Job Description

Job Title: Assistant Editors (output), Newstream project
Department: 24/7
Grade: 10D

Project Newstream is a major initiative in BBC News and Current Affairs to adapt our journalism to the smartphone era, particularly in video. Globally, 29 million people a week (unique visitors) get their news from the BBC via mobile. Smartphones are particularly important to the BBC’s strategic imperative of remaining relevant to younger audiences.

Project Newstream will overhaul the way we make short-form video for mobile consumption, by introducing new formats, storytelling approaches and output schedules. Specifically, it will introduce a continuously updated playlist - an “on-demand bulletin” - to the BBC News app.

The project - a priority for BBC News – is being rolled out rapidly to meet a deadline for a Spring launch. This will involve both re-focusing some existing roles in the newsroom, and investment for the creation of some new positions, on attachment.

Successful candidates will be expected to start on XXX. Shifts and weekend working involved.

For further information about these roles please talk to Nathalie Malinarich.

CONTEXT

Assistant editors with a strong understanding of what makes good digital video and how to produce it as well as familiarity with different audience behaviours on digital platforms are key to Newstream.

Candidates will need sound editorial judgement, an understanding of the news agenda and an ability to identify the right format for each story. Sharp editing skills are a requirement as well as the ability to respond to breaking news. You should enjoy working under pressure as well as the challenges posed by a fast-changing digital landscape.

Output assistant editors will shape the day’s agenda, lead the delivery of the best and most interesting stories to UK and global audiences and ensure output meets BBC editorial standards.

You will be expected to work with other teams in the Newsroom and beyond to offer our digital audiences the best of the BBC’s journalism in formats made for mobile.

Candidates will need to be open to new ideas, show they can quickly adapt to changing circumstances and relish new challenges.

All candidates will be expected to demonstrate an in depth understanding of digital platforms and analytics, as well as excellent video editing skills.

MAIN DUTIES

- Provide strong editorial leadership in shaping daily coverage of major stories in video on digital platforms.
- Curate the Newstream playlist for UK and global audiences based on an understanding of audience needs at different times of day.
- Ensure digital video stories are produced to high standards and delivered to tight deadlines.
- Play a key role in encouraging a broad news agenda and innovative treatments within the team.

  - Work with other members of the team, and the wider newsroom, to identify and produce creative and innovative video news content.
• Commissioning of digital video from Newsgathering and other areas.

• Identify the best format for each story.

• Identify BBC and agency material that could form the basis of stories not being covered elsewhere in the Newsroom.

• Understand the video requirements of different social platforms and provide for them when necessary.

• Use digital analytics to maximise the impact of our videos and drive change when needed.

• Represent the team at editorial meetings across News – and be a confident advocate of the output of the department

• Provide feedback to team members on their performance.

• When necessary, supervise the handling of audience feedback, ensuring that it is dealt with promptly, fairly and effectively

• Deputise for editor as required.

• All News staff may be required to work with or move to other teams, and to have the ability to work across a range of skills and in a flexible manner, and to carry out these responsibilities in accordance with the BBC’s overall standards and values.

• As a member of the Newsroom, the job holder will be expected to work and think collaboratively at all times - both within News and across the wider BBC.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

• Clear evidence of experience of video production, editing and storytelling

• Demonstrable knowledge of digital platforms - the BBC’s and others - and the different ways audiences consume news.

• Proven experience of using video editing software (Q-edit or FCPX).

• In depth understanding of digital analytics and how they can be used to improve output and drive change.

• Demonstrable knowledge of new and cutting edge digital video storytelling techniques.

• Good knowledge of UK and international news and current affairs.

• Sound understanding of the BBC’s Editorial Guidelines and commitment to the editorial aims of BBC News.

• Proven editorial judgement and flair, able to make sound decisions quickly.

• Ability to commission stories and give clear instructions to members of the team as well as producers and reporters.

• Experience of leading a team under pressure and delivering to deadline.

• Experience of making judgements on matters of editorial sensitivity and strong knowledge of relevant legal and editorial policy issues.

• Ability to work well with other producers, reporters and teams.

• Must be able to work well and calmly in a live 24 hour newsroom environment; handle a rapidly
changing news agenda, and have the temperament to enjoy the process.

- Must be able to demonstrate sense of visual awareness as well as sharp video editing skills.
- Knowledge of Health and Safety policies and practices.

COMPETENCIES

**Decision Making**
Is ready and able to take the initiative, originate action and be responsible for the consequences of the decisions made.

**Imagination / Creative Thinking**
Translates news and current affairs into high quality programming through a detailed understanding of the requirements of the broadcast media and possession of the necessary writing, directing and reporting skills.

**Planning and organising**
Is able to think ahead in order to establish an efficient and appropriate course of action for self and others. Prioritises and plans activities taking into account all the relevant issues and factors such as deadlines, staffing and resources requirements.

**Resilience**
Can maintain personal effectiveness by managing emotions in the face of pressure, setbacks or when dealing with provocative situations. Can demonstrate an approach to work that is characterised by commitment, motivation and energy.

**Influencing and persuading**
Ability to present sound and well reasoned arguments to convince others. Can draw from a range of strategies to persuade people in a way that results in agreement or behaviour change.

**Managing relationships and team working**
Able to build and maintain effective working relationships with a range of people. Works cooperatively with others to be part of a team, as opposed to working separately or competitively.

**Editorial Judgement**
Makes the right editorial and policy decisions based upon a clear understanding of the BBC’s distinctive news agenda, the requirements of news and current affairs coverage as well as those of the programme departments.