

Considering...Broadcasting

Introduction

Broadcasting can involve working in television, radio and on-line. The term “broadcasting” is very general and roles within this sector are diverse. Creative roles include presenter, journalist, producer and researcher; technical roles include engineer and lighting technician; organisational roles include floor manager, location manager and production co-ordinator... and there are many more!

Is this the right sector for me?

It's important to consider the skills you want to use, along with factors such as job security, salary and location to help you narrow down the roles which you are most interested in.

Researching the sector

- Research the broadcasting sector using Prospects [media and internet job profiles](#)
- Attend relevant careers events as these can be great inspiration and a chance to hear about how it really feels to work in Broadcasting. Watch out for “Careers In” events featuring Journalism & Publishing or Media & Creative industries. We also run alumni events in departments, where you can meet graduates working in different career areas eg journalism, publishing, TV and writing. See our [events page](#) and the [events listing in Handshake](#) for more information.
- Case studies and contacts: we have a number of York graduates working in broadcasting. Many are willing to help you with information and advice, see [York Profiles & Mentors](#).
- Search for relevant blogs and follow professionals, production companies etc. on twitter, eg [steviefm – producing the Today programme](#) and [Tim Johns](#) These can give you insights into how people developed their career as well as help you keep up to date with the industry.

Work experience and developing skills

As with all media related jobs, work experience is essential. See our information sheet on *Work experience in the media and creative industries* for full details. Here are some basic suggestions.

Get involved in the campus media:

- [York Student Television](#) (YSTV)
- [University Radio York](#) (URY)
- [Mediargh](#) - paid internship opportunities and links to useful information about working in the sector

Get creative! If you want to become a presenter, get a show reel together and post it on the internet/send to production companies. If you want to be a broadcast journalist, become involved in reporting (see [Journalism and publishing job sector](#) pages). If you want a technical role, get involved in

drama productions. Employers will expect to see these kinds of activities on your CV and are genuinely interested in how you've developed a passion for the sector.

Voluntary work, part-time work, skills courses and involvement with YUSU societies could all give you useful experience depending on the area of broadcasting you are interested in.

- Taking on a position of responsibility in a [student society](#) can also be very useful to develop and demonstrate a range of relevant skills. This could help develop organisational skills if you are putting on an event, communication and public speaking if you are promoting an event, and many other skills depending on what you get involved in and how creative you are

Opportunities for experience outside university

- Contacting production companies speculatively with your CV and covering letter is the most common way of building up experience, but some organisations offer formal work experience placements which you have to apply for, see [Getting Work experience in the media and creative industries](#) for details

Note: some internships offered in this sector may be unpaid. Before starting an internship you should be clear about the length of the internship, pay and conditions, what you will be expected to do, and what you will gain from the experience.

Routes into the sector

- Some larger broadcasters run training schemes which allow you to earn and gain skills and experience at the same time, often resulting in a job. For example
 - the [BBC](#)
 - [Channel 4](#)
 - and [ITV](#)
- A very common starting point for getting a job in broadcasting is being a “[runner](#)”, working within film, radio, TV or video production. This job can be an excellent opportunity to observe other roles within the industry and make important links with different departments, as you will potentially have the opportunity to interact with different teams and areas of a production. Other starting points can include Researcher, Assistant Floor Manager or Production Assistant. Where you need to start, depends on where you want to end up, so research the kind of ultimate roles you're interested in to see where it would make sense to build your experience. ScreenSkills has a [Job Profiles](#) section with this information for some TV and Film roles.
- Increasingly, people work on a freelance basis, rather than being employed by one organisation. This means you are basically self-employed and work on short-term contracts for a range of broadcasters/production companies
- Contracts are often gained via networking and recommendations, so building relationships with a range of organisations is a good idea. [ScreenSkills](#) has some useful resources on working as a freelancer (use the search to look for “freelance”).
- Also look at our [Enterprise](#) opportunities for business planning training, start-up funding and resources.
- It's worth considering joining a union if you want to work as a freelancer. [BECTU](#) is a well-respected union for media and entertainment and offers a lot of support and training for members. Key features are their [rates information](#), which helps creative freelancers see what they

should be charging, and support with chasing payments, which can be a big problem for freelancers.

Useful resources

Reference books and journals in Careers and Placements

- The insider's guide for writing for television
- TV: an insider's guide
- Getting into films & television
- How to get a job in television
- An actor's guide to getting work
- How to be a working actor
- British performing arts year book
- Freelancing for television and radio
- Broadcast (journal)

Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. Careers and Placements cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

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