

Commissioning Editor

Commissioning editors need to have market knowledge of the latest trends, as well as a critical eye for spotting what looks good and what doesn't.

Commissioning editors buy authors, book titles or ideas for publication. Their aim is to build up a publisher's list and secure profitable material. They commission work by finding authors or responding to book proposals from authors and agents. Their role is rather like that of a buyer.

Skills:

You'll need to show:

- interpersonal and communication skills
- planning and organisational skills
- negotiating skills
- research skills
- tact and diplomacy
- the ability to think creatively and commercially
- the capability to work to tight deadlines
- a proactive approach to work
- tenacity and self-motivation
- financial management skills
- the ability to work well in a team
- an aptitude for project management
- competence in IT.



Qualifications:

This area of work is open to all graduates, although academic, professional, and scientific publishers may prefer graduates with subject-specific expertise. A degree in publishing may increase your chances but is not essential. Entry with a Higher National Diploma (HND) only is not normally sufficient, and a degree is usually a prerequisite for commissioning editors. A pre-entry postgraduate qualification is not a requirement, although a Masters degree in publishing may improve your chances. Masters and diploma courses are available in areas such as publishing, digital publishing, and international publishing.

Working hours:

Working hours are typically 9am to 5pm. Working hours typically include extra hours, although weekend work is rare except when travelling or attending meetings or conferences.

Salary:

- The average salary for an editorial assistant is £20,000 to £24,000. This is often the entry-level position for aspiring commissioning editors.
- Commissioning editors can expect to earn in the region of £28,000 to £40,000, depending on experience and seniority.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/commissioning-editor>

