

Journalist

Quantum could be one of many topics that you report on as a journalist. Most of your stories will originate from a press release and it will be your responsibility to use that as the basis to form a story that will be of interest to your readers, whatever the type of media you write for.



What does the role involve?

- Keeping up to date with developments in the field
- Building contacts within the field
- Attending press conferences
- Attending events
- Reading and digesting press releases
- Writing articles (for web or print) relating to press releases appropriate to your target audience
- Contacting public relations officers for further information or quotes related to press releases



Where would I work?

You may spend some time based in your company's offices; however, work is often remote and can involve a lot of travel (both domestic and international). Many journalists are freelance and so always work remotely as they do not work for one particular news outlet.



What qualifications do I need?

Careers in journalism are open to graduates of all disciplines, however, an undergraduate degree in journalism is sometimes preferred. Some outlets prefer people to have a degree relevant to the sector being reported on e.g. Physics for quantum, however, this is not essential and often people start as general journalists or technology reporters and gradually specialise once they have suitable experience within the field. You can enter the field without a degree but this is quite difficult.



What subjects should I do well in at school?

English, Mathematics, Science.



What skills and attributes are required?

Good communication skills (written and verbal), ability to communicate complex matters to a non-expert audience in an engaging way, attention to detail, organisation, prioritisation, flexibility, proactivity.



What work experience would be helpful?

Undertaking an internship or work placement at a news outlet would be very beneficial. Writing for student newspapers could also be advantageous.



What about career progression?

Journalists usually start out reporting on a variety of topics and then begin to specialise. Once specialised, journalists can progress to becoming senior reporters or correspondents in their particular area. Some journalists move into news management or editorial roles while others take their journalism expertise to PR & communications companies or become consultants.

CASE STUDY



Toby Moore

Having always wanted to be a journalist, Toby studied for a degree in History at the University of Cambridge before embarking on a 23-year long career in journalism, working for major national and international newspapers. Toby then pivoted and moved to working as a Public Relations and Communications Specialist before becoming Director of Communications at Appleby Comms. Toby now works as a Communications Consultant for the UK National Quantum Technologies Programme. Find out more about Toby's journey at tinyurl.com/careersinquantum



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