



Grierson DocLab 2019

Tips for applying, application guidelines and FAQs.

[Applications for Grierson DocLab 2019 are now open](#). The scheme seeks young people who are passionate about television, who have ideas about how they can contribute to the industry, and who can offer fresh perspectives that are not currently reflected on-screen or behind the scenes.

The scheme is open to any UK resident 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 aims to help new entrants become job-ready and able to take up opportunities in the factual programme making industry, as a result you will not be eligible if you have undertaken an industry placement or work experience that lasted more than 3 months.

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, BAME young people, residents outside of London and anyone who may have a disability.

All expenses associated with participating in Grierson DocLab will be covered by the scheme; from the selection day and the residential to Sheffield Doc/Fest and the Awards.

The following information is to help you answer the questions in the application form, to inform you of what the assessors will be looking for from applicants, and to cover the frequently asked questions.

If you have a question or query not answered in this document, please email: 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/teacher/tutor/youth-worker to look over it for you too.
- Think about the things you do in your spare time, outside of school, college or university to help 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](#)
 - [Screen Skills – Careers Information](#)
- Research and read up about the industry. Here are some useful sites:
 - [BAFTA Guru](#)
 - [Screen Skills – Editorial and Production roles](#)
 - [Screen Skills – Craft and Technical roles](#)
 - [So You Want to Work in TV?](#)

Application Questions

To apply to Grierson DocLab 2019, you will need to [fill out the application form online](#). Therefore, we recommend reading through the below questions and drafting your answers offline first before beginning the online application. We also recommend having your CV ready to upload once you apply online, make sure it is in a Word doc or pdf format.

- **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. (Max 300 words)** 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 digital terrestrial television (i.e. BBC, Channel 4, ITV, Dave, More4, Gold and Channel 5), as well as all the other familiar platforms/SVoD providers (i.e. Amazon Prime, Netflix, HBO). 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. (Max 200 words)** 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 and, on occasion, come up with solutions to problems or seek shortcuts through lateral thinking. Here we want you to describe a situation or issue you will have had to apply such thinking; how did you help solve a problem creatively?
- **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? (Max 150 words) Why is it important for you to be selected? (Max 150 words)** 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 identify 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 idea would you explore if given the chance? (Max 150 words) Why would you explore this particular idea? (Max 150 words)** Learning how to pitch (another way of saying presenting or selling your concept) is a core part of the residential training. 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 monitoring section of the application form helps us capture information about applicants that feeds in to our reporting. Once submitted, 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 am going to be applying to study for a masters in the next academic year (2019-2020), can I apply?** Preference will be given to applicants who are seeking to start working from the autumn onwards. The scheme is geared to help you with contacts and knowledge to get into the industry. Starting a course means the momentum and potential opportunities cannot be followed through.
- **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, as well as film/media related courses.
- **My CV is very short, or I don't have a CV, do I still need to send one?** Your CV is important for us to see information that may not be 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 your CV or to strengthen what you do have. See the section on tips for 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 listed in the schedule. 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.
- **When do I have to do the placement? I have some holidays and other commitments in the diary?** You will have until Easter 2020 to undertake the placement. This is arranged

on an individual basis depending your availability, the company you are placed with, and what opportunities they have that match your interests.

- **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 work in the UK.
- **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 3 months' work experience/placement, whether 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
- **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-to-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?** Due to high volume of applications, 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 ideas. However, the main purpose of the scheme is to help you get into factual television, though the skills and knowledge we are imparting to you are transferable to making feature documentaries.