

## Core competencies:

Competitors taking part in this competition should be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

- Professional demeanor
- Safe working practices
- Professional attitude
- Effective interaction with the client
- High level of skill and dexterity
- Management of time allocation
- Ergonomic working methods

## Qualification

This competition is mapped out and suitable for those on L3 qualifications in media and/or an appropriate level 3 make-up based course, or beauty course with a focus on prosthetics and SFX such as:

Beauty courses with specialism in prosthetics media makeup

L3 diploma in media make up

Students who are not currently studying hair but have experience or previous qualification may apply where tutor feels student has the skills necessary to participate in competition.

## Assessment Criteria

For this competition the breakdown will help in how you can go from being competent in the skill to excellent and what the judges will be looking for.

Core Competence	Competent	Excellence
Professional demeanour	Competitors should present with a clean, tidy professional appearance. Hair, makeup and outfit should be suitable for an industry job.	Competitors should appear enthusiastic, courteous and respectful of others. Stay relaxed and calm giving the appearance of confidence. No matter what a competitor's style, their appearance should be immaculate, chosen makeup should be flawless and excellently applied, hair should be appropriately styled, out of the face, not trailing onto clients. Clothes should be clean and well fitting allowing for movement whilst working. Shoes should be flat and comfortable.
Safe working practices	Competitors need to show safety with equipment, products and their surroundings.	Competitors should be able to display their knowledge of safe practice, inclusive of hygiene, brushes should not appear stained, all products and equipment should be clean and tidy, labelled correctly. There should be no trip hazards. Chairs positioned correctly for posture. There should be care taken when working on eyes and face, competitors using too much pressure or poor technique look unprofessional.
Professional attitude	Competitors should be able to deal with the competition with a good attitude towards their work, the judges and other competitors.	A friendly approachable attitude showing confidence without being cocky. Being respectful of models and their comfort. Competitors who instruct models clearly and concisely with a friendly manner, appear more professional. Looking fed up and bored, over confident or over excited seem unprofessional.
Effective interaction with the client	Competitors should show a	Clients/models should be given

	<p>professional attitude towards their models. Respect should be obvious, making sure of their comfort at all times.</p>	<p>instructions and spoken to throughout. Explaining steps too them helps them be a better model and enables a professional working environment.</p>
High level of skill and dexterity	<p>Competitors should be able to show a high level of makeup, body painting, hair, prosthetics and design skills. Each mandatory specified task should be carried out to a professional standard.</p>	<p>Practicing on multiple occasions enables a quicker, more confident and more professional application. Competitors who work quickly and confidently in a controlled manner appear more professional.</p> <p>Research all technical aspects. Realism is key.</p> <p>Hair should be perfectly wrapped for bald cap application, cap edges should be smooth and seamless.</p> <p>Prosthetic edges should be blended seamlessly.</p> <p>Makeup should be flawless and suit the brief, be applied with precision and perfectly colour matched.</p> <p>Hair and wigs should be professionally styled, applied and be realistic to the eye.</p> <p>A creative interpretation shown on a mood board presented professionally to industry standard.</p>
Management of time allocation	<p>Competitors should be able to complete tasks on time, showing confidence in their work.</p>	<p>Competitors should not appear to rush or panic. Practice before hand helps to know the routine and timings for each step of the design. Appearing to work effortlessly in a controlled but swift way appears more professional.</p>
Ergonomic working methods	<p>Competitors should be able to show they are working in the best possible way with the space provided, Work stations and</p>	<p>Competitors should think carefully about the set up of the working station to enable the most professional presentation. Is</p>

	<p>equipment should be set up and kept in a suitable manner throughout.</p>	<p>everything easily accessible to allow for the quickest and easiest application, chairs in the correct position and height.</p>
--	---	---

## Entry Criteria

- Competitors must be familiar with the core competencies and be currently studying for an appropriate Level 3 Makeup qualification.

## Competition specific rules

- Model used must not be a tutor from competitors institution
- We reserve the right to disqualify competitors contravening this rule. We strongly recommend competitors use friend/family as their model for competition.
- Female models can be topless, but pre-applied nipple pads must be worn for any body painting.
- Make up must cover only where specified in your brief.
- All make up mediums can be used, as long as it is applied hygienically and safely i.e. airbrushing, water colour, cream make up etc.
- Bald caps and prosthetics, where mandatory must not be pre-adorned or pre painted. Hair should not be pre wrapped or styled.
- Wigs, blocks and all products and equipment should be provided by the competitor or college.
- Costumes, if used, must be designed and made by the competitor. Costume must not cover work where specified.
- Mood Boards must be displayed during competition, these can be digital providing the display stays live for the entire competition and it does not take up space needed for your working process.
- Competitors and models are expected to work in a professional manner throughout the competition.

## Pre-competition Activity

Before registering to enter students and apprentices to take part in a WorldSkills UK Competition, it can be helpful to enable them to practice, test and challenge their technical and mental skills by getting involved in pre-competition activity. As well, the following activities could be used to support prospective competitors to get a feel for what will be expected of them in a WorldSkills UK Competition, whilst still in an environment with which they are familiar:

- On and off the job training and work experience
- WorldSkills UK or other externally run competitions
- Internal competitions e.g. internal to an employer, specially designed competitions - using WSUK competition briefs
- Local competitions e.g. in colleges and training providers.

## Digital Badges



The digital badges are sent via Credly to your email and can be shared on social media platforms and in your email signature. For a short outline of the value of Digital Badges, look at our short video at <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/digital-credentials/> (45 secs).

## Judges Top Tips

- Practice as many times as possible beforehand, timings are everything when it comes to competition.
- Practice all skills, a good SFX Makeup Artist needs to be competent at a good range of skills.
- Don't over complicate your design, do what you know you can do to an excellent standard in the time given.
- Don't rely on hiding shoddy work under costume, you're being marked at every stage, poor workmanship will be spotted.
- Check all equipment beforehand, along with making sure you have absolutely everything you need.
- Be aware of models' comfort throughout.
- Research to the fullest. Judges want to see that you understand your craft.
- Always be aware of H&S plus Hygiene rules. Covid- 19 Rules must be strictly adhered to where appropriate.
- Enjoy the experience, don't worry about what other people are doing, concentrate on your work.



WorldSkills UK is registered at  
52-54 St John Street  
London EC1M 4HF

T: 0800 612 0742  
E: [getintouch@worldskillsuk.org](mailto:getintouch@worldskillsuk.org)  
W: [worldskillsuk.org](http://worldskillsuk.org)



Charity number 1001586, Company number 02535199  
VAT registration number GB945610716