

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Journalism (Television)
Award	MA
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Journalism
Programme code	PSTVCM
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The programme benefits from the following:

- contacts network in the UK and overseas.
- Graduates include Dermot Murhagnan (Sky News), Sophie Raworth (BBC) and Caroline Faraj (Editor of CNNArabic.com)
- Industry recognition: an outstanding departmental reputation with excellent contacts and access to the industry.
- This is a relatively new course which began in 2033 and has already educated journalists working in all major TV newsrooms.
- Location: in the heart of London and on the doorstep of the world's major news and media organisations
- Faculty: highest-quality teaching staff, led by Lis Howell, an award winning TV journalist, and including renowned media commentator Roy Greenslade, and the former Editor-in-Chief of ITN Stewart Purvis, plus the former Head of News and Current Affairs for Channel 4, David Lloyd.
- Facilities: facilities include state-of-the-art multimedia studios and newsrooms

This programme is designed to meet the need for entry-level workers in television.

News reporting plays a large part but the course is also pitched for people who wish to enter the television industry as news assistants, researchers and assistant producers.

The programme is accredited by the Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC).

The programme prepares you for a first job in television journalism, across a broad range of television factual programmes ranging from hard news to light topical daytime or 'how-to' shows, to issue-led discussion programmes, documentary films and serious news analysis. Skills are taught in small groups and include how to research a topic, write a brief, construct film treatments, compile studio running orders and make a documentary.

As an extra, the programme includes a weekly placement in a TV company, and each student will experience working in at least two different companies over three terms.

The placements provide an invaluable opportunity to gain experience, practise newly-acquired skills and make contacts.

Facilities include broadcast quality video cameras, a studio with CSO, autocue, graphics, 8 channel mixer, full lighting rig and set; and digital computerised editing taught in small groups.

The MA is achieved through the successful completion of eleven modules.

Aims

- to provide education in journalism and excellence in key journalism skills
- to provide students with key transferable and subject-specific skills which allow them to exercise initiative in professional practice
- to enable students to develop a critical awareness and understanding of the ethical issues facing journalists
- to enable students to develop a critical awareness and understanding of the social contexts of journalism
- to enable students to develop a critical awareness and understanding of the practices of journalism
- to enable students to reflect on and evaluate complex issues and to apply their knowledge to enhance their professional practice

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Comprehensive and critical understanding of journalism practice, the journalism industry and its organisational structures in the UK
- Comprehensive and critical understanding of journalism research methods and techniques
- Critical awareness of the responsibilities and roles of journalism practitioners in a general context, and the social, economic and legal contexts within which they work
- Systematic understanding of the workings of UK government and media law

Skills:

- Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively
- Exercise self-direction and originality to design and produce journalism to a professional standards
- Exercise initiative and personal responsibility
- Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of journalism
- Make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations
- Make sound judgements in the absence of complete information
- Exercise self-direction and originality in research and story-telling
- Carry out the independent learning required for continuing professional development
- Communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Engage in original thought, and exercise professional judgement
- Apply relevant knowledge and ideas to practical situations, so integrating theory and practice
- Demonstrate practical and technical skills such as video editing and understanding of a television gallery

Values and attitudes:

- Critical awareness of professional standards and practice
- Critical awareness of the ethical dimensions of journalism
- Critical awareness of the importance of advancing professional knowledge and understanding, and developing new skills to high level

HOW WILL I LEARN?

While the practical nature of this programme is designed for you to research and produce industry-standard products, suitable for transmission or publication, the academic focus of the programme enables you to analyse and evaluate existing practice in journalism.

Teaching is delivered in a variety of ways; formal lectures to convey information and establish broad principles, practical workshops which allow hands-on experience under the guidance of tutors, seminars which encourage your participation and critical debate, student-led presentations and discussions and work simulation which involve you reporting news stories to deadline.

As the programme progresses, there is increased emphasis on student-centred learning and the self-discipline, organisation and commitment that independent study and group projects require. This culminates in the production of websites and television programmes. You are also introduced to the theoretical, regulatory and ethical contexts in which television journalists operate.

Transferable skills are generally incorporated within modules and through assessments. Journalistic skills are acquired through practical journalism modules and you are required to undertake work placements (not assessed). These are available through existing relationships with employers. The programme does not grant academic credit for work placements or internships.

Learning and teaching methods comprise lectures, tutor led seminars, student presentations, group discussion in small classes, tutorials and workshops. Each module involves discussion and application of key practices, evaluation of perspectives, both orally and in writing, and analysis and interpretation of material and feedback on work produced, independent research, simulations, practical exercises, formative feedback, critical analysis of media products/organisational structures, group journalism production.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment strategies complement the teaching and learning in a mixture of exams, coursework, group and individual presentations and extended pieces of journalism.

Coursework, projects, essays, examination. Production of regular assignments, production of portfolio and project analysis of products/ organisations.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The Pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a Postgraduate Certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:
 - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the module specification), and
 - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
 - A minimum overall mark of 10 percentage points below the pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
 - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks shall be retained in the record of marks and the greater of the original module mark and the minimum pass mark for the module shall be used for the purpose of calculation towards the Award.

2. Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	180	100

Class **% required**

With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	160	100

Class **% required**

With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	60	100

Class **% required**

With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
With Pass	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The MA is studied over 10 months in three academic periods.

To qualify for a Master's degree, a student must acquire a total of 180 credits

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Final Project	JOM777	20	C	N	7
Journalism Innovation	JOM783	10	C	N	7
TV/Broadcast Journalism Practice	JOM831	30	C	N	7
Online Journalism	JOM845	20	C	N	7
Media Law	JOM846	20	C	N	7
Public Administration and Government	JOM847	10	C	N	7
Research for Television Programme Making	JOM931	10	C	N	7
TV Journalism Editorial Production	JOM938	30	C	N	7
Journalism and Society 1	JOM961	10	C	N	7
Journalism and Society 2	JOM962	10	C	N	7
TV studio programme making	JOM103	10	E	N	7
Television video "films"	JOM105	10	E	N	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:

<http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Entry requirements include a very good first degree in any subject from a recognised university and evidence of a commitment to journalism (through relevant work experience) OR a minimum of three years' experience of journalism or related media industry (e.g. public relations, advertising).

An IELTS score of at least 7.0 is mandatory for all students for whom English is not their first language, but ordinarily such students will be encouraged to apply for the MA in International Journalism.

APL/AP(E)L Requirements

Requests for AP(e)L will be considered on their individual merits. An assessment of the suitability of the applicant shall be made in terms of his or her qualifications and relevant work experience. An interview and/or written task may also be required to assess the extent to which the applicant can demonstrate his or her ability to meet the learning outcomes of the relevant module(s). The maximum exempt credit available shall be 25%, i.e. MA = 45 credits, PG Dip = 30 credits.

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