





Journalist

More information can be found at

Journalist (gov.wales)







Qualifications Required

Most people enter after completing a full-time vocational training course.

This route is known as pre-entry training.

The minimum entry requirement for a course is usually 5 GCSEs and 2 A levels. However, some courses are for graduates only.

To get onto an apprenticeship, you'll usually need 5 GCSEs at grade C/4 or above, including English and maths.

Some universities accept the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate as equivalent to 1 A level

Skills and Qualities

To become a Journalist, you'll need:

- •an excellent writing style
- •good spelling, grammar and punctuation
- •an interest in and knowledge of the subject you're writing about
- •the ability to meet deadlines and keep calm under pressure
- •to be curious and determined
- •good communication and listening skills, particularly when interviewing people
- •IT skills, for example, in desktop publishing software
- •the ability to take criticism from the Editor or reader

A knowledge of shorthand is very useful.

Journalists who write for online publications might need basic web skills, for example, knowledge of content management systems.

Freelance Journalists benefit from business and marketing skills to promote and sell their article ideas to Editors.

You might need a driving licence for some positions.

Do I need Welsh Language skills?

Welsh Language skills are often asked for. Being able to read, write and speak Welsh may be an advantage when you're looking for work in Wales.





Entry Routes

An apprenticeship is a great place to get into this career.

Other routes into journalism can vary depending on which branch you choose to follow. To get into the newspaper industry, there are often two routes: direct entry, and pre-entry through a college/university course.

Direct entry is when you are recruited by regional or local newspapers and carry out their basic training under the terms of a training contract. This route is becoming rarer all the time.

Most entrants are graduates, as competition for jobs is fierce. There are a number of degrees in journalism. However, it's possible to enter with a degree in another subject.

Some subjects are more widely recognised and better regarded than others. For example, employers often question the suitability of media studies courses, especially where the applicant has no journalism work experience.

If you want to specialise in a particular area, such as fashion, music or science, a degree in a relevant area will be useful (or sometimes essential, as can be the case for scientific and medical Journalists).

The NCTJ provides qualifications for pre-entry trainee Journalists, as well as professional qualifications for working Journalists.



For entry to the Sixth Form, some schools require students need 5 A*-C at GCSE such as:

English Language

- B in English Language, will consider those with C
 English Literature
- B in English Literature, will consider those with C
 Media studies
- C ideal in English Lit and Lang
- Interest in mass media and current affairs



Salary

The pay rates given below are approximate.

•Starting: £20,000 - £24,000

•With experience: £26,000 - £37,000

•Senior Journalists earn £41,000 -

£50,000

Rates for freelance Journalists vary depending on whether they work on a shift or commissioned basis.

Generally, national newspaper shifts are from around £150 - £300 a shift.

You can find a useful guide to freelance rates on the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) website.

You may face long periods without work.







For more information please use the QR code



For more information or help with your career planning

Please Contact your school-based careers adviser

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