

Ewan Somerville

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Education

- 2017-2020** BA in International Relations and Politics at The University of Sheffield.
- 2015-2017** Petroc College, Barnstaple, Devon. A Levels: English Literature (A), History (A), Sociology (A*).
- 2010-2015** Pilton Community College, Barnstaple, Devon. GCSE: Four A* grades, six As and one B.

Key achievements

28 national bylines across print and online, at The Telegraph, The i and iweekend, HuffPost and RightsInfo. More than 40 university newspaper bylines and more than 50 stories for local *Archant* titles.

Finalist BUCS national athletics championships. As Welfare and Inclusions Officer, I pastorally support UoS athletes. Placed second of 32 teams at Durham University IV national debate competition. Best Student, A Level Sociology.

Media experience

- July 2018 - **Freelance & work experience at BBC Radio Sheffield.** In summer 2018 I worked with the multimedia office at BBC Radio Sheffield on assignment with live reporters, the political reporter, BBC News online and video journalists. Since autumn 2018, I have been invited to shadow several evening shows each week, employing my experience of reaching young audiences to help producers with social media tools and ideas.
- March 2018 - **Freelance & work experience, The Telegraph.** I uncovered an exclusive story on campus during the USS strike in March 2018, and an attack on a Sheffield SU officer. In summer 2018, I interned with Defence, Tech and Education correspondents and the newsdesk. I now work freelance on education stories.
- March 2018 - **Online News Editor, Forge Press.** I manage a team of news contributors, editing a news website and Facebook page with a weekly reach of 10,000. My social media content achieves the most reach and engagement every month. As chief reporter, I have developed a good understanding of media law through weekly reporting controversial stories, and have extensive skills in maximising engagement using Wordpress.
- March 2018 - **Journalist and Presenter, RightsInfo.** My work to date includes an exclusive interview series centred on Erasmus students and Brexit, a feature on the Paralympics 2012 legacy, and a Universal Credit explainer that was shared 318 times. In September 2018, I also presented a social media film explaining 'liberty'.
- Nov 2018 **Internship, The i and iweekend newspapers.** I produced 13 national stories during a week with i, through pro-actively making myself known with the newsdesk, and consequently being approached daily by the Deputy News Editor, Foreign Editor and Business Editor. This included speaking to China experts, reports on US mass shootings, adapting stories for online, dealing with legal issues around Sir Phillip Green, and a round-up of events for the WW1 Centenary *iweekend*. I worked with the Comment Editor to produce four days of the 'opinion matrix', finding 12 thematic comment pieces and summarising them in 140 words.
- Feb 2014 - Sept 2018: **Freelance at North Devon Gazette, Archant.** I have worked on my local newsdesk over four years, regularly finding my own stories, investigating them, and reaching a wide social media audience after publication. In Summer 2018, I syndicated this with two months news reporting on local commercial radio.
- August 2016 and Easter 2017 **Work experience at CNN International.** I worked with newsdesk, online, social media, created a PR brief, learned the editing and pre-recorded interview process, sat in daily editorial meetings with bureaus worldwide and contributed ideas as part of the production team for Hala Gorani's primetime debate show.
- August 2016 **Work experience at BBC Radio 4.** I contributed to discussion in the morning editorial meeting for the 'World At One' programme and learned how the show came together, working with producers to fix up high-profile guests and helping presenter Shaun Ley with his script. I also toured the full BBC News operation.
- Feb, July 2016 **Work experience at ITV Westcountry News.** On two placements, I helped with vox pops and shadowed a correspondent, highlighting to me the importance of multimedia training and being flexible at short-notice.
- July 2016 - **Blogger, Huffington Post.** My most recent article was featured on the main Politics page, reaching millions.

Key skills:

- Good **understanding of media law** through regularly dealing with a [range of legal issues](#) at student newspaper level
- Extensive knowledge and skill in using **Wordpress and social media** to [make news stories and features digestable](#) and optimised to reach a wide audience through SEO headlines and hyperlinks and engaging social media captions
- **Multimedia reporting**: [create films/photos for online](#), audio, Snapchat/Twitter/Instagram content & copy simultaneously

Reference 1 (August 2018)

Jem Collins *Digital Journalist and Editor, Student Publication Association Trustee*

“Ewan is a dedicated and well-respected member of the RightsInfo team who contributes original articles for us on a freelance basis. He is quick at turning around accurate copy and has a strong track record of producing original and insightful articles. So far he has produced content on a range of human rights themes, including new ministerial appointments, London 2012's legacy and the plight of ERASMUS students in the UK, all including a human rights theme interwoven in. His writing is clear and concise, and he is quick to take on constructive criticism. So far he has proven to be both an excellent member of the team and a strong independent thinker who is able to bring numerous ideas to any meeting, and is quick to communicate. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend him to any hiring manager or commissioning editor.”

Reference 2 (November 2016)

James Crossland *Regional Vice President APAC and EMEA Technology & Operations, Turner Broadcasting System*

“Ewan joined us at Turner Broadcasting over the summer in our European, Middle East and Africa headquarters in central London, working with our Television, News and General Entertainment operations teams. While with us he spent time in our CNN News studios, seeing first hand how live international news is produced and he gained hands on experience of the end to end news and television broadcasting supply chain. He also assisted our press and marketing teams with their social media campaigns.

“Everyone that Ewan worked with during his time with us really appreciated his enthusiastic and focused approach. No job was too big or small for him to get involved in and he was pleasure to work with. This feedback was especially pronounced from our press and marketing teams. Ewan's interest in this subject area and his passion for news and journalism really shone through. We would welcome him back at the first opportunity.”

Reference 3 (September 2018)

Andy Keeble *South West Group Editor, Archant. Editor, North Devon Gazette*

“Ewan has been a regular contributor to the North Devon Gazette since joining us on a week's work placement in February 2014. Even as a secondary school pupil, he showed confidence, passion and most importantly, real aptitude for journalism. At the time, Ewan very quickly demonstrated a flair for news writing after listening to advice from the journalists he worked with. He shadowed reporters and produced several of his own articles, most of which were published online and in print. Ewan also adapted well to the office environment and has since volunteered his time to assist the newsdesk on several occasions. He is always willing to help out and often comes to us with story ideas of his own that he goes on to execute with precision and panache.

“Ewan always comes armed with enthusiasm, ideas and a friendly smile – I've no doubt he'll become an asset to any newsroom he's given the opportunity to contribute to.”

Reference 4 (October 2016)

Tess Atkinson *Head of Communications at CNN International (now Europe Comms at BuzzFeed)*

“I worked with Ewan Somerville in August 2016 and found him to be a very engaged, passionate journalist with keen interest in getting to know each and every team member he had exposure to. He asked intellectual questions, and completed all tasks asked of him with great enthusiasm and attention to detail.

“I would highly recommend him for a position involving research and writing and can assure you he will go above and beyond what you would expect from an employee. He will be a great asset to any news organisation.”

Further references available on request:

Camilla Turner, Education Editor, The Daily/Sunday Telegraph

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Andrew Johnson, News Editor, The i newspaper

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Dr Ross Bellaby, Deputy Director of Learning and Teaching, Department of Politics at The University of Sheffield

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