



CIJ Lyra McKee Investigative Journalism Training and Mentorship Bursary 2022

What is the 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 five-month 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.



Financial

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

Training will be held online (Zoom) as well as in person during the CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Conference 2022, which is scheduled to take place on 29-30 June in London.

Mentorship will be held online in May- September 2022.

Participants will need to have internet access and computer devices to take part.

Participants who live outside the M25 boundary will be offered financial assistance to travel to London to attend the CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Conference 2022 as well as accommodation if required.

Some daily allowances will be offered too.

Financial considerations 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 2022

The 2022 Lyra McKee Bursary and Mentorship scheme will run over five months: May till September 2022, with a break in August.

We plan to select around 10 bursary recipients - the class of 2022. 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 **required to attend the following in full:**

- #CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Conference 2022, which we hope will take place in person on Wed 29 - Thu 30 June at Goldsmiths, University of London. During the conference there will be a number of courses the participants will be required to attend to be able to continue with the programme.
- CIJ courses online: all participants will have to attend 'Finding Stories with Data' course (6hrs) prior to #CIJSummer Conference 2022. In some limited circumstances, participants will be able to attend this course during CIJSummer Conference.



- Mentoring sessions hosted online (Zoom). All participants are required to attend 8-9 mentoring sessions. They will take place once every two weeks or so in the evenings between May - September 2022 (excluding August). They will culminate with a 'Pitch to the Editors' Day, when the trainees pitch their stories to working UK investigative editors.

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

Please note, trainees must attend all training courses and at least 90% of the mentoring sessions in order to be able to graduate from the programme.

Certificates

All trainees who attended all training and mentoring sessions will receive a certificate of participation.

#CIJLyraMcKee programme is not an accredited professional qualification, but it is highly regarded in the industry.

Application deadline

Sun 10 April at 23:59 BST

Only successful candidates will be contacted.

If you have any other questions, please contact Marina Calland on marina@tcij.org