

## Researcher – Broadcasting

A researcher looks for background information on topics that form the content of radio or television programmes, and helps with different aspects of planning and producing the programmes.

### The Work

You could be:

- working with producers, directors and other professionals to discuss research requirements
- working on different programmes, from quiz and chat shows to documentaries and news programmes
- researching topics on the internet (or occasionally in archives or libraries)
- finding facts, figures and information and getting material such as archive footage, pictures, samples or music
- checking copyright and negotiating fees for material usage
- coming up with ideas for shows or items on shows
- finding and interviewing guests to take part in programmes
- finding and checking out possible locations for filming
- assisting with script writing, recording and editing.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual salaries vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of company or organisation you work for
- whether you are freelance
- the demand for the job.

Salaries for broadcasting researchers are around £20,000 to £25,000 a year, rising with experience to up to £35,000 or more. It may be that you would have to work for a minimal rate or for nothing before getting a fully paid job.

### Conditions

- You will probably work long irregular hours which could include evenings and weekends.
- Although you will be mostly in an office or studio, you will sometimes travel about.
- You may sometimes have to spend overnights away from home.
- The work can be demanding, with tight deadlines to meet.

### Getting In

- Entry is very competitive.
- Most entrants are graduates. Degrees in journalism, public relations, English, politics, history and media can increase your chances.

- You need 4-5 Highers to get on to a degree course.
- Postgraduate training in journalism is useful.
- It helps to have experience in journalism or broadcasting. Posts often go to those already within the organisation doing other jobs, such as an entry level position like runner (See [Runner](#)).
- You must have work or voluntary experience to start building your portfolio and make contacts. You can build up this type of experience by working in community or hospital radio or by being involved in local newspapers or student magazines.
- Information on unpaid internships with the BBC is available on the [BBC Careers](#) website.
- Knowledge of a language other than English is useful.

## What Does It Take

You need:

- creative ideas
- initiative, drive and persistence
- excellent research skills
- team working skills
- strong internet and IT skills
- accuracy in details
- good organisational skills.

You should have:

- excellent written communication skills
- strong interpersonal skills
- a wide range of interests
- a good understanding of the audience
- knowledge of the production process
- the ability to work to tight deadlines.

## Training

- Most training is on the job although there are a number of short courses that can be done in-house or externally.
- ScreenSkills has information on a range of courses. Along with the British Film Institute (BFI) they run a database to help those in the industry choose relevant courses (see below).
- The BBC Academy offers a number of relevant courses. Visit their website for more details.

## Getting On

- You will probably work freelance, from one temporary project to another, with gaps of unemployment between jobs. Full time permanent contracts are rare and short term contracts are usual.
- You could help yourself to gain work by contacting companies, networking and making sure your name appears on databases of experienced media staff.
- The number of job opportunities in broadcasting involving community languages, including Gaelic, Urdu

and Punjabi, is increasing.

- If you are working long term for a company, you might try for promotion to senior researcher or associate producer. Otherwise, you could move into other areas of broadcasting: journalism, programme editing, directing, producing or presenting.

## More Information

If you are aged 18 or over you may be interested in [The Network](#). The Network is held each year alongside the TV Festival in Edinburgh. If selected you would attend for four free days of masterclasses and workshops which will provide you with the skills, knowledge and contacts to start a career in TV. You can usually apply from January to May.

The BBC runs a number of early careers apprenticeships in different areas of media and broadcasting. Follow @BBCGETIN Instagram to stay up to date. If you would like to find out more or check on application deadline dates visit [BBC Scotland Apprenticeships](#).

## Contacts

### BBC Academy

Website: [www.bbc.co.uk/academy](http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy)

### BBC Recruitment

Website: [careers.bbc.co.uk](http://careers.bbc.co.uk)

X: @BBCGetIn

### BECTU Scotland (Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union)

Tel: 0141 370 1590

Email: [info@bectu.org.uk](mailto:info@bectu.org.uk)

Website: [www.bectu.org.uk](http://www.bectu.org.uk)

Website (2): [careersmart.org.uk](http://careersmart.org.uk)

X: @bectu

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BECTUOfficial](http://www.facebook.com/BECTUOfficial)

### Radio Academy

Email: [info@radioacademy.org](mailto:info@radioacademy.org)

Website: [www.radioacademy.org](http://www.radioacademy.org)

X: @radioacademy

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/radioacademy](http://www.facebook.com/radioacademy)

### ScreenSkills

Tel: 020 7713 9800

Email: [info@screenskills.com](mailto:info@screenskills.com)

Website: [www.screenskills.com](http://www.screenskills.com)

X: @UKScreenSkills

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UKScreenSkills](http://www.facebook.com/UKScreenSkills)

## Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

### Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.