

## **Media Careers: Filming and Production.**

### **Clare Johns**

We spoke to Clare, an assistant producer for TV documentaries at CTVC.

*What is your job role?*

I'm an assistant producer, I am involved in the filming and production of documentaries, specialising in sensitive human interest areas such as issues within families.

*Who did you get into filming and production?*

I studied bio-chemistry at university and then went into medical research, so I never really had any experience within media and the various areas of production. My first taste of media was when I was involved in a community project, which was working alongside a production company. I just asked the company if I could do some work experience with them and they let me, and I was offered a job after two days! After that I just learnt on the job.

*Talk me through a typical day?*

In this industry, there is never a typical day, every day is varied. If you are filming on location, you will have to make sure you have all your equipment, and everything set up, but something could go wrong which means this has to change- so it's always good to have a plan b. Typically, I could be doing anything from, interviewing, filming or researching.

*What skills would you say are needed for the job?*

Due to the nature of the documentaries that I specialise in, you need to have very good interpersonal skills, as you are always meeting different people from very different and diverse backgrounds. Due to this, I would also say you need to know how to be respectful and have a 'can-do' attitude, in this industry.

*What advice would you give to young people aspiring for a similar role?*

I think that it is good to do what you are passionate about, so if you are a specialist in something it will make you more passionate about what you do. I personally believe that doing a vocational course (such as media studies) may not always be the best route. This industry is always changing, you learn everything you need to know on the job, and so by having studied something else, you will have a broader scope of other issues, which can allow you to specialise in particular areas. I would also say you need to be versatile and able to adapt to a range of situations and environments.