

# REPORTER

Information provided by CHOICES Career & Education Advice

## WHO IS A REPORTER?

A reporter gathers information and presents it in a written or spoken form in news stories, feature articles or documentaries. Reporters may work on the staff of news organization but may also work freelance writing stories for whoever pays them. General reporters cover all sorts of news stories, but some journalist specializes in certain areas such as reporting sports, entertainment, politics, agriculture or other areas of interest. Many professional reporters are journalist trained in fact finding, writing and research. There are three types of reporters, general assignment beat and speech reporters. Each type of reporter has a different role and different special skills. Most reporters and correspondents spend a lot of time in the field conducting interviews and investigating stories.



## **WHAT THE WORK INVOLVES:**

A typical day for a reporter might include:

- Researching topics and stories that an editor or news director has assigned to them
- Investigate new story ideas and pitch ideas to editors
- Interview people who have information or opinions about a story or article
- Write articles for newspaper, blogs, magazines and write scripts to be read on television or radio
- Review articles for accuracy, proper story line and grammar
- Develop relationships with experts and contacts who provide tips and leads on stories
- Follow up on stories as new information becomes available
- Analyse and interpret information to increase audiences understanding of the news

Because news happen at any time, a reporter may need to work extra hours or change their schedule in order to follow breaking news,. They are also required to work on public holidays, nights and weekends.

## **WHO IS THIS CAREER FOR?**

A reporter should have are excellent writing, verbal communication and computer skills. Also essential are great inter-personal skills, persistence and stamina. A serious journalist must sometimes place themselves at considerable risk if they are to uphold the values of honesty and truth while delivering to their readers

## **WHAT CAN I EARN?**

As a reporter you can earn a median level salary

## **HOW DO I QUALIFY?**

Most employers prefer persons who have a bachelor's degree in journalism or communication. However, however , you may get hired with a degree in a specialist field, relevant work experience and/or a definite flair for the profession.

## **WHO OFFERS TRAINING IN JAMAICA?**

University of the Common Wealth Caribbean (UCC)

International University of the Caribbean (IUC)

Caribbean Institute of Media and Communications (CARIMAC)

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