Discover
I'm uncertain about who I might become, what I have to offer and the world I would like to enter and would like to find out more about this area.

If you are passionate about finding and sharing ideas, uncovering the truth and can cope with tight deadlines in a fast moving environment, this could be the career for you.

There's no single way to get into journalism but you'll need experience before you apply for jobs. One of the simplest ways to display your writing is by starting a blog, which you can promote via social media. Write a couple of posts on a topic that interests you and see if you enjoy the process. If so, go for it! See more advice on blogging in the 'Action' stage below.

Journalism Careers Events
We run a number of events for aspiring journalists each year. Whether you are discovering the sector, focusing on which specialism you are interested in, or ready to take action and begin applying, you'll find upcoming careers events at www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect


Essential reading. Find out about different specialisms, how to get experience, qualifications and more.

Focus
I'm focusing my future choices and beginning to understand what knowledge, attributes, skills and experience I have to offer and might need to develop.

King’s Careers Blog
Read our blog post on journalism careers here:
https://blogs.kcl.ac.uk/kingscareers/launch-your-career-in-journalism/


News
In this role you would be researching and writing stories for local, regional or national press. Your articles could cover news, politics, sport and culture as well as human interest stories. If you’d like to work for a regional or national newspaper, why not start your journey by writing for a University paper such as ROAR or the London Student?

Find a job Profile and detailed information on the role here: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/newspaper-journalist

We also recommend www.theguardian.com/workforus

Magazines/newspapers/trade etc.
Many magazines rely on freelance writers to provide their content, so it can be an attractive option if you like writing on a specialist subject. If you’re particularly interested in one magazine then make sure you are familiar with the writing style and the kind of content they feature, so you can tailor your work.

Find a job Profile and detailed information on the role here: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/magazine-journalist

A list of many UK magazines can be found here: www.world-newspapers.com/uk.html

Local Newspapers
Traditionally a springboard to working for national papers, the local print news industry is in sad decline in the UK, as more local papers close each month. Local papers hold local decision-makers to account and are a lifeline to many isolated and vulnerable people who rely on them to find out about issues that directly impact on their lives.

Contacting your local paper (along with some examples of work) with a request of work experience may be fruitful. www.pressgazette.co.uk is a very useful resource for keeping abreast of industry news.

Science Writing
Science writers research, write and edit scientific news, articles and features. They need to be able to condense complex scientific information into a format that the general public can understand. They write for business, trade and professional publications, specialist scientific and technical journals, and the general media. The Association of British Science Writers lists jobs and tips: www.absw.org.uk/

More information here: www.prospects.ac.uk/science_writer_job_description.htm

http://libguides.kcl.ac.uk/ld.php?content_id=19730537

Broadcast
Broadcast journalists research and present news and current affairs for television, radio and the internet. You might find yourself writing a script for a bulletin and preparing or presenting material for both pre-recorded and live segments.

Broadcast Journalism Job Profile
Essential reading for anyone interested in the sector, find out what you’ll be doing day-to-day, how to train, and how to land a job. www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-journalist
Broadcast Now
www.broadcastnow.co.uk is essential reading to understand broadcast media sector and keep abreast of what’s happening in the sector.

Larger Broadcasters such as BBC, C4, ITV, have (highly competitive) grad schemes and internships which you can find on their websites. Wikipedia has a detailed global list of TV news broadcasters, which you can research for opportunities. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/News_broadcasting

Action
I’ve got a really good understanding of myself and how what I offer enables me to put my plans into action.

Journalism is very competitive - so it’s vital that you get some experience before you start your career. For most people, this means blogging, or writing for a student newspaper. You might want to pick a particular topic you feel passionate about, or just document your own daily life in an interesting way!

You can create your own free WordPress account here: https://wordpress.com/

Have a look at this guide to getting started: www.socialmediaexaminer.com/getting-started-with-blogging/

Qualifications (different options)

Though not essential, many journalists in the UK have a professionally recognised qualification, which will mean further study after your degree.

Tip: Look for courses which are accredited by the NCTJ for print journalism (in ‘Focus’ above) or BJTC (the Broadcast journalism equivalent) - the key accreditation bodies for journalism. Google them and look at the courses they accredit, Accreditation with them is an indicator of quality of a course, and likelihood of it leading to increased job prospects. There are many courses in journalism in the UK and beyond, some of which will be of more value than others. Ask course-providers difficult questions. Where are their graduates now? Is there work experience on the course and with whom? What will I actually learn and who will be teaching me? Use your investigative journalistic instincts, research online and be wary of any promises that sounds too good to be true!

Masters
Several universities offer masters programmes accredited by either the NCJT or BJTC. Fees are high and a Masters doesn’t guarantee a job after, but many people find the experience invaluable. Read about the pros and cons here www.theguardian.com/education/2014/may/27/journalism-postgraduate-degree-is-it-worth-it

Other
Shorter courses are available, often focusing on a particular specialism – or niche area. The NCJT and BJCT website list such accredited courses. Again, qualifications are no guarantee of work, so ask course-providers all the same questions that you would for a Masters.

Diversity in the Media

Creative Access: https://creativeaccess.org.uk/
Great website with lots of opportunities and advice about media careers for talented young people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

The BBC’s Extend Hub is a recruitment portal for disabled applicants – opportunities and deadlines vary through the year, so keep checking the site for opportunities. www.bbc.co.uk/careers/trainee-schemes-and-apprenticeships/extend/extend

Grad Schemes & work Experience
Graduate schemes are incredibly competitive - The Telegraph, The Times, The Guardian and the BBC all run these kinds of programmes however it is not the only way in. A way to get your foot in the door is with a local newspaper or radio station, whereby speculative applications are the norm: get your CV and a good cover letter in shape to begin with. You can always ring up to clarify the application process they would prefer. TARGETjobs offer these great tips to make the most of your work experience:

- Turn up on the first day with story ideas – even if the editors shoot them down, they will tell you why and you’ll learn. Don’t stop looking for stories while you’re there.
- Ask for work. Editors will be busy, but newsrooms always need content and back up content. Find out if there are any press releases you’re allowed to chase after and get working.
- Move around. See if you can get some time shadowing the sub-editors and photographers so that you get to see different roles.
- Steer clear of office politics – national newspapers in particular can be quite tense and competitive. Just make sure you make good contacts for the future.

King’s CareerConnect
www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect

King’s CareerConnect is our exclusive online career portal enabling students and recent alumni to engage with our services. Once logged in, you can access our vacancy board and search hundreds of part-time roles, placements, internships and graduate-level opportunities, book one-to-one careers or application guidance appointments, apply for exclusive King’s Internships and view our full events calendar to book attendance at our many events throughout the year.

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