



## **The 2018 Grierson Trust DocLab**

### Tips for applying, application guidelines and FAQs

Applications for the Grierson DocLab 2018 are now open. The scheme seeks young people who are passionate about television, who have ideas on what they can contribute to the industry, and who can offer fresh perspectives which are not being reflected on the screen.

The scheme is open to any young person (UK residents only), aged 18-25. You may be in full time education but to be eligible, you must be in your final year of studies. The programme is aimed to help new entrants become job ready, to take up opportunities. Being a new entrant scheme you will not be eligible if you have had more than 3 months work experience, or placement.

We are particularly interested to receive submissions from under-represented groups in the television industry. This includes, but not to the exclusion of other categories: BME young people, those resident outside of London and anyone who may have a disability.

All expenses associated with attending the DocLab, from the selection day to the residential, and the Sheffield DocFest, will be covered by the scheme.

The following information is to help you answer the questions in the application form, informing you of what the assessors will be looking for from applicants, as well as covering the frequently asked questions we come across.

If you have a question, or query, not answered in this document please email:  
[training@griersontrust.org](mailto:training@griersontrust.org)

Good luck!

The Grierson Trust team

## Tips for Applying

- Watch a wide range of factual programmes on different platforms, not limiting yourself to online or features, but remember that terrestrial television is probably where you are going to get your first job.
- Read the question and then read it again.
- Check your application and CV, then check it again. If you have invested your valuable time to apply, you do not want to be let down by poor grammar or spelling mistakes. Do not rely on spell check. Ask a friend or a teacher/tutor/youth worker to look over it for you.
- Think about the things you do in your spare time, outside of school, college or university to demonstrate the kind of skills and experiences that will make you stand out from the crowd on your CV. Some resources and useful sites to look at about CV writing:  
[My World of Work](#)  
[Guardian CVs](#)  
[BBC Academy](#)
- Research and read up about the industry. Here are some useful sites:  
[BAFTA Guru](#)  
[Open 4](#)  
[Creative Skillset](#)  
[So You Want to Work in TV?](#)

## Application Questions

- ***Tell us about the types of factual programmes, or feature documentaries you watch. We are looking for examples that you dislike, as well as like.***  
If you are going to work in an industry that is a visual medium, you need to watch a range of content. How are you going to convey that you love factual programmes? How do you watch it? Think of terrestrial (i.e. BBC, C4, ITV and C5), as well as all the other familiar platforms/SVoD providers. Expand on why you have chosen them.
- ***Give an example of a time when you had to be creative, solve a problem or overcome a challenge. If you are still a student please give an illustration that has not been part of your coursework, i.e. could be from work, volunteering, hobby, home life, and other experiences.***  
Working in television whether on a production, or in an office will require you to sometimes think outside of the box; contribute to the generation of ideas; on occasion come up with solutions or seek shortcuts through lateral thinking. There are a number of skills involved. Here we want you to describe a situation or issue you will have had to apply such thinking.

- ***The Grierson DocLab is primarily aimed at widening participation of young people from under-represented groups, and increasing diversity in the television industry. This section is for you to describe how you feel you meet this criterion. How will you benefit from being on the scheme? Why is it important for you to be selected?***

We want to support the work of the industry to reflect the full diversity of the UK population, and this is your opportunity to tell us how you describe your diversity. Give us reasons why you believe you should be chosen. How will you benefit from the scheme? What will being selected mean to you?

- ***If you are selected for the scheme, you learn how to develop and pitch an idea for a programme. What would your idea be, and why?***

Learning how to pitch (another way of saying presenting or selling your concept) is a core part of the residential. In this section, we want you to provide an example of an idea you could potentially work on during the programme, if you are selected. What has drawn you to this subject?

## FAQs

- Do I have to use up all the word count? **You do not necessarily need to use the full allocation but we do expect a fully formed response. We want to feel your passion on the page.**
- Why do I have to complete the monitoring form? **The online form helps us capture information about applicants that is not on the application form and once we have cross referenced it with your respective form, your name is removed and the data will be anonymised.**
- I am currently at university can I apply? **Yes, but only if you are in your final year of studies.**
- I do not study film or media, is this an issue? **Not at all. It does not matter what you have studied, the most important thing is to convey your passion for why you want a job in television/factual programme making. We have had trainees from a variety of backgrounds and who have studied many different subjects including: physics, Russian, English Literature, history, animal conservation and psychology with neuroscience as well as film/media related courses.**
- My CV is very short, or I don't have a CV. **Your CV is important for us to see information not on the application form so length is not an issue but making sure you have listed everything to show your experience, interests, subjects studied, etc. is. There are many great online resources and websites to help you write, or strengthen what you do have. See section on tips on applying for links.**
- I can't attend some of the dates. Can I still apply? **You have to be available to attend all parts of the programme as per listed in the calendar. There will be no exceptions.**
- Do I need to know what kind of job role I want? **No. We understand that not everyone has a clear idea of what career or role they want yet, and one of the things about the programme is to give you a chance to find out about the different jobs that are available.**

- I have never been to university or college? Will this be a barrier? **No. We welcome applications from anyone who can demonstrate their passion for television.**
- Why are only UK residents eligible to submit an application? **This is a new entrant scheme to get trainees into jobs in the UK so it is essential that we prioritise applicants who can and want to go onto work here.**
- I am going to turn 26 after the closing date, can I still apply? **Yes, as long as you are 25 on the application closing date.**
- Can I apply if I have already had a paid placement elsewhere? **As this is a new entrant scheme, it is aimed at applicants who have little or no experience of working in television. Our target audience for the scheme is anyone with less than 3months work experience/placement (paid or unpaid). If you are unsure you can email us with your question and a copy of your current CV to: [training@griersontrust.org](mailto:training@griersontrust.org)**
- I applied before but was unsuccessful, can I apply again? **Yes**
- What happens after the training ends? **As long as you keep in touch with us, as we hope you will, we will continue to support you through the mentoring programme, one-2-one contact with the Outreach Programme Manager, invitations to partner events and networking opportunities.**
- Who are your mentors? **Industry professionals including our board of [Trustees](#)**
- Can I get feedback if my application is unsuccessful? **We are unfortunately unable to provide any feedback.**
- Do you include how to make feature documentaries? **We make references to how feature docs are made and some trainees have pitched long form idea. However, the main purpose of the scheme is to help you into factual television and the skills and knowledge we are imparting to you, are transferable to making feature documentaries.**