



Diversifying the UK screen industries

The screen industries are one of the UK's greatest economic strengths. Covering film, television, visual effects (VFX), animation and gaming, it is a wide-ranging sector that has shown dynamic growth over recent years, and continues to trend upwards.

Find out more about the opportunities in the film and television sector and how to signpost to trusted sources of information and resources. Plus hear from a diverse range of trainees that The Grierson Trust has supported in their pursuit of a career in the documentary and factual TV industry.



For those outside of the film and TV industry, it won't necessarily be obvious why the UK's screen industries are so successful as a magnet for international productions, and why we are so brilliant at creating shows that travel the world.

We have multi-award-winning craftspeople, generous Government tax breaks, a range of visually arresting locations and iconic facilities such as Pinewood Studios (home of *Top Gun: Maverick* and *No Time to Die*). Not to mention an amazingly creative, independent television sector developing unscripted shows like *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Bake Off*, *Blue Planet*, and *Who Do You Think You Are?* that are sold all over the world.

This growth and success, however, has also created an acute labour shortage.

Recent research has estimated that by 2025, we need to recruit approximately 20,000 additional full-time employees for jobs in film and high-end TV; and in unscripted television (which includes documentaries, factual entertainment shows and reality TV), a skills report last year showed a similar picture.

There is now a great collective effort to address this skills shortage. Many organisations are working to demystify



roles, promote job opportunities; dispel the misconception that entrants need to have a film or media degree or prior experience; break down the barriers to entry and make it easier to access careers information, advice and guidance.

The Grierson Trust is one such organisation. Our Grierson DocLab training schemes were established 10 years ago and have a track record for supporting those from under-represented backgrounds in the documentary and factual television industry. We help people without connections to get their foot in the door, then support them to progress in their unscripted careers. We now want to tell their stories in order to encourage more people to join this booming industry.

Maybe you, or someone you know, has shown a curiosity about how film/TV programmes are made, but don't know how to pursue this area of work.

We've drawn upon Grierson DocLab trainee case studies to show how they pursued their TV careers and that diversity, inclusion and equality of access matters to us, as well as the wider screen industry. We have collated a range of trusted resources for you to explore and split them into scripted and unscripted sections, to help you navigate a career path into a sector that welcomes different voices, opinions and talents.

We hope the information we have carefully curated informs and inspires.

Yen Yau

Director of Training Programmes,
The Grierson Trust

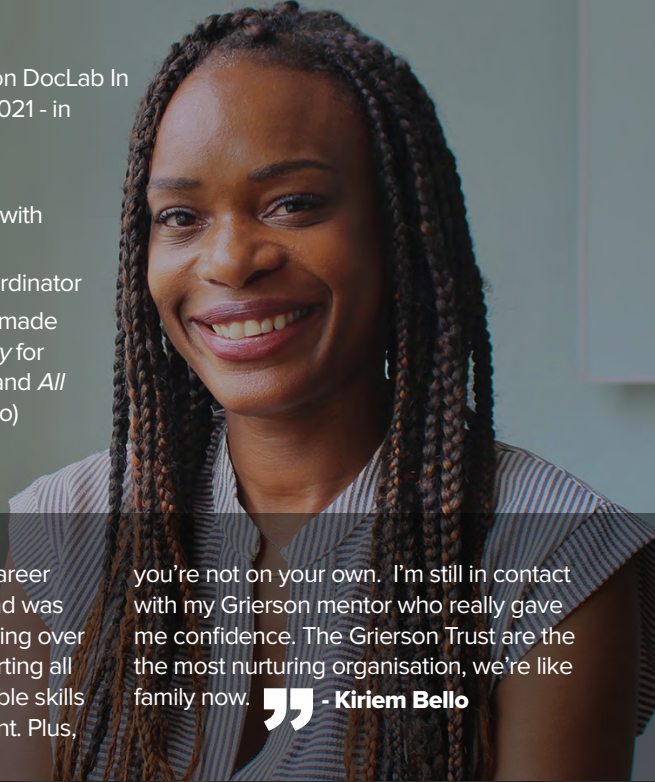
Grierson DocLab scheme: Grierson DocLab In Focus: Production Management 2021 - in partnership with Netflix

Location: Surrey

Studied: Computing Mathematics with Account and Finance

Current Job Role: Production Coordinator

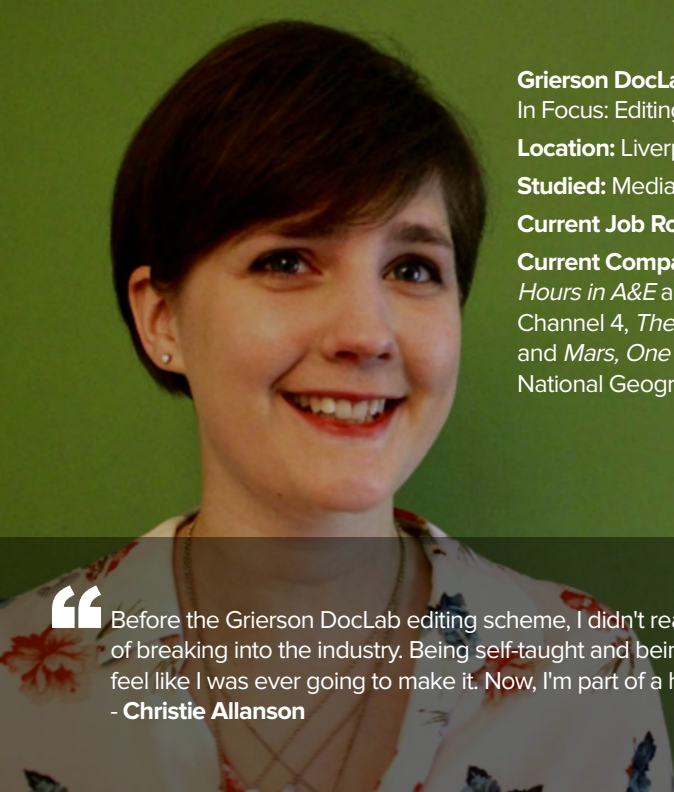
Current Company: 72 Films (who made *Jimmy Savile: A British Horror Story* for Netflix, *The Trump Show* for BBC and *All or Nothing: Arsenal* for Prime Video)



“ I’m a career changer rather than career starter. I’m a mum to three boys and was working in accounts since graduating over 20 years ago... It was daunting starting all over again, but I brought transferable skills with me to production management. Plus,

you’re not on your own. I’m still in contact with my Grierson mentor who really gave me confidence. The Grierson Trust are the the most nurturing organisation, we’re like family now. ” - Kiriem Bello





Grierson DocLab scheme: Grierson DocLab
In Focus: Editing 2021 - in partnership with Netflix

Location: Liverpool

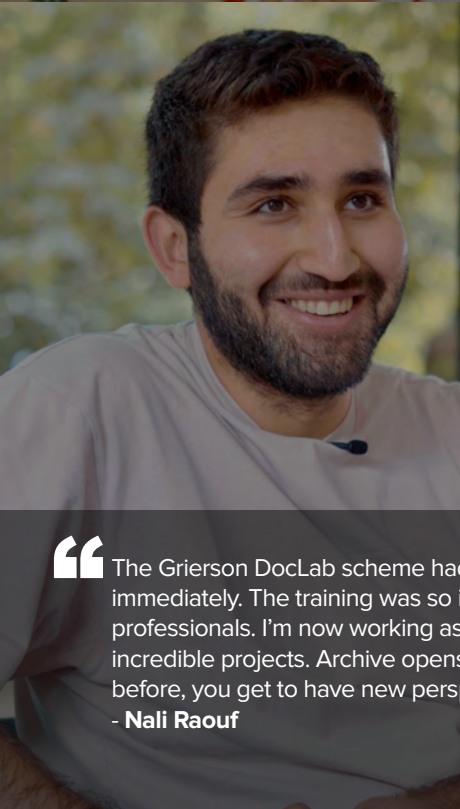
Studied: Media, Film and Television

Current Job Role: Editor

Current Company: The Garden (who made *24 Hours in A&E* and *24 Hours in Police Custody* for Channel 4, *The Lakes with Simon Reeve* for BBC and *Mars, One Day on the Red Planet* for National Geographic)

“ Before the Grierson DocLab editing scheme, I didn't really think I had much hope of breaking into the industry. Being self-taught and being in Liverpool, I didn't really feel like I was ever going to make it. Now, I'm part of a huge network that's so helpful. ”

- Christie Allanson



Grierson DocLab scheme: Grierson DocLab
core 2021

Location: London

Studied: Digital Film Production

Current Job Role: Archive Researcher

Current Company: Box to Box (who made *Formula 1: Drive to Survive* for Netflix, *Make or Break* for Apple TV and *The Kings* for Prime Video)

“ The Grierson DocLab scheme had a massive impact on me almost immediately. The training was so in-depth with fantastic talks from industry professionals. I'm now working as an Archive Researcher on some incredible projects. Archive opens up new areas that you didn't notice before, you get to have new perspectives. ”

- Nali Raouf

Grierson DocLab scheme: Grierson DocLab core 2020

Location: Huddersfield

Studied: Anthropology

Current Job Role: Researcher

Current Company: ITN Productions (who made *For Sama* for Channel 4, *Drug Lords: Seasons 1 and 2* for Netflix and *Rise Up* for VICE)



“ I came across Grierson DocLab on Twitter and if I hadn't done the scheme I wouldn't be working professionally in the same way I am now. I feel incredibly grateful to the scheme as I don't know how I would have joined the TV industry on shows such as *24 Hours in A&E...* because it's so much about who you know. It's good to have people who can open doors for you. ” - Toni Lee

Explore scripted film and TV careers with these resources

BAFTA Guru. BAFTA's one stop shop to inspire anyone interested in film, TV and games
guru.bafta.org

BFI Film Academy. The British Film Institute runs a free, national programme offering hands-on filmmaking courses for 16–19-year-olds
www.bfi.org.uk/bfi-film-academy-opportunities-young-creatives

The **RTS** stands for the Royal Television Society. In addition to webinars, career fairs, and in person talks for all ages, the RTS also runs bursary schemes
www.rts.org.uk/education-and-training-pages/rts-bursaries

ScreenSkills is the industry-led skills body for the screen industries – film, television (including children's, unscripted and high-end), VFX (visual effects), animation and games
www.screenskills.com

ERIC is a free app focussing on helping young people explore, up-skill and get work in the creative industries
www.meet-eric.com Check out their interactive Creative Career app

Explore unscripted film and TV careers

Grierson DocLab is the training arm of **The Grierson Trust**, running schemes for documentary and factual TV for new entrants, craft editors and those who wish to work in production management [griersontrust.org/outreach/careers](https://www.griersontrust.org/outreach/careers)

4Skills is Channel 4's careers portal detailing training, work experience and apprenticeships careers.channel4.com/4skills

TRC Media is for those based in Scotland, and rad is their paid eight-month traineeship www.trcmedia.org/training/rad-scotland-tv-traineeship

BBC Careers is a one stop shop for all things careers relating to the BBC www.bbc.co.uk/careers/trainee-schemes-and-apprenticeships

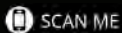
Creative Access is an organisation enabling people from communities under-represented in the creative industries to access careers, progress and reach leadership potential, across the UK opportunities.creativeaccess.org.uk/jobs

Screen Yorkshire is for those based in Yorkshire and Humber and they run several talent development schemes www.screenyorkshire.co.uk/skills-and-talent

ScreenSkills is the industry body for the screen industries. Check out their website for listings of free or subsidised industry training opportunities and specific career maps www.screenskills.com/training-and-opportunities
www.screenskills.com/starting-your-career/career-maps



For more online resources, further information on the Grierson DocLab training schemes, and to register your interest in an outreach webinar delivered by The Grierson Trust, scan the QR code or visit [griersontrust.org/outreach/careers](https://www.griersontrust.org/outreach/careers)



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