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.

Introduction
Not sure how to make yourself heard in this creative yet competitive industry? Many opportunities are not advertised, so how do you find the experience you need? Here you’ll find how to approach the companies you want to work for, how to find them, and also how important it is to network within the media.

A few of the reasons why you might like to explore a career in film or television are…
- You’re creative
- You enjoy writing
- You want to work in the media
- You want to work on location
- You enjoy the technical side of production
- You want to help tell a story
- You want to entertain people

What skills will I need?
- Determination and a drive to succeed – both of these are competitive industries, and may require hard work, in roles that sadly may not always pay well (if at all) at first
- Flexibility in location, both short and long-term, particularly if you want to work on set.
- Able to cope under pressure
- Ability to work as part of a team, with strong verbal communication skills.

Do you like to write? Do you consider yourself to be creative and enjoy coming up with new ideas? If this sounds like you then you may want to research Editorial roles. Runner (how many begin in this industry), Researcher, Assistant Producer, Producer and Director could also be possibilities.

Do you consider yourself to be an organiser? Someone who enjoys administrative tasks? Someone who likes to plan, prepare and oversee projects? If this sounds like you then you may be more suited to a role within Production. Consider: Production Runner, Production Secretary, Production Coordinator or Production Manager.

There are then of course roles within the technical fields: Autocue Operator, VT Operator, Sound Engineer, Lighting Engineer, Camera Operator and Camera Assistant, to mention a few.

Studio specific based jobs include roles such as Script Supervisor, Production Assistant, Floor Manager, Gallery Director and Director.
Make sure you target your CV and covering letter to the particular company you are writing to, showing an interest in what they have produced and why you would like to work on the type of programmes or films they are creating.
The following resources will help you to gain an initial understanding of the sector:

Prospects: Television/film/video producer job profile
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-film-video-producer

BAFTA Guru
http://guru.bafta.org/
BAFTA’s content hub for career starters packed full of inspirational videos, podcasts and interviews. Whether you’ve taken your first steps in the industry or are just starting out, you’ll find plenty here to motivate and help you along the way.

Prospects: Runner, broadcasting/film video job profile
www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/runner-broadcasting-film-video
Two detailed job profiles from the Prospects website, with detailed information about what the roles entail, the skills you’ll require, salary expectations, and more.
Creative & Cultural Skills
www.ccskills.org.uk
The Sector Skills Council for the creative arts industry, they promote internships, jobs and training for the industry. They also have a sub-section of their website, Creative Choices, featuring incredibly detailed careers advice for the sector, with industry insights, job profiles and case studies - https://ccskills.org.uk/careers

Creative Skills
https://creativeskillset.org/careers_jobs
The Sector Skills Council for creative media. Similar to the Creative & Cultural Skills website, there’s a range of detailed job profiles for the sector in their careers section.

Get In Media – Entertainment Careers
http://getinmedia.com/industry/film-tv
GetInMedia.com offers a stockpile of career information: company profiles and job descriptions.

My First Job in Film
https://www.myfirstjobinfilm.co.uk/index
Information site with useful careers resources about working in film, as well as a networking community and vacancies board.

British Board of Film Classification
www.bbfc.co.uk
The body responsible for classifying films in the UK. There are some roles available as classifiers, and this section of their website contains information on that, as well as case studies about the decision-making process for many classic films.

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.

Work Experience
There is no set path in which to apply for work within the industry or to gain the work experience necessary to build your CV. This is an industry where writing speculative letters to companies is beneficial, as vacancies are rarely advertised. You need to be proactive and contact employers detailing why you would like to work for them, highlighting what you have to offer. Accompany this with an up to date CV detailing all of your current and previous work experience along with your education. Before sending your CV and cover letter, book an Application Advice appointment to get feedback on your application.

Understandably it may be difficult to undertake work experience that is unpaid, so also look out for graduate trainee opportunities and set schemes that are. Companies are starting to realise the value of taking on young fresh talent and understand that many cannot work for free. For that reason paid work experience placements do now exist.

Be enthusiastic in all tasks you are asked to do. As a runner, or in other early jobs, you will be required to do a variety of things that may not directly be related to the programme or production you’re working on. If you show willing and always apply interest and enthusiasm though you will undoubtedly progress and quickly gain more related tasks and responsibility.

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

An American jobs board, Media Match is useful to all as a result of the hundreds of descriptions of available roles, some of which are very specialised, available in TV and film.

Broadcast
https://www.broadcastnow.co.uk/
Industry news site from the television sector. Interesting and easy digestible way to keep up with latest trends in the sector.

British Council Film
film.britishcouncil.org
British Council Film links UK films and filmmakers to international audiences. A good way to find out about what’s happening in British film in an international context.

Women in Film and Television
www.wftv.org.uk
Membership organisation for women working in creative media in the UK and part of an international network of over 10,000 women worldwide. They run a series of events, many of them free to attend.

Broadcast Graduate
www.broadcastgraduate.com
An information and resource site for students and graduates, while also hosting vacancies through recruitment agency Christy Media Solutions.

The Stage
www.thestage.co.uk
Magazine website that includes all types of jobs in entertainment and also advice for getting into the industry.

Start researching the sector, industry trends and news – and find where your niche might be. The following sites will help.

BBC Television
www.bbc.co.uk/careers/what-we-do/television
The BBC produces more television than any other broadcaster in the UK. They’re responsible for commissioning, producing, scheduling and broadcasting the content of all the BBC’s TV channels in the UK. This links to their careers page.

BBC Academy
https://www.bbc.co.uk/academy
An online resource full of useful information for anyone interested in working in broadcasting.

ITV
www.itvjobs.com
Detailed careers website for one of the biggest commercial broadcasters in the UK.

Media Match
Once you gain work experience do not forget to network! You’ll be in a prime spot mixing with people who are currently working within the industry. Speak to them – find out how they got their job, ask what their typical day at work is like, and how they first got into the industry. Also, if you’re not entirely sure this industry is for you, ask questions that will further your knowledge and help you in your decision. Do your homework but be careful not to network while you should be working; if you’d like to have a detailed chat with someone ask them if you can schedule a time to meet with you that’s convenient. People love talking about themselves (!) so asking insightful and interesting questions will get you answers allowing you to determine whether their job, or indeed working in television capacity at all, is right for you.

Stay in contact with the people you meet! You will come across people in the industry who will become very successful – knowing them and making a good impression could help you in your next step. It is important to keep hold of all contacts.

Self-employment

Being self-employed or working as a freelancer is a common thing in the media industry. However, it can be difficult to become established, as the sector is competitive and you have to be prepared to deal with changes in the industry. According to Creative Skillset, about a quarter of freelancers have too much work, while most ‘get by’ and a small proportion struggle to get any work at all. Networking is crucial in this line of work and may mean the difference between being a successful freelancer or being out of work.

You can gain initial experience through work placements, competitions, undertaking a qualification with an in-built period of work experience and developing your own portfolio relevant to the area of work you wish to enter. Subsequent work is dependent on ability and contacts.

You will also need to take into consideration the fact that you will need to manage your own finances including tax, VAT and National Insurance contributions.

See www.propects.ac.uk/self_employment.htm for more information.

Creative Access

www.creativeaccess.org.uk

An organisation set up to offer opportunities in the creative industries, including advertising and marketing, for young people from under-represented black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds (BAME.) There’s a post on our blog detailing why Creative Access, and other similar schemes, are so necessary - https://blogs.kcl.ac.uk/kingscareers/bame-creative-industry/

Other places to look include:
Channel 4
http://4talent.channel4.com/
All job opportunities and opportunities to gain experience are listed here. You may also want to take a look at Open 4, an interactive course that increase your understanding of the sector by understanding how channels come up with ideas for programmes – https://open4.channel4.com/

British Film Institute (BFI)
https://www.bfi.org.uk/about
The BFI was founded in 1933. Based near King’s, they bring together cultural, creative and industrial roles, such as film restorers, programmers and policy-makers, at BFI Southbank and BFI IMAX, publishing and festivals.

Job sites and networking

The large organisations in film are the screen agencies and the British Film Institute (BFI). However, most people work for production companies such as Pathé UK, BBC Films and DNA Films. Check out the Film Distributors’ Association for details of film distribution companies for television companies. One of the big players in film production is Pinewood Studios Group, which includes Pinewood, Shepperton and Teddington Studios. In animation big companies include Aardman, Cosgrove Hall Films (owned by ITV) and The Moving Picture Company.

It’s similar in television, where a majority of people work for independent producers, either producing content for channels you’ll have heard of, or for their own productions. This includes names such as Hat Trick Productions, Shine TV and Warp Films. Find a list of independent producers at the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT)

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Mediargh (careers and jobs in media)
www.mediargh.com/
Paid internships, jobs and careers advice for the industry.

Shooting People (independent film makers)

The Unit List (jobs)
www.theunitlist.com/
Frequently updated job site, including numerous trainee positions in creative and technical roles

Soho Runners
www.sohorunners.com
Recruitment specialist providing runners for various production companies in Soho.

Talent Circle
www.talentcircle.co.uk
Film network for film professionals, filmmakers, production staff, actors and film talent.

See www.propects.ac.uk/self_employment.htm for more information.

The Knowledge (directory)

https://www.theknowledgeonline.com/

Very useful directory. Use this site to research opportunities, roles, industry news, read introductory guides to a host of topics in film. Well worth a few hour’s browsing!
Video Collective
https://www.freelancevideocollective.com/
Networking and jobs board for technical roles in film and TV.

Searchlight Recruitment
www.searchlightrecruitment.com
An employment agency working exclusively in and around the Media & Entertainment industries.

grapevinejobs
http://www.grapevinejobs.com/home.aspx
A slightly dated looking website, but has a large amount of roles advertised.

Mandy
www.mandy.com
Online directory, allowing you to search for jobs, professionals and employers in Film & TV Crew.

Production Base
www.productionbase.co.uk
Industry network for people working in film, television and commercial production. Also features a jobs board.

Other resources
BECTU (Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union)
www.bectu.org.uk
BECTU is the independent trade union for those working in broadcasting, film, theatre, entertainment, leisure, interactive media and allied areas. Website has advice on ensuring that you’re paid fairly for your work in the sector

National Film and Television School
www.nfts.co.uk
Run a range of courses aimed at equipping students with the skills needed to succeed in the industry. Course fees are equivalent to standard university fees, so only to consider if you’re serious about pursuing a career in this area.

Film London
http://filmlondon.org.uk/
All things film in London! Use this site to research funding opportunities, organisations to contact for work experience, industry news, training and more.

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.

Using this handout
Like the majority of our sector handouts, the content in here for both Marketing and PR is divided into three sections: Discover, Focus and Action. These sections will help you access the right level of information, depending on how far along you are with your career plans. All three of these stages have corresponding pages on our KEATS careers hub (www.kcl.ac.uk/careeres-learning) which you may also find helpful to explore and work out where in your career planning journey you are. You may find that you are somewhere in between these stages, or move from one to another at different stages – don’t worry, this is completely natural!

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Throughout our website there are links to websites whose content is outside our control. The inclusion of links on these pages in no way constitutes a recommendation of the services or information provided. Please use your own judgement and be especially wary of any service which asks you to pay! Be cynical.

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