

Journalism and Broadcasting

Including TV and Film

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Introduction to careers in Journalism and Broadcasting

The media is a popular career area and students and graduates who successfully apply for jobs can usually show evidence of a commitment to working in this sector. It's therefore worth doing your homework and looking for ways to develop the skills and experience that will make you a good applicant. You can read about the different roles, and check entry requirements and typical salaries, on websites like www.prospects.ac.uk and www.creativeskillset.org

Take part in the Careers Service's Media Club

- We regularly run Media Club sessions that are delivered by employers and Manchester graduates who work in the industry www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/events/themediaclub All events are listed on www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink
- Keep up-to-date with Media Club events, and vacancies/opportunities we come across, on the Media Club Facebook page www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/services/socialmedia/facebook/
- For the latest news and opportunities follow Media Club twitter <http://twitter.com/mcrmediacub> .
- Sign-up for our Insight into Broadcasting and Journalism one day course, usually held in the Easter vacation.

Get involved in student media

- Manchester's student media offers great opportunities for students to develop valuable experience and skills and includes The Mancunion newspaper, Fuse FM radio station and Fuse TV. Details are on the UMSU site <https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/societies> and you can email editor@mancunion.com

Other ways to develop skills and experience

You could also gain experience by producing a newsletter for your student society, writing for a local voluntary group's website, starting or contributing to a blog, vlogging, writing for a gap year organisation about your travels, or volunteering www.volunteers.manchester.ac.uk/

The Manchester Network

Use the University's Manchester Network to link with graduates who work in the media (once logged in, click on mentoring)

network.manchester.ac.uk

Social media

You can use social media to build a personal profile by, for instance, joining the professional network, LinkedIn, using Twitter, Facebook, writing a blog etc. You might also find opportunities to apply for that have been tweeted or put on Facebook. There are tips on using Social Media on the Careers Service website

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/networking/socialmedia/

Work Experience

Industry work experience will strengthen your application for an entry level role and is offered by a range of employers. However, please note this is often unpaid and it's therefore important to guard against exploitation. We recommend that you read our information on unpaid work experience

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/findjobs/paytax/unpaid

The Careers Service Work Experience Bursary helps with meeting the costs of work experience – details are

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/bursaries/

Media in Manchester

Media City, Salford, Greater Manchester

MediaCity:UK is based in Salford, on the edge of Manchester, and is the home of a significant amount of output from the BBC and ITV, including Coronation Street. It aims to act as a centre for the creative industries and there are a growing number of creative enterprises based in neighbouring premises e.g. The Pie Factory. More info at www.mediacityuk.co.uk

The BBC's output from Media City includes BBC Breakfast, CBBC, CBeebies, BBC Learning, BBC Sport, BBC Radio 5 live, Digital Media, Network radio, some entertainment, regional current affairs, regional programmes, and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

Read Prolific North: www.prolificnorth.co.uk/ to keep up-to-date with the media industry in the North of England.

Journalism

Journalists work in broadcasting, social media, newspapers, online media and magazines. Key skills/abilities/characteristics for a journalist can include: shorthand/desk-top publishing, creativity and ideas, written and verbal communication skills, determination, ability to work to strict deadlines and, crucially, a keen interest in news and current affairs. Increasingly, journalists need to be able to write for a range of mediums. For example, those working for newspapers and their websites, may also produce podcasts (audio-visual material).

Ways in:

- A common route into newspaper, magazine or broadcast journalism is via an accredited (NCTJ, BJTC or PPA) postgraduate course. Look for courses on www.prospects.ac.uk, www.nctj.com or www.bjtc.org.uk or www.ppa.co.uk

(Please note: City University's journalism courses are very well established and respected, but their newspaper journalism course is not accredited by the NCTJ and therefore not listed on the NCTJ website.)

- There are also some specialist MAs, e.g. Investigative Journalism MA at De Montfort University (Leicester) developed in collaboration with Channel 4.
- Experience is critical - many people who go into journalism will have developed relevant experience before they graduate. Remember even a postgraduate course may ask for evidence of written skills via a portfolio, plus work experience. Check course entry requirements with the admissions contact.

There are some direct-entry training schemes out there. But be warned, competition is fierce! For this reason they don't need to be well advertised. Look for opportunities by searching on websites, such as Skillset's <http://creativeskillset.org>, www.journalism.co.uk and www.nuj.org.uk/work/careers

It's also worth looking on sites such as www.journoresources.org.uk/journalism-graduate-trainee-schemes-complete-list that offer a list of training schemes. Ones we know of, or have come across, can be found on:

- **BBC careers hub**
www.bbc.co.uk/careers/home
Includes information on topics such as work experience and training schemes e.g. BBC Journalism Trainee Scheme, Production Training Scheme, Digital Media Graduate Scheme, Broadcast Engineering Scheme and the Legal Trainee Scheme. Follow the BBC on twitter @BBCTrainees and @BBCRecruitment
- **C4 Despatches Investigative Journalism Training Scheme**
<http://4talent.channel4.com/get-involved/work-programmes/investigative-journalism>
- **ITV News Traineeship** www.itvjobs.com/workinghere/entry-careers/news-traineeship

- **Times Graduate Trainee Programme**
www.thetimes.co.uk
- **Thomson Reuters** (specialist news agency)
www.thomsonreuters.com
- **Fremantle media graduate programme**
www.fremantlemedia.com/Careers/Training_and_Development.aspx
- **ITV News Group Journalism Traineeship and any bursary scheme information**
www.itvjobs.com/workinghere/entry-careers/news-traineeship
Also check for schemes and/or opportunities with:
 - **Financial Times Editorial Graduate Scheme**
<https://aboutus.ft.com/en-gb/careers/graduate-schemes-and-internships/editorial-graduate-scheme/?mhq5j=e1>

Other opportunities may be found with employers and job sites such as:

- **Cavendish Press**
(news features and picture press agency based in Media City)
www.cavendish-press.co.uk
- **Mirror Group Newspapers**
<http://jobsearch.trinitymirror.com>
- **National papers**
Check for opportunities with the national daily and Sunday newspapers and the newspaper groups they come under.
- **Local newspapers**
Approach papers directly and check which newspaper group they are owned by – see the newspaper society website for details.
www.newspapersoc.org.uk
- **National Union of Journalists.**
A good source of general information on careers in journalism (go to 'advice' and 'FAQs').
www.nuj.org.uk/home

- **Hold the front page.**
Website for journalists and journalism students interested in the regional press. Includes vacancies and useful careers information.
www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk
- **Guardian News and Media Group.**
Check information on careers, internships, traineeships and vacancies.
www.theguardian.com/workforus
- **Association of British Science Writers**
Check for info on student journalism bursaries.
www.absw.org.uk
www.thepaperboy.com – search engine for newspapers and magazines from around the world.
- **Gorkana** – media job search -
www.gorkanajobs.co.uk
- **Scott Trust** (owners of the Guardian Media Group).
Bursaries are advertised at
www.gmgplc.co.uk/the-scott-trust/bursaries/journalism

Magazines

- www.condenast.co.uk – Their HR dept. advice writing directly to the Managing Editor of a specific magazine to enquire about work experience. They occasionally advertise opportunities for graduate media sales roles.
- Time Inc (previously IPC) www.timeincuk.com/careers includes information about work experience and applying for jobs.
- Hearst magazines <http://careers.hearst.co.uk/internships> includes information about internships and graduate schemes.

Further useful websites for Journalism:

- **Journalism.**
Site for journalists.
www.journalism.co.uk

- **Press Gazette.**
www.pressgazette.co.uk
- **Sports Journalists Association**
www.sportsjournalists.co.uk

Broadcasting

There are many different roles in broadcasting in programme making (e.g. researcher, producer, director), programme support (e.g. production assistant or production manager), technical roles (e.g. sound engineer, camera operator), web and digital development, social media etc.

There is a wide range of employers in this field, from the well-known such as the BBC, Sky and ITV to independent production companies which vary in size and output. 'Runner' is a common entry level role – a description is included on www.prospects.ac.uk under 'jobs and work experience'.

There is a thriving independent production sector in the UK – these are companies that are commissioned by broadcasters (e.g. BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 etc.) to produce programmes. Some of the larger companies occasionally run formal work experience programmes or graduate training schemes. Companies are listed in the directory of the trade body www.pact.co.uk (check to see if PACT is running its own a training scheme.)

Get into the habit of watching programme end credits so you become familiar with the companies producing programmes for the types of programmes you are interested in.

Ways In:

- For **BBC** schemes and work experience
www.bbc.co.uk/careers/home
- **ITV** opportunities and work experience
www.itvjobs.com/workinghere/roles/itv-studios

www.itvjobs.com/denied/entry-careers-old/insights-programme-experience/

Note: Email tracy.walker@itv.com if you are interested in work experience in Salford. Send your CV and explain why you would like to be considered.

- **Channel 4**

<http://4talent.channel4.com>

- **Sky Television**

Careers website

www.workforsky.com

- **Channel Five**

www.channel5.com/vacancies

- Larger independent production companies like **Endemol** and **Princes TV**, **RDF** and **Working Title** may provide training opportunities and/or graduate schemes. Try **Channel 4** for details of their training schemes and work experience opportunities
- Ask about opportunities with local radio stations work. Radio is an important area in its own right, but can also serve as a springboard into other forms of media.
- Postgraduate or short courses may be useful. When considering this option look for courses that have a practical focus and use industry-standard equipment. It is advisable to ask what former students have gone on to do. Look for courses on www.creativeskillset.org and www.prospects.ac.uk

Further useful sites for Broadcasting:

- **Mediargh** www.mediargh.com/jobs
- **TV Water Cooler** www.tvwatercooler.org/wordpress/jobs-2/the-job-sites-database
- **Broadcast Now**
www.broadcastnow.co.uk
- **Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union**
www.bectu.org.uk

- **Production Base**
The insider's network for film, TV and commercial production.
www.productionbase.co.uk
- **BBC Commissioning website**
www.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/tv/ideas-from-the-public
(This site is full of useful information about putting forward, or 'pitching', an idea for a programme)
and Sky Academy (training initiatives) www.sky.com/academy
- **Media UK**
Media directory for the UK.
www.mediauk.com
- **Public Media Alliance** (international organisation for public service broadcasters)
<http://publicmediaalliance.org>
- **CPU Media Trust** (supporting the work of media from commonwealth countries)
www.cpu.org.uk
- **Media Trust**
London based charity working to assist voluntary and community sector communications. Check for details of mentoring and training schemes for students and graduates.
www.mediatrust.org
- **The Unit List**
www.theunitlist.com/jobs
- There are a number of **industry Facebook groups** that promote opportunities:
www.facebook.com/groups/tv.runners
A range of others are listed on:
www.facebook.com/TvGroupsIndex/posts/778035498909381

Local Television

That's Manchester is a new local television service for Manchester
www.thatsmanchester.co.uk/

Radio organisations/sources:

- **Radio Academy**
Represents the radio industry. Website includes careers in radio section.
www.radioacademy.org
- **Hospital Broadcasting Association**
Hospital radio site includes information on getting in and directory of member hospital radio stations.
www.hbawk.com
- **Community Media Association**
For information on community radio stations
www.commedia.org.uk
- **Student Radio Association**
Includes a database of members.
www.studentradio.org.uk

Film

The majority of people working in the film industry are based in London and work on a freelance basis on films/programmes, short films or commercials.

In addition to production roles there are a number of key support functions e.g. accounting, publicity, casting, special effects and distribution.

It is possible to work in the regions, but you will need to build a reputation, be able to travel, and may find that you need to have a variety of skill sets to offer to bring in sufficient work.

Useful websites:

- Information on ways into the industry
www.creativeskillset.org/film

- Site for independent film makers
<https://shootingpeople.org/home>
- Film and TV production resources site
www.mandy.com
- British Academy of Film and Television Arts
www.bafta.org
- Information on production suppliers and production news
www.theknowledgeonline.com
- British Film Institute
www.bfi.org.uk
- Film London - promoting the film industry in London
<http://filmlondon.org.uk>
- British Film Commission
www.britishfilmcommission.org.uk

The Space Project is a new production centre in Manchester for film and high end television production www.spacestudiosmanchester.co.uk

Further sources of media job vacancies

- **Guardian**
<http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/jobs/media>
- **Go think big** – website promoting jobs and opportunities in the media
www.gothinkbig.co.uk
- **Broadcast magazine**
Available at the Careers Service.
- **Media Week Jobs**
www.mediaweekjobs.co.uk
- **The Hiive** – networking and job site for the creative industries
<https://app.hiive.co.uk>
- **Hold the front page.**
Website for journalists and journalism students interested in the

regional press. Includes vacancies and useful careers information.

www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk

- **Grapevine Jobs**

www.grapevinejobs.co.uk

Check individual websites for production companies, newspapers, magazines of interest

Learning about the industry and networking opportunities

There are a range of organisations concerned with the media, which run events and forums:

- **The Network**

Runs free master classes and events for young people in conjunction with the Edinburgh International Television Festival (August) www.mgeitf.co.uk

- **Creative Skillset.**

National Training Organisation for Broadcast Film and Video.
www.creativeskillset.org

- **The Royal Television Society.**

A forum for discussion and debate about all aspects of the television industry. There is a North West branch which organises events, talks and workshops. Student membership is available.
www.rts.org.uk

- **Creative England** –organisation promoting film, TV, games, digital & creative services www.creativeengland.co.uk

- **The Radio Academy.**

Hold events and conferences on the radio industry. Concessionary membership available to students.
www.radioacademy.org

- **BBC Writers' Room.**

An essential resource for researching creative writing

opportunities.

www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom

Media Schemes and websites for people from groups that are under-represented in the media

These include:

- www.journalismdiversityfund.com
(includes a link to other bursary schemes)
- www.nuj.org.uk/rights/george-viner-memorial-fund/
- www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/extend
work placement for disabled people
- 104 Films – founded to change representations of disabled people behind and in front of the camera and run training programmes
www.104films.com
- Widening the Lens – training course for new and emerging film makers from diverse background <http://encounters-festival.org.uk/training-diverse-filmmakers-widening-lens/>
- Creative Access has a wide range of paid graduate placements in the media, heritage and PR/advertising sectors for individuals from BAME groups www.creativeaccess.org.uk
- http://creativeskillset.org/about_us/diversity
For information on funded placements and networks for minority groups. Check on the website for schemes in different parts of the media.
- BAME Leadership – NFTS backed scheme for future leaders from BAME background <https://nfts.co.uk/bame-leadership-programme>
- Directors UK – professional association for British screen directors – runs several training initiatives to address under-representation among directors www.directors.uk.com/news/hollyoaks-emerging-directors-training-scheme

- NFTS Directing Workshop – aims to increase the number of women, BAME and people with disabilities working in screen directing..
<https://nfts.co.uk/directing-workshop>

Guides available to download or collect from Careers

- IT careers across the sectors - Starting Point Sheet
Includes information on digital media and other IT careers in the entertainment sector.
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/startingpoints
- To help you make an effective speculative approach, read the Careers Service hand out on 'Getting Connected'
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/findjobs/graduatejobs/networking

Reference books and Journals are available in the Careers Library

Including Broadcast and Campaign magazines.

For a full list of resources go to: www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/library

Disclaimer:

The information within this starting point sheet is not exhaustive and is designed to give you some pointers for useful sources of information. Please note that we cannot take responsibility for the content of the websites included. Those that charge a fee for some of their services have been included because of the relevant free content they provide. Where closing dates are mentioned always check the original source to make sure they haven't changed.

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