



A Career at BBC North

BBC North is the whole of the BBC in the north of England. There are 3100 staff at MediaCityUK in Salford, and 700 staff who work in local radio and regional television across the north in Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Carlisle, York, Blackburn, Lincoln and Liverpool. More roles are moving to MediaCityUK over the next few months.

MediaCityUK is in Salford on the Quays. There are 3 BBC buildings. The whole of **BBC Sport** is at Media City and there's also **BBC Breakfast**, **BBC Radio 5 live** and the whole of the **BBC Children's** department, that's **CBBC** and **CBeebies**. We also have **BBC Learning**, the **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra**, **North West Tonight** and **Radio Manchester**. There's **BBC Digital**, who build the BBC's websites and apps and look after the **BBC iPlayer** and there are **Technology** teams who provide the support to keep our studios on air. There is **Comedy** and **Entertainment**, with programmes like **Citizen Khan**, **Dragons' Den** and **A Question of Sport** and then there's **Radio Drama** and **Drama North**, and even more radio with **Radio 6 music** and some **Radio 2** and **Radio 4** programmes. **Children in Need** have also recently moved their team to Salford.

There is more to MediaCityUK than just the BBC, with many other companies there as well. ITV have around 500 staff there and they make **Jeremy Kyle** and **Countdown** and, of course, there's the new set for **Coronation Street**. There are a lot of smaller companies there too including small production companies, technical companies, sceneshifters, media accountants and lawyers and of course shops and restaurants as well. Part of **Salford University** is also based at MediaCityUK.

The Creative and Media Industries are a growing sector in Greater Manchester, and across the north of England. If you want to work in the sector in the future, it helps to understand how it works. Creative and Media is a big industry sector covering radio, TV, publishing, advertising and much more. Different sets of statistics include different occupations and the results can be confusing. The whole sector employs between a million and 2.5 million people across the UK depending on which criteria are used. The Government estimated that the Creative Industries accounted for 1.68 million jobs in 2012.

Over 80 per cent of the companies in the Creative Industries (some estimates say as high as 90 per cent) employ less than 10 people. There are just a few big companies like the BBC and ITV.

It can take many different companies to make one TV programme or series. At the BBC, only half our production is guaranteed in-house, a quarter has to go to independent producers, and the other quarter is up for tender from both independent producers and the BBC.



The Voice is a good example, it's been commissioned again for 2016 and it brings in an audience of nearly 7 million, or 30% of the TV viewing audience. It's shown on the BBC, but the programme is a format which started in Holland and has now been sold all over the world. The format is owned by a company called **Talpa**. In the UK the programme is made by an independent production company called **Wall to Wall**, and the auditions are recorded at MediaCityUK in The Studios which are run by a company called **dock10**. **dock 10** is owned by **Peel Media**. So although the programme is shown on the BBC, the team who make it are not BBC staff.

Freelance and fixed term contracts are common in the sector. If you work freelance you have to pitch for your own work. You are contracted for a fixed number of hours or days, or to complete a particular piece of work. You can also work for more than one employer at a time. A quarter of the Creative and Media Workforce is estimated to be freelance, but in some areas, particularly those associated with production, it's much higher. Many journalists also work as freelancers. For any production, especially TV, a team of staff will be contracted for a fixed period of time, often 3 to 6 months, to complete the programme or series. Fixed term contracts are common at the BBC.

Outsourcing: It is common in most industries now to "outsource" work. At the BBC, other companies get a contract to provide services for us. **Steria**, for example, handle our payments and **Capita** our recruitment. Also **Interserve** provide our reception and security staff and **The Farm** edit programmes for us. Some of these staff work alongside BBC staff but they work for different companies. So if you were looking for a job as a receptionist at the BBC in Salford for example, you would apply to **Interserve** and not the BBC.

BBC jobs: the BBC has approximately 20,700 staff with around half working in London and the rest across the UK. Everyone sees the on air roles, but we need large teams of staff with a wide variety of skills to make all that TV, radio and online content possible. In addition to jobs in journalism and programme making, we also need PAs, lawyers, HR specialists, marketing staff and project managers.

We need technology staff to operate studios and keep us on the air. We also have Digital teams who look after the BBC iPlayer and who build, test and maintain the BBC's interactive websites and apps. By the end of the year there will be approximately 800 Digital and Technology roles in Salford.

What subjects? If you want to be a Journalist you need to have good written and spoken English and you will need a journalism qualification for most roles. If you want to be a Broadcast Engineer you will need science and maths. For our Digital roles maths or computing are useful subjects to take.

Which course? We are often asked which courses students should take at college or university to prepare them for a job in media. That's difficult as there are so many different kinds of jobs. For some roles like broadcast journalism there are specific courses, but for other jobs it can be harder to decide. For all courses look at the placements offered on the course and also look at the Creative Skillset website. Their "ticked" courses have been carefully reviewed for quality. You also need to ask how many students get a job at the end of the course.

Starting out: The BBC have a range of apprenticeships, work experience and trainee schemes for those starting their careers. Entry points vary from 16 up to post graduate. A list of all the schemes available at BBC North are in a separate document, *Trainee Schemes, Apprenticeships and Work Experience at BBC North*. The BBC also advertises entry level jobs for roles such as Team Assistant, Runner or Production Management Assistant. All BBC jobs, schemes and work experience are advertised on the BBC Careers website.

Many other organisations in the Creative and Media sector in the north also offer apprenticeships and training, so it is worth doing some research to find out what is on offer in the area of work you are interested in.

Useful Websites

- www.bbc.co.uk/careers The BBC Careers site has information about jobs and training schemes at the BBC
- www.bbc.co.uk/academy The BBC Academy site has advice on how to get started in the media industry
- www.manchesterdigital.com/training-providers Manchester Digital have opportunities across Greater Manchester
- www.creativeskillset.org Creative Skillset develops skills and talent in the Creative Industries
- www.pact.co.uk Pact is the trade association for independent producers