Role Outline: Carpentry Department Placement

Responsible to: Head of Carpentry and Metal

Liaises with: Workshop Supervisors, Carpenters, Apprentice Carpenter, Metalworkers, Scenic Art Supervisors, Scenic Artists, Head of Scenic Construction, Workforce Development Co-ordinator.


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 Carpentry Department

The Carpentry Department consists of a team of Supervisors, Carpenters (full time and contract) and an Apprentice Carpenter and is part of the Scenic Construction Department. The Scenic Construction workshop is part of the Production Department of the National Theatre and makes the scenery for NT shows and events.

The Placement

Carpentry placements generally last 2 weeks to allow candidates to experience life in a workshop environment, to witness how various scenic elements are constructed and to learn and develop key carpentry skills. Placement hours are 8.00am – 16.30pm, Monday to Friday, with a 30min lunch break. Steel toe capped shoes are required to be worn at all times. All other PPE will be provided by the NT. There will be a full building and H&S induction given on the first day.

Likely Tasks

1. Shadowing and/or assisting the Carpentry team with the building of scenic elements
2. Learning how to use and maintain hand tools.
3. Learning how to use wood working machinery and power tools.
4. Learning how to read and understand basic CAD drawings.
5. Learning about cladding and covering techniques.
6. Taking part in general workshop labouring – tidying, putting away deliveries etc.
Person Specification

1. Some prior experience of working with wood and using hand/power tools.

2. An aspiration for a career in a carpentry workshop environment (please note that people wishing to become set or theatre designers should seek alternative and design specific opportunities within the National Theatre).

3. The ability to demonstrate initiative, attention to detail, and thoroughness, as well as reliability and punctuality.

4. Display resilience and enthusiasm, with an ability to receive and understand instruction.

5. An awareness and understanding of the importance of health and safety at work, and good housekeeping.

Applications should be made via the form available on https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/about-the-national-theatre/careers/work-placements