



Print technicians

Description

Despite the digitisation process, printing is still on the go and in demand. Print technicians are responsible for printing tasks at different types of printing machines; they use different techniques such as: offset/flat printing, screen printing, digital printing and special types of printing. Printing takes place on different substrates; depending on what is needed, either paper, cardboard, leather, canvas, or plastic may be used. Print technicians take care about the overall printing process; they do preparatory work and make necessary settings at the machines, carry out actual printing, and remedy any flaws noted in the course of printing. The process may be quite complex, depending on what is being printed. Print technicians cut, fold, glue together, join together, imprint, crumple, bind together, and dispatch. They are primarily responsible for planning this extremely complex workflow. Then they set up production systems and machines and make trial pieces for as long as it takes to ensure that the printing process is set up correctly. They then carefully monitor the actual production process and carry out regular quality controls.

The work is done manually, but print technicians also use state-of-the-art, electronically-controlled, production machines. Different items are being printed: books, brochures, calendars, journals, or newspapers. In the end of the production line, printing products are being completed. Print technicians often work under pressure because of the short deadlines for delivery of printed material. That is why they need to be flexible and able to quickly respond to any changes. They also need teamwork skills. In order to be able to properly set up the systems, print technicians need to be familiar with the quality and properties of different types of paper and cardboard, and other materials in which printing is being done. Good communication skills are important if they have direct contact with customers /ordering parties.

Desirable traits/requirements

- Manual dexterity
- Shape and colour awareness
- Good sight and visual acuity
- Being organised
- Flexibility
- Teamwork skills
- Preciseness and accuracy
- Responsibility and reliability
- Good communication skills and willingness to help (if they have direct contact with customers)

Positive aspects:

- Print technicians have a versatile and responsible job. Their work activities vary – it is possible to use different materials and machines in their work.

Negative aspects:

- To do the print technician's job, you need to act fast and remain in standing position for prolonged time periods. You often work under pressure and over the weekend.

Career path/field of work

To do the print technician's job, you need to finish a four-year secondary vocational school.

Print technicians work in printing shops.