Kit to own, by entry grade

Your department supplies the kit that does the job. You bring what keeps you safe, dry and organised. Rough guide only: high-street prices, November 2026. ScreenSkills bursaries can help with kit costs.

Everyone, every job

- [ ] Waterproof jacket and trousers, and warm layers. You'll stand outside for hours.
- [ ] Comfortable, waterproof footwear. Safety boots if your department needs them.
- [ ] Head torch. Sets are dark between set-ups.
- [ ] Phone battery pack and cable.
- [ ] Notebook, pens and a Sharpie.
- [ ] Refillable water bottle and a small rucksack.
- [ ] An earpiece for a walkie. Production supplies the radio; most crew buy their own earpiece.

Runner

- [ ] The everyone list, done properly: good waterproofs and shoes you can stand in for 12 hours.
- [ ] Walkie earpiece.
- [ ] Hi-vis if you're on street locations (production usually supplies).
- [ ] A clean driving licence helps: many runner jobs involve driving.

Camera trainee

- [ ] A belt pouch for pens, Sharpies, a small torch and a multitool.
- [ ] Lens cloth and a small blower.
- [ ] A pocket notebook for camera reports and lens data.
- [ ] Gloves for loading the truck.

Grip trainee

- [ ] Safety boots with toe protection.
- [ ] Rigger gloves.
- [ ] Multitool and a tape measure.
- [ ] Knee pads for laying track.
- [ ] Head torch.

Lighting trainee (spark)

- [ ] Safety boots with toe protection.
- [ ] Rigger gloves and heat-resistant gloves for hot lamps.
- [ ] Multitool, tape measure and a head torch.
- [ ] A belt pouch for wraps, pegs and tape.

Costume trainee

- [ ] A set bag: safety pins, small scissors, needle and thread, fashion tape, lint roller, tape measure.
- [ ] A notebook for continuity notes.
- [ ] Comfortable shoes. Costume walks miles between trucks and set.

Hair and make-up trainee

- [ ] A set bag with brushes, combs, clips, tissues and disposable applicators.
- [ ] Hand sanitiser and brush cleaner. Hygiene matters on every job.
- [ ] A notebook for continuity notes.

Don't buy (yet)

- [ ] A camera to become a camera trainee.
- [ ] Grip or lighting kit: it's hired by the production.
- [ ] A course or "crew list" place that charges you. Real productions never charge you to work.
- [ ] Branded crew clothing before you've got the job.