



Grierson DocLab: New Entrants 2025



Guidelines & Frequently Asked Questions

This document outlines:

- Tips for Applying
- Eligibility Criteria
- Schedule
- Application Questions
- FAQs
- Privacy Policy



How to apply



Submit your online application form by
5pm on Thursday 20 February 2025.



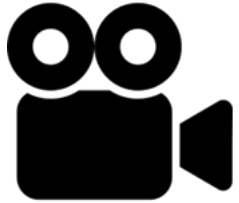
Submit your **CV** as a **PDF document** with
your full name in the title of the file
name.



Before you apply

- Read through the **four application questions** below and **draft your answers offline** before beginning the online application.
- Ensure your **CV is up-to-date** and **relevant** to this training programme. Experience outside of film and TV can be relevant.
- If you need help updating or refreshing your CV, there are plenty of online [resources](#) with [advice](#) and [guidance](#) on how to create a strong one.
- **Read all** the information in this document and on [the website](#).
- Make sure you **meet the criteria** and are eligible.
- **Check your application and CV, then check them again.** Ask someone to look over it for grammar and spelling mistakes.
- Think about the things you do in your spare time to help demonstrate the **skills and experiences** that will make you stand out from the crowd on your CV.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read each question carefully. We often receive applications where only part of the question has been answered.• If you are at university, please provide a non-university email address for us to contact you on.
	<h2>References</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You need to write the name, email address and telephone number of two people who can give you a reference.• These cannot be friends or family and at least one needs to be a professional contact.
	<h2>Confirmation email</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once you have completed your application you will get a confirmation email.

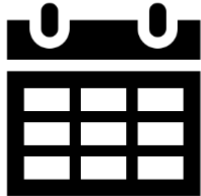
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check your junk folder if the email has not landed in your inbox.
	<h2>Questions</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email training@griersontrust.org if you have any questions.
	<h2>Access Support for Applications</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you have any access needs, require any adjustments to the application process, please contact us on training@griersontrust.org or call +44 (0)1462 618 479 and we can assist you.
	<h2>Audio/Video Application</h2> <p>You can submit your application in a different format if you would like to. This could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A voice note or recording• A short video <p>Voice note and video applications must be under 10 minutes in length.</p>

Please email training@griersontrust.org to submit your application in a different format.



Eligibility Criteria

- You must be aged between **18-25** at the time of applying
- You must be a **UK resident** with the **right to live and work** in the UK
- If you are at college or university, you must be in your **final year** of study
- You must commit to the **whole** of the Grierson DocLab programme (schedule below)
- You must have **less than three months'** experience (paid or unpaid) in the documentary & factual TV industry at the time of applying
- If accepted into Grierson DocLab, you **cannot** take part in another **simultaneous** training programme



Schedule

- **Online video call interviews**
Tuesday 1 April 2025
- **Second video call interviews**
Thursday 3 April 2025
- **Four-day training residential**
Monday 12 May – Thursday 15 May
2025
- **Online training sessions**
Monday 2 June – Saturday 7 June
2025
- **Sheffield DocFest**
Thursday 19 June – Sunday 22 June
2025
- **Grierson Awards**
Tuesday 18 November 2025
- **Placements** – to be arranged on an individual basis and to be completed by **Easter 2026**



Application Questions


VERY IMPORTANT


- Please write and save your answers to these questions in a separate document **before** you start the online application.
- Then **copy and paste** them in the boxes for each question when filling in the online application form.
- You cannot save the online application form or come back to it at another time once you start it.
- Note that it is a **character count and not a word count** in the application. As a guide, 2,500 characters can vary from approximately 350 words to 625 with spaces included.




1. Tell us about the documentaries and factual programmes you watch, including content that you like and dislike. (2,000-character limit)

- We're looking for **thoughtful, critical analysis** of your choices to show that you understand and appreciate a **broad range** of factual

	<p>programming, across multiple platforms and channels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain why you chose your examples, highlighting both their strengths and weaknesses.• To showcase your passion, explore a variety of content and consider looking at past Grierson Award winners, shortlists, and nominees for inspiration.
	<p>2. Describe a specific time when you demonstrated creative problem-solving, successfully managed multiple priorities, or made important logistical decisions in a challenging situation. (1,000-character limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working in the documentary and factual TV industry requires a wide range of skills. From developing creative solutions under pressure to managing complex logistics, adaptability, and quick outside-the-box thinking, are crucial for success.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a clear, single example where you showcased two or more of these abilities. How did you overcome an unexpected challenge during a task or activity?• Explain the context, the actions you took, and the outcome. This could relate to work, studies, extracurricular activities, hobbies, or personal endeavours.• Focus on how your skills made a tangible impact and what you learned from the experience.
	<p>3. If selected for the scheme, you'll learn how to develop and pitch an idea for a factual programme.</p> <p>a) What factual programme idea would you like to explore? (1,000-character limit)</p> <p>In this section, please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present a clear idea for a programme you could develop during the scheme.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider your audience: Who is it for, and which streamer, platform or channel is it best suited to? What form will it take? I.e. short, series, single feature, etc.• Pitching—presenting and selling your concept—is a key part of the training. Use this section to showcase your creativity and ability to engage viewers with compelling factual content.
	<p>b) Why have you chosen this idea? (1,500-character limit)</p> <p>In this section, please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain why this topic interests you, what makes this idea compelling and why the idea is relevant now.• Highlight what differentiates your idea compared to factual programmes covering the same subject area.



4. Grierson DocLab aims to increase diversity and widen participation for young people from under-represented groups in the television industry.

This section is for you to describe how you meet these criteria and how you will benefit from being on the scheme. (2,500-character limit)

- This year, we have a particular **focus** on applicants from **lower socioeconomic backgrounds**. If this applies to you, please use this section to describe how you meet this focus, as well as any **other ways you identify** your diversity.
- Use this section to **explain how you identify** with being from an **underrepresented group**, and how your lived experiences contribute to the diversity of the industry.
- Share why you believe **you** should be selected for the scheme.
- Discuss how the scheme will **benefit** you personally and professionally.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflect on what being selected would mean to you.• Highlight any barriers you face in entering the industry, particularly those related to your background, and how this opportunity could help overcome them.• We aim to support the industry's efforts to reflect the full diversity of the UK population, and we'd love to hear your perspective on how you can contribute to this goal.
	<h2>Frequently Asked Questions</h2>
	<h2>Application form</h2> <p>Do I have to use up all the character count?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You do not need to use the full allocation, but we strongly recommend a fully formed response. We want to see 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.
- Grierson DocLab training programmes aim to widen participation of people from **under-represented groups** within documentary and factual programme making in the UK, so monitoring helps us improve in targeting **more diverse** candidates.
- Though you **can opt out** of answering each question, we value the opportunity to **find out more** about who applies to our training programmes.
- You can read about **why monitoring matters** [on the ScreenSkills website](#).
- Once submitted, the information is **removed from our application systems** once we have made the final selection.



When will I hear back if my application is successful?

- If you are shortlisted for the next stage, you will receive an invitation

	to be interviewed by 21 March 2025 .
	<p>Can I get feedback if my application is unsuccessful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to provide any feedback.
	<p>Programme schedule</p> <p>I can't commit to some of the dates. Can I still apply?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You need to be available for all parts of the programme, as listed in the schedule. There will be no exceptions.
	<p>Placements</p> <p>When will my placement be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The placements are scheduled on a case-by-case basis in consultation with trainees and the production companies. • Variables include your availability, the company you are placed with having a suitable role for you at a time that suits both parties, and

	<p>what opportunities they have that match your interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will have until Easter 2026 to complete your placement.
	<p>I have some holidays and other commitments in the diary. Will this be an issue for my placement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As long as you flag any holidays in advance, it should not be an issue.
	<p>Where will I be based during my placement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a limited number of placements in the regions, with the majority being based in London. We're particularly keen to hear receive applications from individuals based in the nations and regions. This programme is not just for London-based candidates.
	<p>What production companies offer placements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year, a selection of production companies based across the UK, sign up to support a Grierson DocLab trainee.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2024 companies were: BBC Studios, Blast! Films, Box to Box, Dorothy Street Pictures, Dragonfly, The Garden, KEO Films, Lightbox, Nutopia, Minnow Films, Passion Pictures, Raw TV, Rogan Productions, True North, TwentyTwenty and Wall to Wall (part of Warner Bros), Wise Owl Films and Wonderhood Studios Media. • Most of the companies are based in London, but some placements have been based on location with a production.
	<h2>Mentoring</h2> <p>Who are your mentors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established professionals in the industry.
	<h2>Training content</h2> <p>Do you cover sessions about how to make feature documentaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main purpose of the training programme is to help you get into factual television, though the skills and knowledge you will gain are transferable to making feature

	<p>documentaries, as well as other formats.</p>
	<p>I am not interested in pitching or development, but I see that it is part of the training week programme. Can I skip it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No - All trainees are asked to develop an idea to pitch to develop presentation skills, build confidence and practise receiving feedback.
	<p>Do you provide bursaries or retainers to support participation on the training week?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No - For the online training week and residential we are unable to provide financial support to participate. All costs to attend the residential, Sheffield DocFest and the Grierson Awards will be covered. Placements will be supported by bursaries.



Experience

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 (2025-2026), can I apply?

- No - If you are applying for further academic studies, we recommend you **apply next year**.

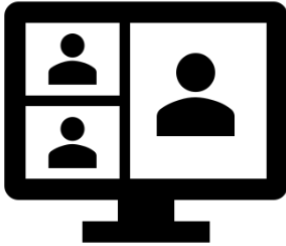
I have never been to university or college. Will this be a barrier?

- No - We welcome applications from anyone who can demonstrate their **passion for factual television and documentaries**.



Do I need to know what kind of job role I want in the industry?

- No - 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 different **unscripted TV roles** on the [ScreenSkills website](#).

**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 is anyone with **less than three months** of work experience or placements—whether paid or unpaid—in the **documentary and factual TV** industry.
- If you are unsure, you can email us with your queries and a copy of your current CV to:
training@griersontrust.org

**I've been applying to other schemes as well. Would I be able to do yours and another one, if I was successful?**

- You **cannot** be on another **simultaneous training programme** at the time you were offered a place.

**I applied before but was unsuccessful, can I apply again?**

- Yes.

	<h2>Eligibility</h2> <h3>Why are only UK residents eligible for the programme?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
	<h3>I am going to turn 26 after the closing date, can I still apply?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes, as long as you are 25 on the application closing date.
	<h2>After the programme</h2> <h3>What happens after the training ends?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As long as you like we will continue to support you through the mentoring programme.• You will have access to the training programme team.• You will receive invitations to partner events and networking opportunities.



Diversity, inclusion and access

If I am selected for the training programme, as someone with accessibility needs, what support can I expect?

- 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.

How do you make sure the assessment of applications is inclusive and fair?

- The Grierson Trust is committed to encouraging **diversity and inclusion** in all its work.
- We assess all applications with **personal information removed** in order to tackle any unconscious biases.
- You can read our **diversity and inclusion statement** [on our website.](#)



Privacy Policy

By completing the **online application form** and the **monitoring form** for Grierson DocLab you agree that The Grierson Trust can:

- **Collect, store and process your personal details** including your name, address, email address for purposes of the application and the programme
- **Make your personal details available to other companies** so they can assess your application

The Grierson Trust will:

- **Store and process** your data legally and in line with **General Data Protection Regulations GDPR**
- Ensure the information you provide on the monitoring form is kept treated as **strictly confidential** and is **anonymised** for reporting purposes

You can view The Grierson Trust [privacy statement](#).