

# Job of The Week

## Glassmaker

### Key Skills

- knowledge of Maths
- thinking and reasoning skills
- design skills and knowledge
- the ability to work well with your hands
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of manufacturing production and processes
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- the ability to use your initiative
- ambition and a desire to succeed

### Salary

Variable

### Working hours

36-39 a week  
between 8am and 6pm

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# Glassmaker

## College

Some colleges run short creative craft courses in glass, which may be useful for picking up glassmaking skills and techniques.

There are also glass manufacturing courses, which would teach you some of the skills and knowledge you need to get into glass making in industry. These include:

Level 2 Certificate or Level 3 Diploma in Glass Processing  
Level 2 or Level 3 Certificate in Glass Related Operations

### Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3, or equivalent, for a level 2 course or 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 3 course

## Career tips

Art and design subjects as well as science and technology are helpful if you want to work in glass craftwork as you'll need both technical skills and artistic ability.

For industrial or scientific glass manufacture, science and technology subjects would be most useful.

## Apprenticeship

You could specialise in stained glass making through a stained glass craftsperson higher apprenticeship.

This would typically take 36 months to complete as a mix of workplace learning and off-the-job study.

### Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship

## University

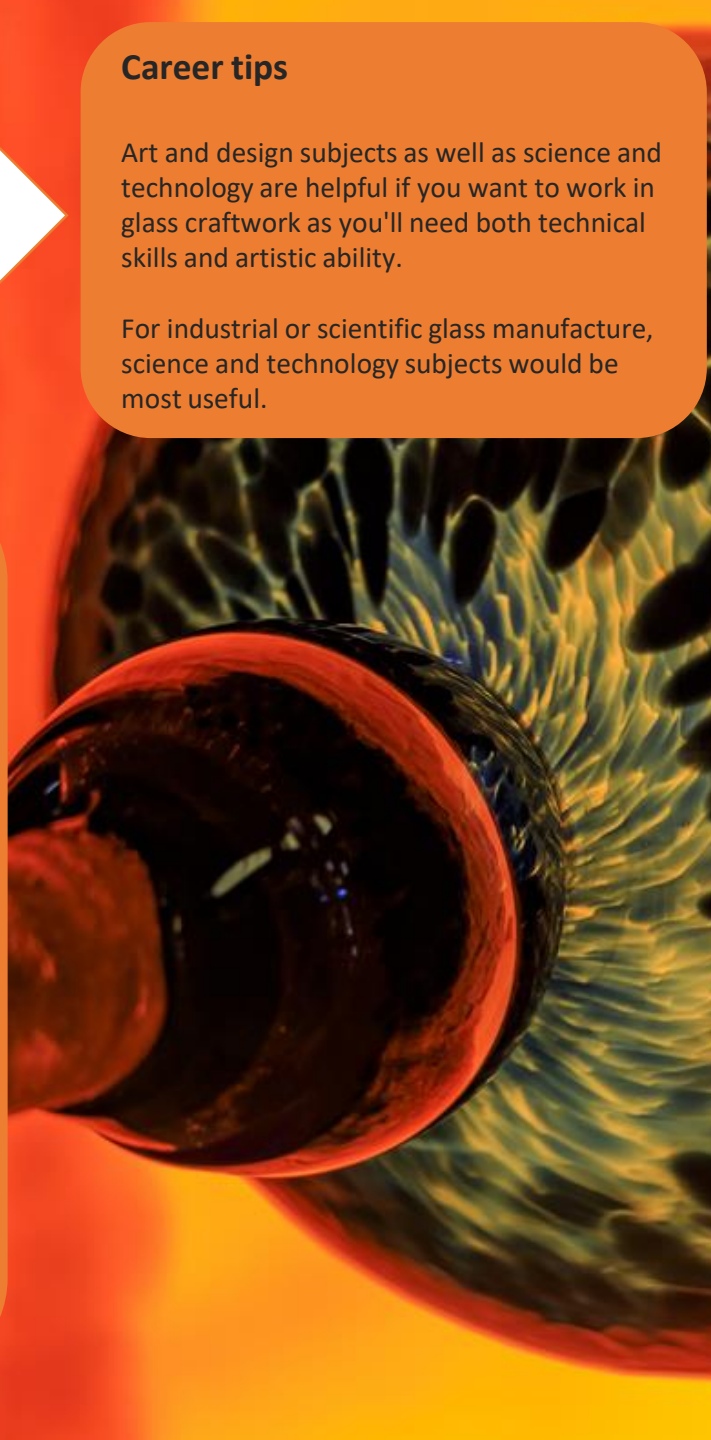
Most craft glassmakers have a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in a subject like:

- art and design
- fine art
- ceramics and glass
- architectural crafts

You'll need a portfolio of work to show when applying for courses.

### Entry requirements

You'll usually need 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma or 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree



## Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities.

You could set up your own business with your own creative studio or work alongside other artists as part of a creative community.

With experience and further qualifications you could teach students and apprentices in colleges or universities.

## Day to Day tasks:

Depending on your specialist skills, you could:

- blow glass using a blowing iron
- mix different ingredients and additives
- form and bend glass using heat or moulds
- design new, one-off pieces or ranges of glass items
- etch items using acid or make patterns using stencils
- use tools and machinery like lathes and sandblasters
- cut, grind and fix pieces of glass together using soldering or fusing techniques
- decorate glass items using laser, point, stipple, drill, copper wheel or sand engraving
- repair or conserve existing glass items like stained glass panels, windows or mirrors
- if you are self-employed, market your business and do admin tasks

## Working conditions

You could work in a creative studio or in a workshop.

You may need to wear safety clothing and use safety equipment.

# Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

## Glass and ceramics makers, decorators and finishers

Weekly Pay <b>£480</b>	Annual Pay <b>£24,960</b>
Hours/Week <b>46h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£10</b>

**Workforce Change** (projected)

Contraction <b>-4.8%</b>	Replacement <b>71%</b>
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The workforce is projected to contract by -4.8% over the period to 2027, losing 600 jobs.  
In the same period, 71% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 9,200 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Other non-metallic  
Construction  
Food & beverage services

[More info](#)

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## Artists

Weekly Pay <b>£690</b>	Annual Pay <b>£35,880</b>
Hours/Week <b>35h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£20</b>

**Workforce Change** (projected)

Growth <b>0.5%</b>	Replacement <b>57.7%</b>
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.5% over the period to 2027, creating 300 jobs.  
In the same period, 57.7% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 36,400 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Libraries, etc  
Arts & entertainment  
Computer programming, etc  
Membership organisations  
Office admin.

[More info](#)

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## Glass and ceramics process operatives

Weekly Pay <b>£450</b>	Annual Pay <b>£23,400</b>
Hours/Week <b>49h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£9</b>

**Workforce Change** (projected)

Contraction <b>-5.8%</b>	Replacement <b>59.3%</b>
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The workforce is projected to contract by -5.8% over the period to 2027, losing 300 jobs.  
In the same period, 59.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 3,500 job openings.

You might find this job in  
Other non-metallic

[More info](#)

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# Labour Market Information

## Artists

Artists create artistic works using appropriate techniques, materials and media; design artwork and illustrations; and restore damaged pieces of art.

Common tasks in this job:

- conceives and develops ideas and ways of working for artistic composition;
- selects appropriate materials, medium and method;
- prepares sketches, scale drawings or colour schemes;
- builds up composition into finished work by carving, sculpting, etching, painting, engraving, drawing, etc.;

Back

Clear card

## Glass and ceramics makers, decorators and finishers

Glass and ceramics workers, form, shape, decorate, smooth and polish glassware, earthenware, refractory goods, clay bricks and other ceramic goods.

Common tasks in this job:

- uses hand tools and operates machinery to heat, bend, shape, press, drill and cut glass;
- makes artificial eyes, laminated glass sheets or blocks, glass fibre tissue, wool, filament and matting, marks optical lenses and assembles rimless spectacles;
- makes models and moulds from moulding clay and plaster for use in the making and casting of pottery and other ceramic goods;
- throws, casts and presses clay by hand or machine to form pottery, stoneware or refractory goods such as bricks, crucibles, ornaments, sanitary furnishings, saggars, cups, saucers, plates and roofing tiles;

Back

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## Glass and ceramics process operatives

Glass and ceramics process operatives position articles ready for firing in kilns and operate and attend furnaces and kilns to make and treat glass and ceramic items.

Common tasks in this job:

- directs loading of furnace with prescribed quantities and types of ingredients;
- sets timing and temperature controls, monitors pressure gauges, adjusts controls as necessary and regulates level of glass in furnace as required;
- operates controls to rotate rotary furnaces and create a vacuum in vacuum furnaces, ensures that static furnaces are correctly positioned and switches on current;
- monitors temperature of drying and annealing kilns and reports any significant deviations from schedule sheet;

Back

Clear card



Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

## Useful Websites

[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/glassmaker](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/glassmaker)

[Art and Design Courses at Boston College | Create Your Own Opportunities](#)

[How to become a glassmaker \(craftscouncil.org.uk\)](#)

[Search | All results | "ceramics and glass" | UCAS](#)

[Glassblowing careers - BBC Bitesize](#)

Glass Maker



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3a9\\_FWFNaY&pp=vgULZ2xhc3MgbWFrZXI%3D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3a9_FWFNaY&pp=vgULZ2xhc3MgbWFrZXI%3D)

This Japanese Glass Artist



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK112wVWskA&pp=vgULZ2xhc3MgbWFrZXI%3D>

Meet the Technicians



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLbCd4IuzGI&pp=vgUZZ2xhc3MgbWFrZXI%3D>

Ferrari logo



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFloPI7oA\\_c&pp=vgULZ2xhc3MgbWFrZXI%3D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFloPI7oA_c&pp=vgULZ2xhc3MgbWFrZXI%3D)

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