

### Runner, broadcasting/film/video

**Runners work in a general assisting role on TV and film productions, carrying out different tasks and working quickly and responsively.**

As a runner, you'll act as a general assistant, working under the direction of the producer and other production staff to undertake whatever basic tasks are required to ensure the smooth running of the production process. This role provides the opportunity to gain vital experience and knowledge of the production process, offering valuable networking opportunities, and is often seen as the first step on the ladder for people aspiring to roles in broadcasting media.

#### **Skills:**

You'll need:

- strong communication and interpersonal skills
- excellent time-management and organisational skills with the ability to work to tight deadlines
- flexibility and the ability to think on your feet in order to find practical solutions to logistical problems
- the ability to prioritise efficiently
- good research skills
- initiative and problem-solving ability
- physical stamina and resilience
- teamworking skills



#### **Qualifications:**

##### **University**

You could do a degree course although it's not essential. Relevant subjects include: creative media production/film and television production/film and TV studies/performing arts. You might find it helpful to choose a course that includes practical skills, work placements and the chance to make industry contacts. Entry requirements you'll usually need: 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree.

##### **College**

You could take a college course, which may help you to get into the industry. Courses include: Level 3 Certificate in Media Techniques/Level 3 Diploma in Creative Media Production/Level 3 Diploma in Performing Arts/Level 3 Diploma in Business. Entry requirements you'll usually need: 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course.

##### **Apprenticeship**

You may be able to do an apprenticeship as a broadcast production assistant. The BBC, ITV and Channel 4 also offer apprenticeship opportunities. Entry requirements you'll usually need: 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship.

#### **Working hours:**

Working hours tend to be long and unpredictable, often up to six days a week during production. Broadcasting is a 24-hour operation, and the working style reflects this. You may have to work nights, weekends and public holidays. Film and TV shoots often want to make the most of the daylight for filming, so early mornings and late nights are common.

#### **Salary:**

- The Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union (BECTU) recommends minimum runner pay rates of £11.95 to £16.70 per hour (excluding holiday pay).
- The suggested minimum hourly rate for documentary/factual TV, entertainment/live TV, scripted TV and feature films, for example, is £12.50 excluding holiday pay and £14 with holiday pay.
- Recommended minimum daily rates (10 hours) including holiday pay range from £133 for short films (student Films and not-for-profit collaborations only) to £212 for commercials, the latter following guidance from the APA (Advertising Producers Association).

