

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA Journalism
2	Course Code	PT1861
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s)	BCU
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ)

6	Course Description
	If you're looking for a highly-practical journalism course, that is designed to help you work in a range of journalism settings then this course is for you. Spanning different methods of production across print, digital and broadcast platforms, you will be supported to develop the skills and experience needed to forge your path in an industry that both continually evolves in response to society and shapes the world in which we live. Accredited by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ), we have designed the programme in line with NCTJ standards to provide you with a foundation for a professional career in the journalism industry through the development of key skills and understanding in areas such as newsgathering, reporting and media law, alongside a focus on the use of digital and data in contemporary journalism. You will also explore the relationship between journalists and public relations professionals, opening up alternative opportunities within the media industry. We have relationships with organisations with a range of outlets, including The Guardian, The Birmingham Dispatch, Global Radio and the BBC, as well as a number of other organisations covering broadcast, online, data and print journalism. You'll benefit from learning from staff with a wealth of experience in different strands of the journalism industry both in the UK and across the globe, you will learn how reporters source, produce and deliver news in alternative formats across a range of platforms. You will also work with both our award-winning Birmingham Eastside platform and partner organisations to understand the role of reporters in different journalism landscapes by working on live projects and taking advantage of opportunities via other outlets and organisations, such as Lichfield Live and The Lichfield and Burntwood Independent. The accreditation also means you will have the opportunity to sit NCTJ examinations and assessments alongside your University studies and assignments, which, on successful completion, means you could be awarded both a Master's degree and the NCTJ Level 5 Diploma in Journalism. What is covered in this course? You will take modules covering topics such as newsgathering and reporting, media law, ethics, data journalism, photojournalism and broadcast journalism, as well as participating in newdays where you will experience the thrill of working in a live news environment, creating content to deadline and telling stories that matter to communities. During the course, you will also get access to respected journalists, which may include guest lectures, mentoring and networking opportunities, giving you invaluable contact with people

	working in the field in order to understand the contemporary industry's challenges and opportunities. From traditional media outlets, through to those creating disruption and seeking alternative ways of telling stories, the course is designed to provide you with skillset to thrive in the ever-evolving world of journalism. You will have access to our industry-standard facilities in the Parkside Building at our City Centre Campus, which includes radio and TV studios, a newsroom space, and audio and video editing suites. Alongside this you will have access to video and still cameras and audio recording equipment through our Hires and Loans service, enabling you to get out and capture real stories from the outset. With the emergence of new platforms and models for journalism, including alternative funding models, this is an exciting period in the development of the industry. As such, we will support you to be proactive in finding and reporting stories regularly across the course, and experiment with different techniques and formats so that you have the skills to thrive in the ever-changing journalistic landscape.
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Arts Journalism Master of Arts Journalism with Professional Placement	L7	180 240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)	L7 L7	60 credits 120 credits

8	Variation from the University Regulations
	None

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	Full Time	City Centre	12 months
	Full Time with Professional Placement	City Centre	18 months

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 Aims
	The aims of this course are to: To develop critically-aware, ethical graduates who are creative problem solvers and innovators;

	- To equip students with skills and knowledge that facilitate long-term employability, empowering them to adapt to ongoing change in the industry; - To establish and develop professional production practices suitable for a range of outlets within journalism; - To develop an understanding of critical issues and debates within the industry; - To develop an applied knowledge of the legal, regulatory and ethical contexts within which journalism takes place; - To develop an understanding of, and application of, a range of methodologies to further knowledge and understanding in the field.
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12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	Evaluate and apply a systematic understanding of professional conventions, production practices and industry perspectives and the relationships between these systems of knowledge.
2	Critique journalism's role in society by engaging with contemporary industry and theoretical debates.
3	Analyse and apply a systematic understanding of legal, regulatory and ethical contexts surrounding journalism.
4	Evaluate the relationships between journalism and associated industries, including public relations and communications.
5	Evaluate personal capabilities, performance and development, strategically managing professional development.
	Skills and other attributes
6	Create journalism content suitable for a range of audiences and outputs.
7	Demonstrate advanced skills in photojournalism and data journalism.
8	Design and develop public relations and communication artefacts suitable for publications and appropriate clients.
9	Critically reflect on professional practice and decision-making.
10	Synthesise research and theory to inform journalistic practice.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7 / the PG Cert, students will be able to:</i>
	Demonstrate familiarity with journalism production practices and develop an awareness of the relationship between professional conventions and industry contexts.
	Develop and evaluate ideas using journalism techniques and methodologies.
	Critically engage with research and contemporary industry debates, issues and conventions in journalism.

	Engage with core knowledge of journalism legal and ethical considerations in a range of output settings.
	<i>Upon completion of 120 credits at Level 7 / the PG Dip, students will be able to:</i>
	Consolidate and develop advanced skills in journalism production and the utilise relevant platforms for publication and/or output in a range of settings.
	Create stories based on structured information using data journalism techniques.
	Reflect critically and evaluate your own work.
	Analyse relationships between journalists and other stakeholders such as communications and public relations professionals.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	The majority of modules on this course feature workshop sessions, including lecture elements, group discussion and practical exercises. Sessions may feature guest speakers and can involve working on live briefs. Assessment is largely through coursework, particularly production portfolios alongside evaluations, but also presentations and reports. There will also be examinations on some modules to ensure adherence to professional standards as set out by the NCTJ. Alongside the defined module assessments, students will also be able to sit NCTJ examinations which may use an alternative method of assessment to the one submitted for the university modules. Students are given formative feedback through tutorials and written feedback on marked work. This includes feed forward to suggest areas for improvement in future submission. Assessments mirror documentation and artefacts that are standard in professional practice. The final assessment can be either a dissertation or a production project.

15	Course Requirements		
15a	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
	MED7399	Data Journalism	20
	MED7396	Journalism Essentials	20
	MED7393	Media Law, Regulation and Ethics	20
	MED7395	PR and Communications	20
	MED7397	Broadcast Journalism	20
	MED7394	Photojournalism	20
	MED7396	Professional Journalism Portfolio	60

In order to fulfil the requirements for the award of MA Journalism with Professional Placement, student undertake the module PLA6003 (60 credits)

15b Structure Diagram

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core MED7396: Journalism Essentials (20 credits) MED7393: Media Law and Regulation (20 credits) MED7393: Broadcast Journalism (20 credits)	Core MED7399: Data Journalism (20 credits) MED7395: PR and Communications (20 credits) MED7394 Photojournalism (20 credits)
SEMESTER THREE	
Core MED7396: Professional Journalism Portfolio (60 credits)	

16 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 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	371
Directed Learning	725
Private Study	704
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment*

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	92.5%
Exam	7.5%
In-Person	0%

**Note: This applies to University assessments for the Master's degree and not NCTJ Diploma examinations.*