Post-production runner 3 Stage Plan

If you are having a career change, studying filmmaking or recently graduated and want to pursue a career in the film industry then it's time to get organised. After you have meticulously ploughed through the [MFJF career guides](#) and settled on a potential career path, it's time to start making a plan, we can help you do that too. There are multiple post-production companies in the UK working on a variety of content, from digital to feature films. If you are applying for work in post-production, they will be searching for candidates with career focus in this area, so make sure your CV and cover letter can backup your interest.

The three stage career plan is designed to break down those initial steps, to gain enough experience to find paid work in the industry.

Stage 1 is your very first steps in the industry, where you CV is looking very thin on experience. This is when you should be focusing on building your knowledge of the industry and skills. Once you have laid this initial groundwork, you should have improved your chances of success when applying for entry level opportunities.

Stage 2 will see your journey begin in earnest as you gain experience and build up your list of industry contacts. Work experience, collaborations and internships are vital tools to create career focus to your CV, and provide you with the necessary experience for paid opportunities. One key task is to get industry references, which is a crucial way to elevate your applications.

Stage 3 should see you equipped with a CV that boasts multiple credits or internships and some excellent references. By stage three you should be on your way to find a permanent position or have established your own network of contacts to help you find regular, sustainable work.

Obviously, in the film industry everyone has varying degrees of success finding work; it's dependent on the opportunities you make for yourself, and how you grasp those that come your way. Having received feedback from productions and companies, we have based the three stage plan on our experience of what makes a successful candidate. This checklist should give you some pointers of how to improve your chances of success.

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
EXPERIENCE:	**EXPERIENCE:**	**EXPERIENCE:**
❏ Apply for work experience positions during holidays, do not leave it until the first day of the holiday to look - be proactive on this. ❏ Work on collaborations either editing or as an assistant editor or sound designer to display focus in your CV. ❏ Build on your knowledge of softwear and hardwear including Premiere Pro, Avid, FCP and Resolve.	❏ Do you have a reference from a work experience placement or a short film you have worked on? ❏ If you have worked in customer service or part time waiting tables highlight the key criteria in your CV, they are excellent transferable skills. ❏ How much relevant experience do you have on your CV, a graduate film won't be enough. ❏ Call companies of interest to find out about opportunities.	❏ Do you have a CV with relevant experience in editing or post-production sound? ❏ Have you used your time at a post-production company wisely and involved yourself in the MCR? ❏ Have you taken them up on their offer to use the equipment when you are not on shift to work on your own projects?
SKILLS:	**SKILLS:**	**SKILLS:**
❏ Are you comfortable with transferring data. ❏ Are you familiar with operating systems? ❏ Do you demonstrate knowledge of an editing package or Pro tools?	❏ Practice your interview technique with friends and relatives. Interviews are only nerve wracking when you haven't had many. ❏ Continue to develop your skills and further your knowledge of industry software.	❏ Can demonstrate experience of ingesting footage. ❏ Familiar with budgeting software for clients expenses. ❏ Familiar with scheduling software for bookings?
KNOWLEDGE:	**KNOWLEDGE:**	**KNOWLEDGE:**
❏ Read *The art of the cut.* ❏ Read *Concrete wedding cake.* ❏ Read *Designing Sound.* ❏ Watch films, new releases and classics.	❏ Use online training courses and tutorials listed in the MFJF guide to further your knowledge.	❏ Extensive knowledge of the post production process. ❏ Extensive knowledge of the role of the facilities company and the clients work. ❏ Sat in on edits or dubs with the editors and

❏ Do you understand the post production process? ❏ Look to Essentials for reference material. ❏ Read CV and covering letter advice to create your first CV. Follow the advice to give yourself the best possible chance of success. ❏ Read the creative skillset guidelines that define work experience.	❏ Research the company before each interview and keep re-reading the job description. ❏ If you are receiving no response go back to your CV and determine what is missing - do you need more experience?	sound designers. ❏ Can use industry software. ❏ Extensive knowledge of industry hardwear.