

TV

“If I’m not learning, I’m not enjoying what I’m doing. The day I get bored, we’re all in trouble.”

Jamie Hindhaugh
COO, BT Sport

The TV industry has a lot of production roles, with many of the bigger budget dramas having crews similar to a feature film. Other programs, such as live news broadcasts and sports, hire their own technical specialists.

The industry is huge, and has proven to be a vital part of the economy.

There is a lot of work outside of the traditional on-set roles that would be worth considering. Whether you’re in front of the camera or behind the scenes, there are jobs for all types of people, you don’t need to be a traditional creative type to work in TV.

To get into the industry, start by watching TV! Consider what you like, what you would change and what kind of programmes you would like to make. Look out for the five genres: news, factual entertainment, drama, comedy and children’s TV. Watch the credits to find out who made it. These production companies could be good contacts for work experience.

Many people start out as runners or researchers, jobs that allow you to

experience a little bit of everything before deciding on where you’d like to move up to. Running allows you to see how the different departments work before you specialise.

The industry is also very competitive, so you’ll need to find ways to stand out from other applicants. Having a degree isn’t necessary, but it is one of the ways you can show your knowledge and training despite not having much experience. A portfolio of work or showreel is key to showcase your ability. Create your own work!

Most TV programming is actually produced by independent production companies, not TV channels. Finding out which companies make what will be important when looking for work.

FIRST STEPS

Look up your favourite TV shows on IMDB to find out who directed, edited and produced them. What are these people responsible for? Find out at screenskills.com

MOVING UP

Get out and film something with your phone, camera or your school’s equipment. Learn about story, framing and editing. Put the film online and get feedback from friends.

GETTING IN

Think about how to climb the ladder. Learn about the junior roles in the department you’re interested in and contact local companies and broadcasters for work experience.