Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	MA Data Journalism
2	**BCU Course Code**	PT1211
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	

6	**Course Description**

The MA in Data Journalism is a cutting edge master's course designed to give you the interactive storytelling skills needed to work within a growing number of jobs in the media and beyond.

The course includes partnerships with The Telegraph, Haymarket magazines, Trinity Mirror newspapers in the UK, La Nacion in Argentina and Convoca in Peru, as well as a number of other organisations covering broadcast, online and print data journalism, all of which are keen to bring in the skills that you will be developing on the course. You should indicate on your application in you wish to be considered for opportunities with those organisations during the course.

Studying under internationally renowned course leaders in a city with a vibrant cultural sector, and with access to a range of media organisations, you will learn exciting new skills in data journalism and interactive storytelling across a range of contexts, from mobile-first data journalism on social platforms, to practising data driven journalism within online and broadcast newsroom contexts. Partnerships with newspaper, magazine, online and broadcast organisations provide unique opportunities for students to build contacts and experience, and work on live projects.

What's covered in the course?

This practical course is designed to help you respond to work within a range of data journalism roles, from sourcing data, to investigating leads, and communicating your stories in new, engaging ways, in a range of newsroom contexts

Under the guidance of award-winning journalists who have worked with organisations ranging from the BBC and The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, to The Guardian and specialist magazines, you will:

- Develop a keen eye for a story
- Develop advanced data driven journalism techniques that help you establish the facts
- Find out how to work within a range of newsroom contexts
- Tell those stories across a range of platforms

You will have access to respected journalists who are working in the field now, learn about the legal, commercial and ethical contexts surrounding the future of journalism. You will have the

opportunity to work with wider data communities as you make a name for yourself in your chosen sector. Previous students have worked with organisations including the BBC, ITV News, Bureau Local, The Guardian, FullFact and the European Data Journalism Network.

You will have access to the facilities at BCU's new Parkside campus, including radio and TV studios, and audio and video editing suites. You will have access to video and still cameras, audio recording equipment and mobile journalism kits to get out and capture the human side of the story too. You will be expected to find and report stories regularly, experimenting with new formats while exploring and testing the latest research into this exciting period in journalism's development.

As the course progresses you will develop more specialist skills and connect with others already in the industry, building your reputation as you prepare to enter the industry. Graduates of the previous MA Online Journalism course have gone on to work as data journalists, data designers, digital editors, journalism consultants and professors, and media analysts.

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Master of Arts Data Journalism	7	180
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Postgraduate Certificate Data Journalism	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma Data Journalism	7	120

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time	City Centre	1 Year	PT1211

10	Entry Requirements

The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.

11	**Course Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge and Understanding

1	A critical understanding of media theory, production and industrial perspectives and the relationships between these systems of knowledge.
2	Knowledge of a range of research approaches – the ability to critically evaluate a wide range of research methodologies and to apply them in a sustained manner to theoretical/production and industrial modes of enquiry.
3	Knowledge of media industries within international contexts – a critical understanding of the cultural, economic, political and regulatory contexts across a range of transnational media case studies.
4	The ability to critically evaluate your own production and industry skills and practices against wider transdisciplinary debates within the field.

Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

5	**Independent learning:** The ability to research and apply a wide range of concepts relevant to media conventions.
6	**Analytical skills:** The ability to critically evaluate a range of media methodologies in order to apply them to theoretical, production and industry case studies.
7	**Critical reflection:** The ability to evaluate your own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions.
8	**Research skills:** The ability to originate research questions and new fields of critical enquiry by drawing on a wide range of existing sources, and conceptual frameworks.

Practical and Professional Skills

9	**Technical skills:** The ability to apply a range of audio visual production processes to wider debates within the media field.
10	**A critical understanding of professional context:** The ability to apply Master's level debates to a real world working environment
11	**Creative skills:** Develop as a critical maker, creative thinker and practitioner, capable of experimenting and taking risks, and shaping concepts based on secure research strategies.
12	The ability to produce work that demonstrates a critical understanding of media forms, structures, audiences in their international contexts.

Key Transferable Skills

13	The ability to work in an independent and creative manner across a variety of research and collaborative settings.
14	The capacity to deliver research led reports of a specified length, format, brief and deadline, which use appropriate referencing sources as part of their presentation.
15	The ability to work independently and in a self-motivated manner to create a sustained piece of research and or a production/industry artefact.
16	The ability to combine, synthesise and critically comment upon a range of ideas and express them in both written and creative works.

12	**Course Requirements**

12a	**Level 7:**

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MED7373	Data Journalism	20
MED7366	Research in Practice	20
MED7369	Specialist Journalism, Investigations and Coding	20
MED7382	Major Project	60
ADM7001	Work Placement	20
MED7374	Law, Regulation and Institutions	20
MED7334	Narrative: From Media to Interactive Media	20

12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2	SEMESTER 3
Core Module (20 Credits) MED7373 Data Journalism	Core Module (20 credits) MED7369 Specialist Journalism, Investigations and Coding	MED7382 Major Project (60 credits)
Core Module (20 credits) MED7334 Narrative: From Media to Interactive Media	Core Module (20 credits) MED7374 Law Regulation and Institutions	
Core Module (20 credits) MED7366 Research in Practice	Core Module (20 credits) ADM7001 Work Placement	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	166
Directed Learning	1274
Private Study	360
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	86%
Exam	
In-Person	14%