

28 William Street
Birmingham
B32 7TY

1st September 2016

Mr James Whitlock
History First Productions Ltd
17 Harcourt Street
London
WC1V 1NB

Dear Mr Whitlock,

I am writing to explore whether an opportunity might exist to join History First Productions as a researcher on your recently commissioned 12-week series focusing on Eastern European History. I graduated from Oxford University this summer with a BA in History and Russian and wish to pursue a career in television production. I have enclosed a copy of my CV for your reference.

As an avid documentary fan, I have found a number of documentaries produced by your company deeply engaging. I was particularly impressed by your two-part programme on the reign of Ivan IV ("the Terrible"), which provided a fresh and informative evaluation of his reign. The presentation of new evidence and research that dispelled some of the myths about him and his reign, provided a different perspective on this controversial figure.

My previous work experience has given me a better understanding of the nature of a researcher role in television production. This summer I secured a 6 week internship as a researcher on the Euro-History magazine series, concerning an investigation into the historical background of current European news and current affairs topics. Working on a professional publication helped me to better understand the requirements and rigours of working in a professional environment to deliver content to a broad audience. I have also gained relevant research experience during my time at university. Last year I directed, wrote and produced a short film for a student society (shot at Kenwood House) about the history of the house and the Murray family. My film was subsequently included on the society's website. I particularly enjoyed conducting research from primary and secondary sources and also learned a great deal about managing multiple responsibilities. I was also a researcher (focusing on local news) for a student radio station in my penultimate year at university. This position further helped me to understand the importance of conducting thorough and accurate research in order to meet a strict deadline

I am very keen to pursue a career in this field, and feel confident that I would make an effective contribution to your team of researchers. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any possible openings with you and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie James