



# CIJ Lyra McKee Investigative Journalism Training and Mentorship Bursary 2021

## **What is CIJ Lyra McKee Investigative Journalism Training and Mentorship Bursary Scheme?**

The CIJ Lyra McKee Investigative Journalism Training Bursary Scheme was established in memory of a young and courageous Irish investigative journalist Lyra McKee, who was shot dead by dissident republicans in Derry in April 2019.

The aim of this online six months bursary scheme is to train and mentor people from underprivileged backgrounds, who aspire to become journalists or who are journalists at the very early stages of their career.

The bursary scheme is funded by The Lorana Sullivan UK Foundation and the Lyra McKee Foundation.

### **Application process:**

Applicants must fulfill two criteria to be accepted for the bursary scheme.

### **Bursary eligibility criteria**

The Lyra McKee Journalism Training Bursaries scheme is open to over 18s 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 CIJ training courses/ conferences and who have no other means to fund it (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 and their investigative mindset, 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.

We expect all the bursary recipients to attend all the training provided.



## **Financial**

The Lyra McKee Journalism Training Bursary Fund has limited funds, so we will evaluate the needs of each candidate on an individual basis.

As all the training and mentorship will be held online due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, participants will need to have internet access and computer devices to take part. Some limited funding is available to assist bursary recipients with these, if required.

These calculations are not part of the selection criteria. If an applicant fulfills both the eligibility and merit criteria, they will be considered for a place.

## **What to expect in 2021**

The 2021 Lyra McKee Bursary and Mentorship scheme will run over 7 months: May till November 2021, with a break in August.

We plan to select 8-10 bursary recipients - the class of 2021. There will be two further mentoring groups. The groups will have plenty of time to interact with each other formally and informally.

All the bursary recipients will be expected to attend the following:

- CIJ courses: Story-Based Inquiry Method (8hrs), Finding Stories with Data (6hrs), FOIA (2hrs), Open Source Intelligence (2hrs) and InfoSec (2hrs) - various dates over 6 months - with some flexibility.
- #CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Conference 2021 Online. - 5 - 7 July 2021.
- Regular mentoring evening meetings and talks (Around two 1h meetings each month. Excluding August. 12 in total).

All bursary recipients will be required to provide information on their experience at the end of the bursary period and then again 12 months later.

## **Application deadline**

Sun 4 April at 23:59 BST

Only successful candidates will be contacted.