



Videographer, Camera Operator

SALARY RANGE (2018): \$55,000–\$80,000

A lot of technical work occurs in the “gig economy,” which is fine by me. I am constantly working, but not for one employer. My income comes from a series of contracts, some lasting a few days, some go on for many months. I spent a number of years shooting news for a local TV station, but I prefer the variety I now get from news, sports and live event media production. In the past year I have spent a month working for the host broadcaster at the Olympic Winter Games, spent more than 50 nights doing ice-level camera work at NHL games, and provided the live images for national awards shows, political conventions and occasional news programming. I have also filmed with documentary crews. I have been at the forefront of a lot of important moments in history, watching it all through a viewfinder, but experiencing it much closer than just about anyone else.

The Tip: Famous Second World War photojournalist Robert Capa once said, “If your pictures aren’t good enough, you’re not close enough.” The advice applies to moving images too. A videographer who’s willing to get close to the action is very much in demand.

PRIORITY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Expert	Great at	Good at
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual and audio recording and editing • Ability to develop a compelling narrative • Ability to generate new approaches to familiar stories • Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production planning & design • Manage projects • Data analytics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in verbal and written use of language • Link content with a specific audience

BUILDING BLOCK EXPERIENCES:

<p>Education & Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Communication (journalism) with a minor in film studies 	<p>I wasn’t sure exactly what I wanted to do when I enrolled in a journalism program, but my first photography course changed everything. When I presented my portfolio to my professor she said, “I’ve really been looking forward to this.” I discovered I have a good eye.</p>
<p>Employment Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I provided both still photos and videos for the student newspaper when I was in university • A stop-motion animation project I did for a capstone visual media production course won an international student award • <u>I started working as a casual video editor at a local TV station part-time. I lobbied to go out and shoot video with reporters, and was eventually offered a position as a staff videographer.</u> 	<p>I learned early on that you can’t compromise on the basics; everything has to be properly lit, focused and framed, the audio clear and well-recorded. I try to stand out by being creative, and finding new approaches to standard shots. I don’t aspire to be a manager in this business, but I’d like to be known for my work.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Four years ago I took a package in a round of layoffs and began freelancing</u> 	
<p>Community Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm part of a group of amateur wildlife photographers in the region. We try to raise awareness for conservation and the environment by sharing our images online and through social media. 	<p>Wildlife photography allows me to experiment with notions of capturing images, and to share my passion with other likeminded individuals.</p>
<p>Contextual Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm a frequent guest speaker at the local poly-technical school 	<p>It's really useful for me to articulate what I do for my own self-reflection, but it also helps budding videographers in their development in the craft.</p>
<p>Relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I belong to a creative group of friends interested in film, music, writing, design and art 	<p>My friends, colleagues and neighbours are endless sources of inspiration, knowledge, stories and creative exploration.</p>