

Course Specification

Course Summary Information			
1	Course Title	BA (Hons) Music Journalism with Foundation Year	
2	BCU Course Code	US0889F	P50J
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
	<p>Get practical, professional preparation for a career in music journalism with our BA (Hons) Music Journalism course. You'll get the chance to develop the skills to cover a range of music stories for print, digital, TV and radio, including covering live events, interviewing key figures and running collaborative liveblogs. You'll also explore the global impact of music journalism on audiences. You'll be armed with mobile reporting kits to work as real reporters from day one.</p> <p>We pride ourselves on teaching creative, contemporary journalism underpinned by traditional values and skills. That means learning the core media and communication skills that every working reporter needs before you specialise in an area that interests you.</p> <p>You'll be challenged academically – often by some of the industry's leading names – and you'll be expected to undertake meaningful work experience placements in media environments, and work on live stories, learning how to craft a story in a way that engages the audience.</p> <p>By the time you graduate, you'll be a thinking journalist with a specialism in music. You'll also be adaptable to the changes that the industry faces. Our graduates have gone on to work for Sky, BBC, Trinity Mirror and the Express & Star. Others have scooped prestigious awards at the Midlands Media Awards while still studying.</p> <p>About foundation courses</p> <p>This four year programme has been specifically designed to allow students who do not initially meet the entry requirements for a three year degree, to undertake additional level 3 study designed to ensure they are successful on their chosen degree programme.</p> <p>After successful completion of your foundation year, you will have the flexibility to switch (should you wish to change direction) onto a number of related undergraduate degree programmes within Birmingham School of Media.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>BA (Hons) Music Journalism is delivered by industry experts from broadcast, print and digital and provides a strong foundation for a future professional career with a range of music-related outlets. You'll be able to use your own mobile reporting kit when you arrive, allowing you to work as a real reporter from day one.</p>

	<p>Our Live Newsroom modules will get you to the heart of the action, covering a range of stories, creating content for our award-winning Birmingham Eastside website and other partner outlets. You'll get the chance to apply practical mobile reporting skills in a real-world environment for a variety of platforms. Our strong links with key journalism organisations means you'll also get the chance to work on live briefs throughout the course.</p> <p>Teaching is delivered in our industry-standard facilities, as well as on location, thanks to our focus on mobile reporting. Our newsroom media hub also allows for collaborative work as part of the wider University journalism community, while access to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire will offer a whole host of story opportunities on your doorstep.</p> <p>By tackling real stories, you will quickly develop a sense of the impact they can have. The focus on innovation and entrepreneurship will also encourage you to think critically about the journalism landscape. This will allow you to be one step ahead of the game to spot and exploit the next big move in the world of music journalism.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Music Journalism	6	480
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Foundation Certificate Music Journalism	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education Music Journalism	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education Music Journalism	5	360
	Bachelor of Arts Music Journalism	6	420

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study
	Full Time	City Centre	4 years
			Code(s)
			US0889F

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/ , or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website .

11	Course Learning Outcomes
	1. Knowledge & Understanding
1.1	An understanding of journalism media forms and genres, and the way in which they organise understandings, meanings and affects.
1.2	A range of research approaches – an understanding of research methods, and how to apply them creatively.
1.3	Knowledge of journalism industries contexts – an understanding of the cultural, economic, political and regulatory contexts of the journalism industries.
1.4	An understanding of your own creative processes and practice through engagement in more than one production practice.
	2. Cognitive & Intellectual Skills
2.1	Independent Learning – becoming a self-motivated, and resourceful individual capable of developing a personal programme of study.
2.2	Analytical skills – learning to analyse texts and data in order to draw sensible insights.
2.3	Critical reflection – considering and evaluating your own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions.
2.4	Research skills – learn to employ appropriate methods and resources to explore research, drawing on a range of sources, and frameworks.
	3. Practical & Professional Skills
3.1	Technical skills – develop competency with appropriate equipment, software or other resources.
3.2	An understanding of professional context – develop as a thinking creative journalist, aware of the structures and of how to operate within a journalism industries workplace.
3.3	Creative skills – develop as a creative thinker and practitioner, capable of experimenting and taking risks, and shaping concepts based on secure research strategies.
3.4	The ability to produce work which demonstrates an understanding of journalism forms, structures and audiences.
	4. Key Transferable Skills
4.1	The ability to work productively and creatively in a group or team, as well as individually, showing abilities at different times to listen, contribute and lead, as well as act effectively by oneself.
4.2	The skill to deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate of a problem-solving, and entrepreneurial approach.
4.3	The ability to communicate effectively in interpersonal settings, in writing and in a variety of media.
4.4	The ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively.

12	Course Requirements																																																			
12a	<p>Level 3:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MED3000</td> <td>Cross Media Production 1</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED3001</td> <td>Cross Media Production 2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED3002</td> <td>Media Context and Production</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED3003</td> <td>Professional and Academic Skills</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADM3004</td> <td>Major Project</td> <td>40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 4:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MED4158</td> <td>Live Newsroom 1</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4163</td> <td>Introduction to Journalism Landscapes</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4162</td> <td>Journalism Law and Ethics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4XXX</td> <td>Music Industries Landscapes</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4165</td> <td>Global and Community Impact 1</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 5:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MED5XXX</td> <td>Live Newsroom 2</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED5XXX</td> <td>Disruptive Publishing</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED5XXX</td> <td>Journalism Futures</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED5XXX</td> <td>Global and Community Impact 2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED3000	Cross Media Production 1	20	MED3001	Cross Media Production 2	20	MED3002	Media Context and Production	20	MED3003	Professional and Academic Skills	20	ADM3004	Major Project	40	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED4158	Live Newsroom 1	40	MED4163	Introduction to Journalism Landscapes	20	MED4162	Journalism Law and Ethics	20	MED4XXX	Music Industries Landscapes	20	MED4165	Global and Community Impact 1	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED5XXX	Live Newsroom 2	40	MED5XXX	Disruptive Publishing	20	MED5XXX	Journalism Futures	20	MED5XXX	Global and Community Impact 2	20
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In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MED5169	Fashion Photography	20
MED5181	Photojournalism	20
MED5185	Radio documentary	20
MED5196	Television Studio	20
MED5182	PR Planning and Delivery	20
MED5178	Music Industry Promotional Practices	20
ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20

Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ADM6006	Major Project	60
MED6202	Live Newsroom 3	20
MED6XXX	Global and Community Impact 3	20
MED6XXX	Journalism Innovation and Entrepreneurship	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		
FOUND- ATION	Professional and Academic Skills (20 Credits)			
	Cross-media Production 1 (20 credits)	Cross-media Production 2 (20 credits)		
	Media Context and Production (20 credits)	Practice Project (40 credits)		
Year 1	Live Newsroom 1 (40)			
	Journalism Law & Ethics (20)	Introduction to Journalism Landscapes (20)	Music Industries Landscapes (20)	Global and Community Impact 1 (20)
Year 2	Live Newsroom 2 (40)			
	Journalism Futures (20)	Disruptive Publishing (20)	Optional Module (20)	Global and Community Impact 2 (20)
Year 3	Live Newsroom 3 (20)	Major Project (60)		
	Journalism Innovation and Entrepreneurship (20)	Global and Community Impact 3 (20)		

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 3

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	480
Directed Learning	480
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	72%
Exam	0
In-Person	28%

Level 4

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	220
Directed Learning	740
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	80%
Exam	0
In-Person	20%

Level 5
Workload
% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	240
Directed Learning	720
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	80%
Exam	0
In-Person	20%

Level 6
Workload
% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	129
Directed Learning	831
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	75%
Exam	0
In-Person	25%