

## **Placement Outline: Lighting Department Placement**

**Responsible to:** Lighting Supervisors/Managers

**Liaises with:** Lighting Managers, Lighting Supervisors, Senior Technicians and Technicians (all disciplines)

**Guidance from:** Lighting Supervisors, Senior Lighting Technicians, Technicians, Workforce Development Advisor

### **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 Department**

The Lighting Department's vision is to maintain a cohesive, progressive and likeminded team, utilising the wealth of experience and enthusiasm from across the 3 Theatres, Control and Resources teams, allowing each Lighting Designer to experience the same standard of excellence and support, regardless of which theatre their production is being staged, to realise their design.

The department consists of an average of 35 staff working in the following areas:

- **Lighting Operations:** venue-based operational staff in each of the 3 theatres consisting of Supervisors, Senior Technicians (supervisory bias) and Technicians as well as Casual, Apprentices and Placements in the department, who collectively realise & deliver the new productions, whilst maintaining and running the current performances.
- **Lighting Control:** operational and non-operational staff consisting of Lighting Control Technicians, Senior Lighting Control Technicians and Senior Lighting Technicians (Programming Bias) who look after the theatre's programming, control equipment and networking technology.
- **Lighting Resources:** supply additional equipment available to the 3 theatre spaces, supplementing basic rigs for productions along with all the maintenance of all lighting equipment and cables. They also take responsibility for events at the National Theatre that require lighting and power such as the exterior of the building, River Stage, The Deck, learning events, and support West End transfers and tours where possible.

**The Placement**

Production placements generally last between 1-3 weeks to allow candidates to experience the day-to-day operation of the lighting department, placements may also be able to get involved with other NT venue productions & Events and Lighting Resources at various stages during their time at the NT. Placement hours are approximately 10am-6pm, Monday to Friday, but with some flexibility; shorter hours when projects are quieter and longer hours around the fit up and tech periods, including occasional Saturday hours. Placements are welcome to use quieter periods to work on own projects/coursework, upon agreement of supervisor.

**Potential Tasks**

1. Assist the Lighting Supervisors and Technicians and their team members during pre-production work:

- Carry out research as required
- Assist the team in the design and build of practical lighting effects and props
- Assist the team, under supervision, with the rigging of lighting equipment and effects
- Help the team to prepare temporary power plans
- Carry out production work as agreed

2. Act as a technician (under supervision) during fit-ups and onstage Production periods:

- Assist in the rigging and focusing of lighting equipment
- Run internal errands to departments within the NT
- Carry out simple technical tasks as agreed
- Shadow the Programmer and Lighting Designer, at appropriate times.

**Person Specification**

- Previous experience in Lighting
- The ability to demonstrate a high level of initiative, attention to detail and thoroughness
- The ability to manage a variety of competing tasks and confident in time management skills

**Experience**

- Must be in second or third year of a relevant course in Technical Theatre, preferably Lighting specific, or have relevant and appropriate lighting experience
- Intermediate computer literacy
- Basic awareness of electrical safety

- Comfortable with working at height (if required)

**Applications should be made using online system.**

**You will need to answer a few questions about you and upload a CV and covering letter (which does not have to be in letter form, it can be a supporting document, with links or photographs if preferred.) Guidance on content is available on our website.**

**Placements will be paid receipted travel and food expenses (in line with policy). All placements to take place between May 2025 – March 2026. Please include your availability (as much as possible) until March 2026.**

(Owing to the large quantity of applications expected it is not possible to offer all applicants a placement within our theatre, please allow time for us to review your applications)