

Media Careers: Junior Editor

Chris Nicholls

We spoke to Chris, a junior editor at CTVC, to find out more about his role and how he got into it.

What is your job role?

I am a junior editor at CTVC, so I edit any of the radio documentaries and assist in any of the documentary edits.

Talk me through a typical day in your job?

Well there is no real typical day. My main duties vary, and are extremely broad; they include operating the machine room, tape management, and designing the pre and post production of a project. But it also includes a lot of the technical aspects of production, such as editing with particular software such as *Avid* for the TV documentaries and *Adobe Audition* for the radio editing. I am also in charge of editing the promos for documentary pitches, which would be sent out with a treatment or proposal; these are usually about 2-5 minutes long. But generally, it isn't a case of a typical day, just because the role is so varied, and changes with the projects.

So how did you get into editing?

By luck - I didn't study a media related course, I studied French at university and I did filming and editing as a hobby. I was a DJ in university, so I was very familiar with using software. I think being familiar with all different kinds of software is very important, as this helped me a lot. I did some work experience with a digital VT unit called Telegenic, and after university I put my CV on *production base* to try and get some work. I started at CTVC as a runner, where I was assisting the main editor. Then my role progressed onto my current job now.

What advice would you give to young people aspiring to become an editor?

You definitely need to learn how to use computer software, and practice as much as you can. For example, students could use their colleges or universities free editing software. Also, *Avid* and *Apple* offer good discounts too on software. From this, you can start doing your own videos and build up a portfolio - but you will need to be prepared at some point to work for free. Also, you shouldn't focus on one particular area. The media industry is changing so much, so it is better to be able to multi-task and have a general idea of every aspect of production.

What are the three skills would you say are needed?

Attention to detail, a general positive attitude, and ability to work under pressure and to deadlines.