

International Reporting Workshop Reflective Statement

The workshop which I attended recently, delivered by One World Media, was an invaluable experience in exploring the realities of a career in international reporting, a particular field in the media industry, which I am aspiring to pursue a career in.

An experienced journalist outlined essential knowledge and skills for the role, including the safety of individuals and others; interview skills; ethics and consent, and in engaging audiences. As participants, we were encouraged to engage in discussion with other participants, which was a positive experience in terms of generating ideas with a team, and building rapport with like-minded individuals. This useful content and discussion expanded my knowledge of the characteristics and demands of the job.

Moreover, although somewhat obvious for experts in the field, for me this was completely enlightening and opened my eyes to a number of important aspects of the career, which I have aforementioned, and which I hadn't considered before; however, rather than using the experience as a deterrent, it has made me even more vigilant as an individual working in potentially unpredictable climates. It requires someone who is self-sufficient, logical and has excellent research and team-working skills. Furthermore, the workshop gave me an insight into existing careers, which I had no prior knowledge of before attending, namely 'fixers', who I now know play a vital role in the feasibility of international reporting assignments for managing language and logistical obstacles.

Finally, another way in which I found the workshop to be a fruitful experience towards the advancement of my future career aspirations is the opportunity to network. It gave me the opportunity to obtain valuable contacts with people within the field of my chosen career, which may lead to further opportunities in the longer term.

With regards to my short-long term career plans, I am understanding more than ever the importance of participating further in student journalism in order to build a concrete portfolio of work, which I can then use to demonstrate my journalistic potential and passion for future potential employers. Alongside this, I aim to apply for and obtain relevant work experience placements in media and communications companies during my undergraduate degree, and go on to seek graduate internships once I have graduated in order to apply the current skills I have - and am continuing to improve - as well as the opportunities I enjoy taking advantage of. Needless to say, the International Reporting workshop has invigorated my career aspirations in the field with a more enlightened, focused, and mindful approach.