

## Grierson DocLab 2020 Guidance and FAQs

This document outlines tips for applying to the scheme, the application questions for you to read through before [beginning your online application](#) frequently asked questions and our privacy policy.

If you have a query that has not been answered in the FAQs please email us: [training@griersontrust.org](mailto:training@griersontrust.org)

### Tips for Applying

- Read the question and then read it again.
- We are seeking individuals who watch a broad range of factual programmes on different platforms, not limited to online or feature documentaries, so make sure to tell us about the wide choice of content that you chose to view. Your first job in the industry could be making content for the BBC, VICE, Channel 4, Channel 5, Discovery, or it could be branded content, a film for a niche audience, a short film for a campaigning issue, or a viral piece of content for Facebook. The world of factual television and documentary is extremely varied!
- 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. We recommend that you save your CV file as your full name so we can match it to your application easily.
- Think about the things you do in your spare time outside of school, college, university or work, to demonstrate your 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 are: [My World of Work](#); [Guardian CVs](#) and [BBC Academy](#).
- Research and read up about the industry. Here are some useful sites: [BAFTA Guru](#); [ScreenSkills](#) and [So You Want to Work in TV?](#)

### Application Questions

To apply to Grierson DocLab 2020, you will need to [fill out the application form online](#).

We recommend reading through the questions below and drafting your answers offline first, before beginning the online application.

We also recommend preparing the following:

- Your CV ready to upload once you have applied online, making sure it is in a Word doc or PDF format and that the file is saved as your full name.

- Identifying contact details of two references (full name, email address and telephone number). You may also wish to let your references know that they may be contacted should you be successful.
- A headshot photograph (just for use on the selection day, this photograph will be securely stored and not published).

### Questions:

- **Tell us about the types of factual programmes, short-form factual content 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, understand and appreciate 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, More 4, Gold, Channel 5, etc.), as well as all the other familiar platforms/SVoD providers (i.e. subscription on demand companies: Amazon Prime, Netflix, HBO, Now TV etc.) and any social media channels you watch non-scripted content on (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, SnapChat etc.). This is not a prescriptive list so surprise us, and highlight a site, platform or channel which you think is a must see choice for you.

Expand on why you have chosen them. A good point of reference to understand the range of factual television is to look at past Grierson Award [shortlists](#) and [nominees](#).

- **Give an example of a time when you had to solve a problem, or overcome a challenge, and how you did so creatively. Please choose an illustration that has not been part of school/college/university coursework, i.e. it should be from work, volunteering, a hobby you have, home life, or draw from 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 find 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 these criteria. How will you benefit from being on the scheme? (Max 300 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?

The [online application](#) also includes questions for monitoring purposes.

## 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 into our reporting to funders. The reporting is a condition of securing our funding that enables to do the work supporting trainees. You can read about why monitoring matters [here](#) and [here](#). 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 (2020-2021), 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 to work. Starting a course means the momentum and potential opportunities cannot be followed through.
- **I did 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 who have studied many different subjects.
- **My CV is very short, or I don't have a CV.** Your CV is important for us to see information that will not be on the application form, so length is not an issue, but making sure you have listed everything to show your experiences, 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 in the industry?** No. We understand that not everyone has a clear idea of what career or role they want yet, and one of the aims of the programme is to give you a chance to find out about the different jobs that are available. Check out the unscripted TV career maps ([technical/craft](#) roles and [production/editorial](#) roles), on the ScreenSkills website for an overview.
- **When do I have to do the placement? I have some holidays and other commitments in the diary.** You will have until Easter 2021 to undertake the placement. This is arranged on an individual basis. Variables include your availability, the company you are placed with having a suitable role for you at a time that suits both parties, and what opportunities they have that match your interests. The two Netflix placements will need to be completed by the end of 2021.
- **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 three months' work experience/placement, whether paid or unpaid. If you are unsure you can email us with your queries 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-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 the high volume of applications, we are unable to provide any feedback.
- **Do you cover sessions about 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, as well as other formats.
- **If I am selected for the scheme, as someone with accessibility issues, what support can I expect?** We are aware that some trainees may need additional support. We have a specific member of the team who has responsibility for establishing the access needs of all participants, who will work closely with you.
- **What information will my referees need to provide?** They will be sent a link to an online form to complete with a short series of questions. This is to give us more information to support your application. We therefore advise you share details about the scheme and also let them know in advance in case you are shortlisted.
- **Sheffield Doc/Fest dates are actually 4-9 June** - We are covering costs for you to attend for 3 days but if you wish to go earlier or stay an extra day, you will have to make separate arrangements, which some trainees in previous years have done.

By submitting this application for the Grierson DocLab 2020 (“Application”) you (“Applicant”) hereby acknowledge and agree that The Grierson Trust (“Company”) shall collect, use and otherwise process certain personal data submitted by and relating to Applicant for purposes connected with the Application, including Company assessing and reviewing the Application and complying with legal and regulatory obligations. Company wishes to ensure that the information it holds remains as accurate as possible and may therefore request Applicant to update Applicant’s personal data at any time solely to the extent required for the Application. Company may, from time to time, need to make some of Applicant’s data available to third parties for assessment of the Application as well as to legal and regulatory authorities solely as required under any relevant law or statute. If such recipient third party is located, or has relevant operations located, in a jurisdiction where data protection and privacy regulations do not offer the same level of protection as within the European Union (such as the United States of America), Company shall take reasonable steps to ensure the security and confidentiality of Applicant’s data and to comply with any relevant data protection laws. Applicant also acknowledges that sensitive personal data (also known as special categories of personal data and personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences) is processed by Company for the purposes connected with the Application, including where permitted under employment legislation or to determine occupational suitability. Company hereby informs Applicant that the Applicant has certain rights in respect of his/her personal data (such as access, rectification and portability) and that further information about these rights and Company’s processing of personal data generally can be obtained upon request from Company. Company confirms it is compliant with current UK Data Protection laws.

[Read The Grierson Trust’s privacy policy.](#)