



Emerging Women Journalists Fellowship 2026-27 (Applicant Guide)



**Building Pathways into Journalism
for Migrant and
Racialised Women in Scotland**



MWP Emerging Women Journalists Fellowship 2026–27

The MWP Fellowship is a journalism training and career development programme designed to help emerging migrant and racialised women journalists bridge the gap between education and professional media access. Through training, one-to-one mentoring, editorial development, publication and industry placements, fellows will strengthen their skills, build professional confidence and develop meaningful connections with the media sector.

Application deadline

**Sunday 13 September 2026 at 11:59pm.
Applicants will be informed of the
outcome by 28 September 2026.**



What the Fellowship includes

- Professional journalism training led by journalists, media professionals, academics and industry experts
- One-to-one mentoring with an experienced journalist, editor or media professional
- Editorial support and publication to develop, research and produce an original feature story, published online and in print
- A £600 Fellowship stipend in recognition of fellows' participation and story production
- A three-month, part-time industry placement with a media organisation, newsroom or communications team
- Professional networking opportunities with journalists, media organisations, mentors and fellow participants



Training programme

October 2026 – January 2027

The Fellowship training programme will combine practical journalism skills, ethical reporting and critical reflection on how people and communities are represented in the media.

Training will take place from October 2026 to January 2027, with approximately two sessions per month. Sessions will be delivered online, mainly in the evenings, to make participation more accessible for fellows who may be studying, working or have caring responsibilities.

The programme is expected to include:

- Writing Journalism Articles
- Multimedia Journalism
- Fact-Checking & Verification
- Introduction to Investigative Journalism
- Media Law & Ethics
- AI in Journalism
- Primary Prevention of Men's Violence Against Women and Girls – and the Role of the Media
- The Representation of 'the Other' in the Media



Trauma-Informed Reporting Training

Trauma-informed reporting is a key part of the Fellowship. At Migrant Women Press, we believe journalists have a responsibility to approach sensitive stories with care, respect and awareness of the potential impact of their reporting, particularly when working with people who have experienced trauma, violence, abuse, loss or distress, including victims and survivors.

The training will help Fellows develop more responsible and sensitive approaches to interviewing, reporting and storytelling – considering how to avoid causing further harm, represent people's experiences with dignity and agency, and challenge harmful narratives about victims, survivors, migrant and racialised communities.

Unlike the other Fellowship workshops, Fellows will complete this training online at their own pace by January 2027, providing flexibility around other commitments. It will be followed by a live Q&A with the trainer, where Fellows can ask questions and reflect on applying trauma-informed approaches to their own journalism.

We strongly encourage all Fellows to complete the training as an important part of developing responsible and ethical journalistic practice. The training is CPD Certified, with two hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accreditation awarded on completion.

The final training schedule, session dates and trainers will be confirmed with selected Fellows before and during the programme.



Mentoring

Professional guidance throughout the Fellowship

Each fellow will be matched with one experienced journalist, editor, producer or media professional.

The mentorship is intended to give fellows a trusted professional relationship through which they can discuss their journalism, career development and experience of navigating the media industry.

Mentors are not responsible for finding fellows a job or fully editing their work. Fellows are expected to take initiative, prepare for meetings, communicate professionally, be open to constructive feedback and respect their mentor's time and boundaries.

The mentoring is expected to provide:

- One online one-to-one meeting with your mentor each month.
- Support to develop and refine your story idea and journalistic practice.
- Constructive feedback from your mentor on at least your first full story draft.
- Career guidance, professional insight and, where possible, relevant opportunities or connections.
- A space to discuss goals, challenges and next steps in journalism.

Your Fellowship story | From idea to publication

Producing an original piece of journalism is a central part of the Fellowship. Each fellow will research and produce an original feature story of approximately 1,000 words, normally including research, at least two interviews and a short multimedia element.

Timing	Editorial stage
 October	Develop and refine your story idea with your mentor; create a reporting plan and begin research and interviews.
 October–November	Continue reporting and writing, then submit your first full draft to your mentor for feedback.
 November–December	Revise and strengthen the story using your mentor’s feedback and submit a second draft to the Fellowship editor.
 December–January	Work with the Fellowship editor, respond to professional editorial feedback, fact-check and complete final revisions.
 January	Final stories that successfully complete the editorial process are prepared for online publication by Migrant Women Press.
 February	Published Fellowship stories are prepared for inclusion in the special print magazine .



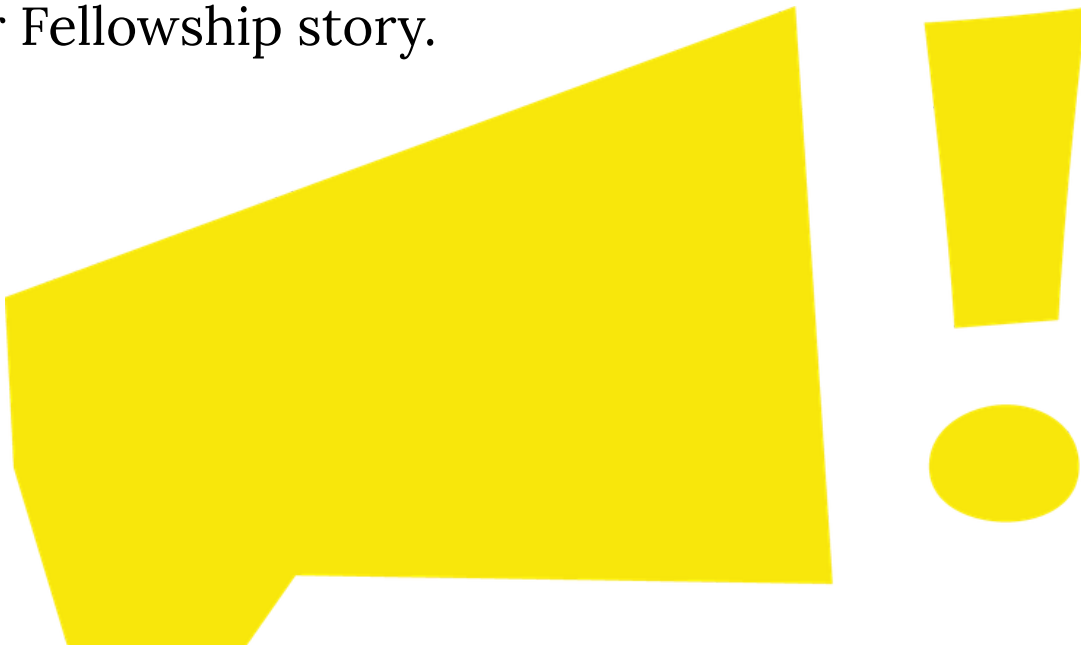
Fellowship stipend

Each Fellow will receive a total of £600, in recognition of the time and commitment involved in participating in the Fellowship and developing their story.

The payment will be made in two instalments:

- £300 in October 2026, at the beginning of the Fellowship and after the Fellowship Agreement has been completed.
- £300 towards the end of January 2027, after the Fellow has completed the editorial process and submitted their final story for publication.

The payment recognises Fellows' participation and contribution throughout the programme, including the time involved in researching, reporting and producing their Fellowship story.





Industry Placement

February – April 2027

The industry placement is designed to give fellows practical experience of working within a media organisation, newsroom or communications team after completing the main training and editorial stages of the Fellowship.

- Placements will normally be part-time, around one or two days per week.
- They may be in person, online or hybrid.
- The exact schedule and activities will be agreed between the fellow, the host organisation and MWP, taking account of both the fellow's circumstances and the host organisation's working arrangements.
- Activities may include editorial research and reporting, newsroom shadowing, editorial meetings, story development and fact-checking, feature or multimedia production, podcast/audio/newsletter work, social media and audience engagement, or communications and press work.
- Fellows should not expect additional payment from the placement host because the placement forms part of the Fellowship programme.
- Reasonable travel expenses required for an in-person placement will be covered by MWP.

Placements are intended to provide meaningful professional exposure, strengthen confidence and networks, and help fellows understand how journalism and communications teams work in practice.



Key timeline at a glance

FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE 2026–27

DATE / PERIOD	MILESTONE
 31 Aug 2026	 Applications open
 13 Sep 2026, 11:59pm	 Applications close
 14–27 Sep	 Eligibility checks and independent assessment
 By 28 Sep	 Applicants informed
 Early Oct	 Fellowship begins; induction and mentor matching, welcome session and Q&A, onboarding
 Oct–Jan	 Training, monthly mentoring, reporting, writing and editorial development, meet ups
 Jan 2027	 Online story publication, meet up
 Feb 2027	 Fellowship print magazine prepared / ready
 Feb–Apr	 Part-time industry placements, final event preparations
 Apr 2027	 Final Fellowship event in Glasgow, evaluation and programme completion

Dates are subject to change. Fellows will be kept informed of any updates during the programme.



Your commitment as a Fellow

We recognise that fellows may be balancing study with work, caring responsibilities, health or accessibility needs, and we will aim to be flexible and supportive when challenges arise.

At the same time, we ask applicants to carefully consider the commitment before accepting a place. MWP is a small, independent organisation, and considerable work goes into securing the funding, partnerships, mentors, trainers and industry opportunities that make the Fellowship possible.

Places are limited, and each place represents an opportunity that another emerging journalist could benefit from.

We therefore ask fellows to approach the Fellowship with commitment, openness and professional responsibility, while knowing that asking for support when you need it is always welcome.

As a fellow, you will be expected to:

- Attend and actively participate in the training sessions.
- Meet regularly with your mentor, normally once a month, and make the most of the mentoring relationship.
- Set aside independent time for research, interviews, writing, fact-checking and revisions.
- Meet the agreed editorial deadlines so that your story can progress to publication.
- Participate meaningfully in your industry placement from February to April.



- Communicate with MWP as early as possible if circumstances affect your attendance, participation or ability to meet a deadline.
- Take part in the Fellowship evaluation and, where possible, attend the final event in Glasgow.

We encourage applicants to look carefully at the programme timeline and reflect on whether they can realistically make this commitment before applying. We do not expect perfect attendance or circumstances; we do expect communication, engagement and a genuine commitment to making the most of the opportunity.

The Fellowship is a professional development opportunity, and fellows will be expected to take responsibility for their own learning, manage their time and work independently on their stories, mentoring goals and placement activities. Part of the experience is developing the independence, reliability and communication skills needed in the journalism and media industry.

At the same time, you are not expected to navigate the Fellowship alone. MWP will be your main point of contact throughout the programme, and we encourage you to speak to us as early as possible if anything arises that may affect your participation, wellbeing, attendance or ability to meet a deadline. We are here to listen, discuss your circumstances and provide support or reasonable adjustments wherever we can.

Our aim is to create an environment where fellows can take ownership of their professional development while knowing that support is available whenever they need it.



Applicant Q&A

Who is the Fellowship for?

The Fellowship supports migrant and racialised women who are studying journalism, media or communications, or who have recently graduated (within the last three years) from a relevant course. Applicants should be based in Scotland for the duration of the programme. Trans women are warmly encouraged to apply. If you graduated more than three years ago but are still at an early stage of your journalism or media career due to circumstances that have affected your ability to enter or progress in the industry, we still encourage you to contact us before applying

When does the Fellowship run?

The programme begins in early October 2026 and finishes in April 2027. Training is concentrated between October and January, online publication is planned for January, the print magazine for February, and placements run from February to April.

How many fellows will take part?

We plan to select eight fellows for the 2026–27 cohort.

Can I take part if I am studying, working or have caring responsibilities?

Yes. The programme has been designed with students, recent graduates, workers and carers in mind. Most training takes place online and in the evening. However, fellows must be able to attend the required sessions, meet monthly with their mentor, complete their story to the agreed deadlines and participate in the placement.

Do I have to attend every session?

Fellows are expected to attend the training sessions and make a genuine commitment to mentoring, editorial deadlines and placement activities. We understand that illness, caring responsibilities, health or accessibility needs and unexpected circumstances can affect attendance. If you know of anything that may affect your participation, please discuss it with us as early as possible so that we can explore appropriate support or reasonable adjustments.

What if I need accessibility support or reasonable adjustments?

We want the Fellowship to be as accessible and inclusive as possible. Applicants are encouraged to tell us about support or reasonable adjustments that would help them participate fully. Requesting support will not disadvantage your application or affect the selection process. Information about support needs will be treated sensitively.

When will I know if I have been selected?

Applications close on 13 September 2026. Selection takes place during the second half of September and applicants will be informed by 28 September. The Fellowship begins in early October.

What happens at the end of the Fellowship?

The programme concludes in April 2027 with a final event in Glasgow, bringing together fellows, mentors, placement partners and supporters. Fellows will also take part in evaluation and become part of the MWP Fellowship alumni community.



Before you apply

We want you to have a clear understanding of the Fellowship and the commitment involved before submitting your application. Please take some time to review:

Fellowship Concept Note — learn why the Fellowship exists, who it supports and what we aim to achieve.

Applicant Guide & Q&A — understand what you can expect as a fellow, including training, mentoring, story publication, the £600 stipend, industry placement, accessibility and your commitment to the programme.

Timeline/Programme at a Glance — check the key dates and see how the Fellowship will run from applications through to the final event.

Before applying, please consider carefully whether you can realistically commit to the programme from October 2026 to April 2027, including training, monthly mentoring, independent reporting and writing, editorial deadlines and the industry placement.

Your experiences, perspectives and ideas have a place in journalism. We hope to welcome you to the 2026–27 Fellowship.



Migrant Women Press CIC is a non-profit,
independent media organisation led by migrant
women and women of colour.

We amplify underrepresented voices through
journalism and storytelling, using an intersectional
lens to build a more inclusive and representative
media
landscape.

Questions or accessibility support:

Contact Migrant Women Press at
migrantwomenpress@gmail.com.