

Contact Information

James Calder

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Personal Summary

Final-year Geography and Politics student at the University of Edinburgh with over two years of newsroom leadership and three years of journalism experience. Currently Editor-in-Chief at The Tab Edinburgh and Assistant Editor-in-Chief at PoliticsUK. Experienced in audio editing through work as the Lead Audio Engineer for The Backbench Podcast and looking to advance a career in public service journalism.

Work Experience - Journalism

Assistant Editor-in-Chief | *PoliticsUK* | May 2025 – Present

- Edited and published high-performing political analysis, interviews, and feature content to over 30k website readers per month and 340k followers on X.
- Contributed breaking news updates to the X feed including various viral posts with millions of views.
- Collaborated with external partners and press teams to secure guest contributions and editorial access from politicians and industry experts.

Editor-in-Chief | *The Tab Edinburgh* | May 2025 – Present

- Lead a team of 40+ contributors covering news, opinion, features and investigations for the site garnering over 500,000 annual readers.
- Created editorial policies, legal checks, and style guides for new intake of writers.

Journalist and News Editor | *The Tab Edinburgh* | Sept 2023 – May 2025

- Responsible for editing all written content and various audio-visual/social media posts for news reports, promotional videos and brand/affiliate content.
- Amassed a total readership of 137,000 page views on personally written articles and a further 150,000 on edited stories.
- Exercised clear critical thinking and editorial judgement when faced with legal and ethical challenges by maintaining impartiality through right of replies and sensitive reporting guidelines.
- Effectively managed workflow by sourcing and assigning stories to the appropriate writer/team and training new writers on FOI use, media law, and ethical journalism practices.
- Excelled in fast-paced situations: Breaking news before any other publication, leading to The Tab being recognised as first on the scene to many stories by outlets like The Scotsman and The Edinburgh Minute.

Work Experience - Audio/Radio

Lead Audio Engineer/Editor | *Edinburgh University Political Union* | Oct 2024 – Present

- Experienced in audio-visual editing using DaVinci Resolve and Premiere Pro.
- Responsible for set-up and de-rig of all audio-visual equipment including microphones, cameras and speakers for live events.
- Edited long form content for the podcast uploaded on Spotify and Substack as well as short form promotional content for Instagram.

Internships and Editorial Placements

Journalism Intern | *The National Newspaper* | April 2025

- Published six articles during my week of work experience, with an exclusive FOI scoop becoming the site's most read article of the week.

- Developed greater understanding of SEO best practices and multimedia digital strategy.

Breakthrough Freelance Trainee | *The Big Issue* | June 2023 – Dec 2023

- Participated in editorial masterclasses on reporting, sourcing, and media ethics.
- Developed understanding of sensitive reporting guidelines and working with external partners like charities and NGOs.

Upcoming placements at *Prospect Magazine* (July 2025) and *The Times* (July 2025 – Aug 2025)

Education

MA (Hons) Geography & Politics | *The University of Edinburgh* | Sept 2022 – July 2026 | Predicted Grade 2:1

- Specialisms: Media & Politics, International Policing, Climate Governance and Corporate Lobbying.
- Experienced using quantitative tools such as RStudio, ArcGIS and QGIS, and the Adobe/Microsoft suites.
- Dissertation: Examining the role of local media in political discourse and protest surrounding the Beeching Report in the Scottish Borders.

Other Employment

Bar Team Leader | *Edinburgh University Student Association* | April 2025 – Present

Bar Team Member | *Edinburgh University Student Association* | July 2024 – April 2025

Bar and Floor Team Member | *JD Wetherspoon (Edinburgh Airport)* | July 2023 – June 2024

Crew Team Member | *McDonalds* | October 2022 – July 2023

Volunteering

Multi-role volunteer | *UCI World Cycling Championship* | Aug 2023

Sales Team Member | *Shelter Scotland* | Oct 2020 – Sept 2022

Active Travel Team Member | *COP 26: UN Climate Change Conference* | Oct 2021 – Nov 2021

Sports & Personal Interests

- Rugby team member throughout school and university.
- Previous regional and national athletics and cross-country competitor.
- Passionate follower of a wide range of sports with an interest in sports journalism and radio coverage.

Editorial and Journalism Skills

- Freedom of Information investigations and public interest journalism.
- Breaking news editorial judgement and eye-catching headline writing.
- SEO friendly copy and headlines.
- Interviewing high profile guests.
- Fact checking, legal compliance and editorial oversight.
- Experienced in working to tight deadlines.
- Communication with writer teams, other editors and external press officers, politicians and campaigners.

Technical and Multimedia Skills

- Audio editing and mixing (Audacity, DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere Pro).
- Editing short form content for TikTok and Instagram and mid-long form content for podcasts on Spotify.
- Visual asset and cover image creation using Canva and Photoshop.
- Social scheduling using Buffer and understanding of SEO data using UberSuggest and Google Analytics.
- CMS experience with Substack and Wordpress.
- Automated workflow using AI tools like Grain to transcribe interviews