

Title: **Case Study
Creative & Media
in Gloucestershire**

Daniel Down has set his sights on a career as a newspaper photographer after taking a degree in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography at the University of Gloucestershire.

During the three-year course he did work experience on weekly and evening newspapers, gaining valuable insights into the realities of the job and having his work published. He also spent time as a photographer with Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Daniel, aged 22, is currently applying for jobs with local newspapers. He says the University of Gloucestershire course really prepared him for working in this exciting industry.

“It’s very competitive to get into,” he says. “My advantage is through the contacts I have made. I worked for a range of newspapers and was really able to broaden my experience.

“On one paper, the Southern Daily Echo in Southampton, I spent the first day being shown the ropes, then the next day I was given a list of jobs just like the other photographers, then sent out to see how I got on with it. Several times I had my pictures on the front page.”

Daniel, from Ludgershall in Wiltshire, has been interested in photography since he was very young. “My parents were both very keen photographers and they always encouraged me from about the age of five or six to take pictures,” he says.

After GCSEs he went to further education college to do ‘A’ levels in graphic design, computer science, photography, geography and electronics.

He stayed on at college to do a foundation year course in photography. This gave him the chance to build up his portfolio, giving him a solid body of work to show at university interviews.

Daniel went on to gain a first class BA Honours degree at the University of Gloucestershire.

His advice to anyone following in his footsteps is to gain as much work experience as possible, and make sure you choose the right university.

“Make sure you attend university open days and it’s worth spending some time talking to past and present students,” he says. “You need to make sure the course is right for you and the place is where you want to be.”