Editorial and production career map

Follow the arrows to learn routes to roles in TV

Producer specialisms

- Celebrity producer
- Archive producer
- Casting producer
- Digital producer
- Edit producer
- Question producer
- Games producer

Producer management

- Series producer
- Line producer
- Production executive
- Script supervisor
- Production manager
- Production assistant
- Production coordinator

Production assistant

Editorial

- Series director
- Producer director
- Producer
- Researcher
- Assistant producer
- Talent manager
- Talent assistant

Talent management

- Has ideas for TV programmes, pitches them to commissioners
- Balances the creative vision with financial and time constraints

Development

- Development producer
- Development assistant producer
- Development researcher
- Development assistant
- Development researcher

Entry level

- Logger
- Runner
- Receptionist
- Personal assistant

Good career option for people transferring from other industries

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The term ‘unscripted’ really means ‘without actors’. In truth, every TV programme has a script, even if you choose to think of unscripted TV as non-fiction television. It can be on any subject, from natural history, religion and music to dating, interior design and learning. It’s programme on primetime TV, daytime TV and children’s TV, as well as streaming platforms like Netflix and YouTube.

Unscripted TV genres

Fast-paced, visually exciting, heavily-produced formats are designed to entertain. Entertainment programmes are very popular, with a huge fanbase for a known presenter. When they’re recorded in a TV studio, they’re sometimes referred to as ‘White Floor’ – named after the fine, white reflective flooring, which helps with the lighting and natural looking. In reality shows and factual entertainment, you’ll often see models, fashion shoots, and cultural experiences, with ideas for shows. Many have in-house development teams whose role is to do just that.

The UK’s unscripted TV industry

The unscripted TV programmes are recognised for their ability to entertain, often hosting by TV personalities, factual people, but with a stronger entertainment format. They investigate, Gogglebox documentaries, docudrama, observational journalism or professional experts. This takes a lot of time and planning. They work to briefs and write engaging copy. They are skilled at creating short title sequences, scripts and edits. On daily, they are responsible for the look of a series and the creative vision. They have exceptional artistic vision and strong knowledge of the technical crew. Sometimes, producer directors will also act as a director. They have the last word. The team works on the idea, often making a pilot programme proposal, known as a treatment, and create a short taster tape for a TV commissioner to decide right at the start of the project.

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Producer

The producer is a job combined with training. So it’s a great opportunity to get into the TV industry.

Entertainment

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The university route

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