



## **CIJ Lyra McKee Investigative Journalism Training Bursary Scheme 2019 Facts and Figures**

CIJ Lyra McKee Bursary Scheme application process is now open.

Application deadline: 19 April 2020

#CIJSummer 2020 @ Goldsmiths, University of London - end of June 2020 - TBC

More details: [www.tcij.org](http://www.tcij.org)

How it works - see below

#CIJLyraMcKee @cijjournalism

### **Overview**

The CIJ Lyra McKee Investigative Journalism Training Bursary Scheme was established in memory of a young and courageous Irish investigative journalism Lyra McKee, who was shot dead by dissident republicans in Derry in April 2019. It is funded by the Lorana Sullivan Foundation, which committed to giving £10,000 a year in 2019 - 2021, and with additional funding from the family of Lyra McKee (funding for 2022).

The aim of the bursary scheme is to train people from underrepresented backgrounds, who aspire to become journalists or who are journalists at the very early stages of their career, by providing them with support to attend the CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Training conferences in 2019 - 2022.

The Lyra McKee Journalism Training Bursary was inspired by Lyra's determination to become an investigative journalist: despite personal disability, the need to care for her disabled mother as well as fighting the in-built bias against working-class entrants, without family or personal connections, to the world of investigative journalism.

### **The 2019 numbers at a glance:**

48 applications were received.

11 full and partial bursaries were offered and accepted.

The final 11 bursary recipients came from: Derry, Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Bristol and London.

### **About #CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Conference**

#CIJSummer Conference is an annual training conference for editors, journalists, researchers, activists, academics and students. It's been taking place for over 16 years.

The aim is to provide cutting-edge classroom-based training in investigative journalism and to showcase, discuss and learn from some of the best investigations.

The training provided is not country-specific, but tends to be focused on the methods and techniques used by the European/Transatlantic media, both mainstream and independent. The majority of the attendees are from the UK.

The conference is open to all and is conducted in English.

### **How it works:**

#### **Bursary eligibility criteria**

The Lyra McKee Journalism Training Bursaries scheme is open to people who aspire to be journalists or who are at the early stages of their journalistic career.

It is open only to those who for financial reasons are unable to attend #CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Conference and who have no other means to fund their place (costs covered by employers or family members, for example) and are residents of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

#### **Bursary merit criteria**

Once the eligibility criteria is satisfied, the selection will be based on the applicants' track record of journalism/writing, so it is important the applicants answer the questions in the Reasons for Applying section very carefully and give examples of their work. Applicants do not have to be journalists, but showing commitment or enthusiasm to the field is essential.

#### **Financial**

The Lyra McKee Journalism Training Bursary Fund has a limited funds, so we will evaluate the needs of each candidate on an individual basis. If a candidate is able to cover some of the costs associated with attending #CIJSummer, for example travel or accommodation, the Lyra McKee Journalism Training Bursaries fund will cover the rest and the saved amount will go towards funding more places.

These calculations are not part of the selection criteria. If an applicant fulfills both the eligibility and merit criteria, they will be offered a place regardless of their ability to pay for any associated expenses. Additional daily allowance funding is available for recipients who need it.

All bursary recipients are required to pay a partial participation fee of £20/£80 depending on their circumstances upon acceptance of the bursary.

### **2019 Testimonials:**

***“I had previously I'd thought that being an investigative journalism was a far off dream career that I didn't really understand or know how to pursue. The CIJ showed the difficulty of pursuing investigative work, but it demystified the process as well. I also felt encouraged by the feeling of belonging to a collective of people who all had the shared belief and desire to hold power to account. It was invaluable to have met and made friends with the other recipients of the bursary.”***

***“I really appreciated the welcome and warmth of the CIJ staff. The welcome party for example, was a really thoughtful idea.”***

***“The experience blew my mind! I had no expectations before attending, even if I did, the experience would have exceeded it.”***

### **#CIJLyraMcKee in the media:**

***Centre for Investigative Journalism sets up training bursary in honour of Lyra McKee*** by Press Gazette. 20 May 2019.

***New training bursary to support young investigative journalists launched in memory of Lyra McKee*** by journalism.co.uk. 21 May 2019.

***Here is how to make the media fit for modern Britain.*** By Roy Greenslade for the Guardian. 7 July 2019.