

# **Junior Camera Operator, Natural History Unit**

## **Definition**

Camera operators are responsible for capturing the action. They shoot what's happening, whether that's on location for a news programme or documentary or a large multi-camera studio show or a major outside broadcast.

## **Key roles and responsibilities**

The Ideal Candidate:

- We are looking for someone with a gifted eye and a talent for story-telling, who has the potential to compose exquisite, creative, images and full sequences.
- Experience of shooting in 4K with at least one broadcast and/or corporate credit.
- A range of versatile camera skills would be useful such as use of Movi/Ronin, drones, long lens, time-lapse
- Knowledge and understanding of photographic techniques applicable to wildlife production, including complex camera technology and a range of different lenses
  - Technical expertise that must include: an understanding of the underlying principles of video and still digital photography; hands-on operation of digital cameras; an understanding of the processes associated with supplying material for websites and web pages.
- You must have excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to remain calm under pressure, and the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and situations not always under our control. You will be able to demonstrate a proven ability to build strong relationships with programme contributors and collaborators and work effectively within a team.
- The ability to work with a range of Directors and undertake varying degrees of responsibility
- Strong research, planning and organisational skills as well as experience in setting up animal behavioural sequences will be of value.
- Technical and IT skills to operate with confidence a range of appropriate applications used in footage acquisition and media management.
- A strong interest in natural history programme making and field craft, with an aptitude and passion for a particular filming technique/genre will be of value
- Wide experience of observing animals in the wild and setting up wildlife sequences, including remote and hostile environments.
- The patience, tenacity and determination required to acquire detailed behavioural content of wildlife.
- Appropriate experience and resilience to cope with remote and hostile locations.
- A clear, demonstrable passion for the natural world and wildlife is a must, together with a thirst for knowledge and an eagerness to learn.
- This role will require long periods away from home. When not filming on location, the role will be Bristol based, embedded within the production team.

## **Job description requirements**

All wildlife content is acquired from freelance operators; there are no BBC staff positions in this category. Consequently, on completion you will be released to compete in the freelance market for

work, either from the NHU or elsewhere. This opportunity is aimed at those with sufficient relevant skills and experience to enable rapid progress to full professional competence. You will need to include a link to your showreel as part of your application. In addition to this, complete sequences will be advantageous. • Please note if you do not include a link to your showreel we will not consider your application.

## **Pathways**

There are two main pathways to become a NHU freelance camera operator:

### Film school/college/university

This is the longer route but it gives you more time to gain experience and skills in the camera operation path. With education, you are able to develop your skills with the kit they have there as you won't need to purchase your own kit since they will provide you with it. However, this could mean that you are doing a lot less practical work for an apprenticeship and more writing/exam work. At the moment, this approach would probably be best for me as for this job role you will need to show many skills that I haven't heard of or aren't very good at.

### Apprenticeship/working up the ladder

This is the harder route as the chances of getting an apprenticeship to getting into an academic placement is ridiculously low, as people in the media industry are looking for people with experience that they can back up, not people like me who are just entering the industry with little experience and knowledge. Although it is hard, once you get into the industry it can be very rewarding as for me all I want to do is travel and record in loads of different environments and habitats.

## **References**

[https://uk.linkedin.com/jobs/view/junior-camera-operator-natural-history-unit-at-bbc-studios-2749779194?utm\\_campaign=google\\_jobs\\_apply&utm\\_source=google\\_jobs\\_apply&utm\\_medium=organic](https://uk.linkedin.com/jobs/view/junior-camera-operator-natural-history-unit-at-bbc-studios-2749779194?utm_campaign=google_jobs_apply&utm_source=google_jobs_apply&utm_medium=organic)