

Key Skills

- Knowledge of English language
- Knowledge of media production and communication
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- Excellent written communication skills
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- Thinking and reasoning skills
- Persistence and determination
- To be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Salary

£24,000 - £45,000

Working hours

37 – 42 hours irregular
Evening/ weekends/
bank holidays
flexibly

Journalist

University

You can take a degree course as a first step towards this career. Relevant subjects include:

- English
- Journalism
- Media and communications

Some courses are accredited by the [National Council for the Training of Journalists](#).

Graduates of other subjects can do a postgraduate course in journalism, lasting 1 to 2 years.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need to pass an audition.

- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree
- A degree in any subject for a postgraduate course

College

You could do a college course, which would teach you some of the skills and knowledge you need to get a trainee journalist position or to study at a higher level. Courses include:

- Journalism
- Multimedia journalism
- Creative digital media
- Creative writing
- English

Some colleges offer the Level 3 Certificate in Foundation Journalism and courses in shorthand, accredited by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ).

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for these courses vary.

Career Tips

It'll be useful for producing online content if you can:

- Use search engine optimisation (SEO) methods
- Develop skills in basic HTML
- Get experience of using different social media platforms

Professional and industry bodies

As a journalism student you can apply for student membership of the [National Union of Journalists](#).

Further information

You can [find out more about working in journalism](#) from the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ).

Journalist



Volunteering

There is strong competition for jobs, and you'll need to show you've got writing experience. You'll find it useful to keep examples of your published work, especially if these include your name as the author.

To build up your writing experience you can:

- Volunteer for student and community newspapers, magazines and newsletters
- Write your own blog and create an online presence on social media
- Submit articles and reviews to local papers and websites
- [Contact magazines and publishers about opportunities](#) for work shadowing, internships and work experience.

Work

You could start as an office assistant or trainee reporter on a local or regional newspaper, or junior feature writer for a magazine.

You'll need a minimum of five GCSE grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English, or equivalent qualifications. Many recruits have A levels or a degree.

Apprenticeship

You could apply for a place on an apprenticeship with a media organisation, such as:

- **Journalist Level 5 Higher Apprenticeship**
- **Senior Journalist Level 7 Professional Apprenticeship**

These usually take between 1 and 2 years to complete.

Other Routes

You can study for a number of professional qualifications in journalism at different levels, accredited by the [National Council for the Training of Journalists \(NCTJ\)](#). These can be done online, part-time or through fast-track training.

The NCTJ also offer online and short courses like:

- Digital skills
- Media law
- Feature writing
- Freelancing

You may be able to [get help with funding](#) for certain NCTJ courses through the Journalism Diversity Fund.

Career path and progression

As your career develops, you might specialise in a particular field, such as:

- Sport
- Politics
- Business and finance
- Investigative journalism
- Fashion or lifestyle

With experience, you could become a chief reporter, features writer or editor at a newspaper, magazine or press agency. You could also work freelance.

You could also move into other areas, such as broadcast journalism, communications or public relations.

Day to Day tasks:

As a newspaper or magazine journalist, you could:

- Attend content planning meetings and develop ideas for features
- Investigate stories as they break and follow up leads
- Research stories, check facts and interview people in person, over the phone and online
- Attend press conferences, product launches and events
- Write up content for publication in print and online
- Sub-edit other journalists' articles set for publication
- Work closely with professionals like photographers and editors

Working conditions

You could work in an office, visit sites or from home.

Your working environment may be emotionally demanding and you'll travel often.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Authors, writers and translators	
Weekly Pay £720	Annual Pay £37,440
Hours/Week 33h	Hourly Pay £22
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 9.9%	
The workforce is projected to grow by 9.9% over the period to 2035, creating 12,500 jobs.	
You might find this job in Libraries, etc Publishing activities Office admin. Legal & accounting Membership organisations	
More info	Clear card

Pre-press technicians	
Weekly Pay £540	Annual Pay £28,080
Hours/Week 48h	Hourly Pay £11
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 0.1%	
The workforce is projected to grow by 0.1% over the period to 2035, creating 0 jobs.	
You might find this job in	
More info	Clear card

Newspaper and periodical broadcast journalists and reporters	
Weekly Pay £860	Annual Pay £44,720
Hours/Week 40h	Hourly Pay £22
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 10.9%	
The workforce is projected to grow by 10.9% over the period to 2035, creating 6,200 jobs.	
You might find this job in Advertising, etc Arts & entertainment Information services Publishing activities Office admin.	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Newspaper and periodical broadcast journalists and reporters

Newspaper and periodical broadcast journalists and reporters investigate and write up stories and features for broadcasting and for newspapers, magazines, news website and other periodicals.

Common tasks in this job:

- determines subject matter and undertakes research by interviewing, attending public events, seeking out records, reviewing written work, attending film and stage performances etc
- responds to stories as they break
- writes articles and features and submits draft manuscripts to newspaper, magazine, new website, periodical or programme editor
- engage with the public and disseminate news stories, lifestyle and opinion pieces through social media

Back

Clear card

Pre-press technicians

Pre-press technicians prepare, format and compose text and graphics in a form suitable for use in a variety of print processes.

Common tasks in this job:

- determines from specification the kind and size of type to be used
- uses computer applications to generate images and text
- scans and retouches digital images to create sample proofs, plans and lays out artwork to match planned design
- examines proof copies, checks for quality and accuracy and makes any necessary alterations

Back

Clear card

Authors, writers and translators

Authors, writers and translators write, edit and evaluate literary material for publication excluding material for newspapers, magazines and other periodicals but including scripts and narrative for film, TV, radio and computer games and animations; and translate spoken and written statements into different languages.

Common tasks in this job:

- determines subject matter and researches as necessary by interviewing, attending public events, seeking out records, observing etc.
- generates and develops creative ideas for literary material
- selects material for publication, checks style, grammar and accuracy of content, arranges for any necessary revisions and checks proof copies before printing
- negotiates contracts with freelance agents and with buyer on behalf of writer

Back

Clear card

Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

BBC Bitesize: How to become an
apprentice Journalist



How to Become a Journalist |
Degrees, Skills & Career Paths (UK)



SeeToBe: Film Programmer and
Film Journalist



Getting a headstart in your
journalism career



Useful Websites

[Journalist | My World of Work](#)

[How to become a journalist: Sirin's story - BBC Bitesize](#)

[How to become a journalist](#)

[Journalism Subject Guide | Why Study Journalism At Uni? | UCAS](#)