Postgraduate Journalism courses online chat

This online chat session is for students interested in studying Postgraduate Journalism course. The session will give you the opportunity to ask questions about all our Postgraduate Journalism courses, what its like to be a student at City and living in London. As this is a typed chat group session, you will be able to see the answers to questions asked by other applicants.

Thank you for joining us for today’s CityChat session. This session is for students interested in studying our Journalism at City. This session runs from 16:00 - 17:00 (GMT) with the first 30 minutes being a pre-recorded presentation from Deputy Head of Journalism, Paul Lashmar.

This will be followed by an open chat session for you to ask any questions you have regarding these courses and life at City, University of London.

To ask a question, please type it in the chat box. Your question will not post straight away - it will be sent to our Moderators who will type an answer back. Once their answer is complete, it will be published with your question. Please make sure you say which course you have applied to when you post your question. You are also welcome to post just saying hi and introducing yourself!

Your moderators today are:

Will McGee - PG Journalism Student
Barney Weston - PG Journalism Student
Carl Whinder - Marketing Executive
Shanice Harrison - Marketing Assistant

Hi everyone, this is Will. I'm a student on the MA International Journalism course (print pathway). Happy to answer any questions you may have.

Hi I'm Carl, I work in the marketing team. Looking forward to seeing all you questions about studying Journalism at City.

Hi everyone, my name is Shanice and I work in marketing here at City. I look forward to answering your questions!

Hello everyone! I'm Barney, and I'm very happy to say I have just finished my MA in Broadcast Journalism! So ping all your TV and radio questions my way! :)

We will now play the presentation by Deputy Head of Journalism Paul Lashmar, giving you an overview of Journalism at City. We will have a Q&A session with Barney and Will after the presentation but you are also free to ask any questions you may have while the presentation is on.

Hello!

Do you have any questions for us?
Hi! I am [name] and I will be studying International Journalism (Masters) at City in September.

Hi! Congratulations on becoming a City student! We look forward to welcoming you.

Can we ask questions whilst watching the presentation or do we wait till the end?

Ask ahead! :)

Hi! I’m [name] joining City with the International Journalism MA program starting in September.

Hi [name], congratulations on becoming a City student too! We look forward to welcoming you in September. I hope you’re excited!

Is there a part time version of the masters in journalism?

I’m afraid none of our Journalism course are part-time.

Hi! My name is [name] and I am applying for the MA in Magazine Journalism. I had two questions: 1. Any advice for writing personal statements? I gather they are very different in nature to personal statements for BA Hons, but not quite the same level as Cover Letters for Jobs?

Hi [name], it’s not too different from other personal statements, to be honest. The most important aspects to include are why you are passionate about journalism, why you want to be a journalist and why you want to study journalism at City. Also mention any journalistic experience you already have under your belt.

I want to know what is the difference between MA tv journalism and broadcast journalism? They look similar with each other.
Hi! I'm well placed to answer this because I was in just your shoes! The main main difference between broadcast and TV is that broadcast focuses on TV AND Radio. Going into journalism now, I think it's really important to have every skill possible at your fingertips. TV channels don't just look for TV journalists anymore, and neither do radio stations look for radio journalists! They want multimedia journalists.

The other difference is all about work experience. On the TV course, you get it sorted for you, whereas for broadcast you have to get it yourself (which is no where near as hard as it may seem - City has a great reputation!)

My first question is, how do you suggest we acquire internships and short placements? Especially knowing how busy these organisations are

Hi! It sounds very basic, but all you need to do is write to someone at the paper, programme, etc. - usually the editor or the deputy editor - and ask for work experience. Keep the email brief and state exactly what you want to do.

I haven't done work experience yet, but I have a week coming up in July at the Telegraph. I simply wrote to the paper asking for work experience. Usually there will be an hour's session during the course dedicated to applying for work experience. But the main thing is to find somewhere you want to work and just send them an email.

Thank you Will!

No problem. Any other questions, let me know!

My first question is, how do you suggest we acquire internships and short placements? Especially knowing how busy these organisations are

Yesh, make sure to also mention that you're going to be doing an MA in Journalism at City, University of London. The course is very well known and has a great reputation! Places like the BBC and the Guardian will refer you to apply for work experience (quite rightly I think) so with them I'd suggest asking for coffee or to shadow them for a day!

Are there scholarships / bursaries

We have quite a few scholarships in Journalism, however the deadline for 2019 has passed for all of them now. They will be updated next year so keep your eye out if you want to apply for 2020:

[link](https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/arts-social-sciences/journalism/journalism-scholarships)

**Postgraduate journalism scholarships 2018/19**

Postgraduate journalism scholarships 2018/19 including the Daily Mail Stephen Lawrence scholarships and Nick Lewis scholarship.
As current and former Journalism MA students, how did you find the workload? Do you find that students have the time or opportunities to undertake internships/part-time jobs? (Both to benefit the course work and future job placement, as well as to help fund studies)

Hi, we’re strongly advised not to undertake work experience during term time. Some of my classmates have part-time jobs and manage everything, but their jobs generally don’t clash with classes.

I found the workload in my first term to be very manageable. Second term was quite busy. Third term was busy for me, but only because I took on a sub-editor position for the magazine we made.

Holidays are the best time to undertake work experience.

Hello, I will be studying broadcast journalism in September. Can someone tell me what the timetable is like and how you make money work and your living situation etc. Just trying to work out the logistics, I live an hour from Waterloo so unsure whether to commute

Hey, I was very lucky because I moved into halls right round the corner from uni, so commuting wasn’t a problem. But from Waterloo shouldn’t be so bad. You can take number 4 or 274 (£1.50 with a railcard!) and it’s only a short walk from there. About getting time to find money, the first term is busy but you can make it work - but it will be busy.

As current and former Journalism MA students, how did you find the workload? Do you find that students have the time or opportunities to undertake internships/part-time jobs? (Both to benefit the course work and future job placement, as well as to help fund studies)

Meant to write “first term” instead of “first time”!

Hi it’s from Syria, planning to apply for Chevening 2020... wonder when the MA International Journalism 2020 Or the MA Television course 2020 will open ... and as you know the Chevening application will be opened in Aug 2019 and is better to have it

I believe applications for 2020 open in September. If you contact our admissions team they will be able to tell you for definite. admissions@city.ac.uk

journalism course, dedicated just for work experience?

Hi, Christmas holidays, Easter holidays or over the summer are the best times. :)

Are there scholarships / bursaries

You can also find scholarships away from City University. The Scott Trust scheme at the guardian might still be open.

What’s the main difference between the interactive and the international master?
The interactive is more focused on exploring digital channels with modules like:
- Social, Community and Multimedia Management
- Data Journalism

while the international course is more geared to students who want to look at the more global topics and the international news environment with modules like:
- Global Journalism
- International News

To find out more please check out the course pages on our website:
https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/interactive-journalism
https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/international-journalism

**Interactive Journalism MA Course**

Fees in each subsequent year of study (where applicable) will be subject to an annual increase of 2%. We will confirm any change to the annual tuition fee to you in writing prior to you commencing each subsequent year of study (where applicable).

**International Journalism MA Course**

Fees in each subsequent year of study (where applicable) will be subject to an annual increase limited by the All Items Retail Prices Index. We will confirm any change to the annual tuition fee to you in writing prior to you commencing each subsequent year of study (where applicable).

---

Hi, I've applied for Newspaper MA. I was just wondering how exclusive all these subjects are on the whole, and how these courses are received by organisations. For example, are there elements of investigative journalism within newspaper journalism? Do newspaper and magazine share similar fundamental skills?

---

Hey [Name], Look, I’m on broadcast, so I can’t comment on any other courses. BUT, on my course there was some crossover. The then investigative course director came in to us to talk about investigative skills (but only one lecture so nothing hugely in depth). I, of course, also did TV.

The best person to answer this will be the course director though.

---

Another question is that I have already had two placements with the BBC in Broadcasting house and in Manchester Salford Quays. I believe that having done work experience with them already, it’s better to apply at other organisations during the Christmas holidays so I can understand the News Room more.. or do you suggest that I stick to interning with the BBC as of now?

---

Firstly, congratulations, those both sound great! It’s really up to you. You’re already in a very strong position with two work placements at the BBC under your belt, whether you get another placement at the BBC or another organisation. It’s really up to you! That’s the good thing about work placements - we can essentially do whatever we want (within reason)!
Another question is that I have already had two placements with the BBC in Broadcasting house and in Manchester Salford Quays. I believe that having done work experience with them already, it's better to apply at other organisations during the Christmas holidays so I can understand the News Room more.. or do you suggest that I stick to interning with the BBC as of now?

If those people asked you to come back - you should go ahead and get in there and try get some paid work! :)

What’s the percentage of students getting a contract after the program?

I’m afraid there is no way to give specific figures on this as it changes over time and can depend on the cohort of each year. What I can tell you is that City has a great reputation within the industry and our undergraduate courses have 90% employment rate 6 months after graduation according to the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey.

Thank you so much Will and Barney

Hi Barney thank you could you let me know what the hours are like roughly ????

The first term (September to December) is most days 9-5, Wednesday and Thursday on broadcast especially, otherwise you’ll have days ‘mostly’ full of lectures but the second and third you can hold down a part-time job.

I understand, I’m interested in data journalism and investigative journalism? Is it possible to take data journalism classes while attending the International journalism master?

It may be possible to audit modules outside of your course but you would need to check with the course director. Often we would only suggest auditing 1 extra module as they don’t count towards your final mark and you will need to devote a lot of attention to your course.

For full time MA, is it a general 9-5 structure or is there a lot of weekend and evening work expected too? Just wondering in terms of the possibility of holding down a part-time job simultaneously.

what course are you looking at doing?

...another question: Joy - After studying International Journalism MA, what are the prospects of working abroad and finding a job abroad?

It is very hard to say as it will vary greatly which country and how much experience you have. You will need to research the news sectors in the countries you are interested in and maybe contact a few people in the news industries there.

I would like to know if it would be possible to start working while attending the program... will there be enough time? How many hours should be in class?
Hi, I'm just finishing the MA International Journalism course. We are in class or on assignment pretty much every day of the week. Term time is usually quite busy, particularly towards the end of each term (in particular, second and third term). I didn't have a part-time job during term time, but there were plenty on my course who did and managed everything fine, although they were very busy.

Another thing to mention is that many of my classmates pitch their pieces to newspapers and magazines, earning money that way.

How difficult it is to get a stable job or enough freelance jobs in journalism in Uk? I'm Italian and already have an MA in journalism from an Italian university. I work for broadcasting and online news. I want to enroll in a master at the city to start working with the English market reporting about Italian and Europe

I would say that if you've already got an MA in journalism in Italy, you should already be quite employable over here. Can you self-shoot? Write scripts? It also depends on your level of English.

Wicked, that sounds good. Barney, did you freelance 2nd/3rd time

I managed to find time on the side to get work done!

Did you freelance I mean during the masters?

Yes!

...another question 😊 - After studying International Journalism MA, what are the prospects of working abroad and finding a job abroad?

Hi, I got in touch with an English newspaper based in Madrid and I'm shortly going to start writing some articles for them. A classmate of mine has just been accepted onto a six-month internship in Zurich. The world is your oyster!

Hi guys, I am applying for the MA International Journalism. I was wondering how many UK students take part in that course or is it majority internationals?

International has about 90 students but I'm not sure the breakdown between UK and International. However, I believe it is a fairly evenly split.

Will, wow, thank you for answering

Will, So would you say whilst studying International Journalism (MA) it's completely doable to have a part-time job?
Personally, I’m glad I didn’t have one, as it allowed me to dedicate more time to my uni work. However, everyone is different, and many of my classmates worked one or two days a week and managed everything fine. The course is quite busy, though, and we’re not encouraged to miss classes to undertake other work.

Will, So would you say whilst studying International Journalism (MA) it’s completely doable to have a part time job? If you do want to get a part-time job, it’s better to do it on, say, a Saturday, or on weekday evenings.

Thanks Will - I do plan to work at least two days a week.

No problem. I have plenty of classmates who do just that. :)

I graduated with my BA in Journalism in 2015, so it’s been a few years since I’ve been in school. Are there any reading materials/way I can prepare myself prior to the start of the course? I’ll be in the International Journalism course/

Hi, my experience is similar. I finished my BA in 2012 and started my MA at City last September. There’s no required reading (apart from the news!) You’re just required to have a healthy interest in news and journalism. :)

Barney, are there ‘holidays’ or ‘breaks’ you get where you have time off?

Yes you get Christmas and Easter - that’s when people tend to get their work experience done though. But if you’re organised, you can make it work. I had to work very hard leading up to Christmas but I managed to get a month off.

I graduated with my BA in Journalism in 2015, so it’s been a few years since I’ve been in school. Are there any reading materials/way I can prepare myself prior to the start of the course? I’ll be in the International Journalism course/ And obviously your BA was in journalism (unlike mine), so you already have that interest and enthusiasm.

But in these you do your work experience

You have to get 15 to get the BJTC requirement. That doesn’t have to mean 2 weeks out of your life working 9 to 5. I built mine up from some weekend and early morning shifts.

Hi Carl! I’m interested in data, investigative broadcasting

On the broadcast course you take a module in data journalism - which has been a huge help. Learning Excel, and learning how to use analytical techniques. I feel very comfortable doing data journalism now. On investigative techniques, we got a lecture from the Investigate Journalism course director, but I do have friends now who are now working in investigative roles.
What can we do to better prepare ourselves before the course starts?

All you need is a healthy interest in news and journalism. That’s it, really! :)

This is not a course specific question, but general in applying. I’m coming from the United States, so in the process of applying for student loans and then the student visa. Is there anyone who knows about how long it takes to apply for the Tier 4 visa? (If any of the moderators might be International students themselves?)

Hi there. You will need to contact admissions@city.ac.uk with questions regarding visas.

Barney, I haven’t tried reaching to the media in the UK. I’m in Manchester now for few months taking my IELTS and I know there are many media companies here. I don’t really know who I should contact but I can work on it. But I would be interested to know how difficult it is to get a full time job in journalism here, or to have enough freelance work to be able to earn enough money?

What can we do to better prepare ourselves before the course starts?

Regarding work experience, if you want to do it over the Christmas holidays, it’s good to start sending out emails sooner rather than later. But after the course has started (in September/October) is fine.

Barney, I haven’t tried reaching to the media in the UK. I’m in Manchester now for few months taking my IELTS and I know there are many media companies here. I don’t really know who I should contact but I can work on it. But I would be interested to know how difficult it is to get a full time job in journalism here, or to have enough freelance work to be able to earn enough money?

The best answer to this is to e-mail people first. I don’t know what skills you have and what’s on your CV, but if you’re in Manchester - the BBC has loads of people up there. Try e-mailing the editor of BBC Radio Manchester, look north, or Slive. Ask them for coffee or to shadow them.

Barney, I haven’t tried reaching to the media in the UK. I’m in Manchester now for few months taking my IELTS and I know there are many media companies here. I don’t really know who I should contact but I can work on it. But I would be interested to know how difficult it is to get a full time job in journalism here, or to have enough freelance work to be able to earn enough money?

And keep your eye on work experience.

That’s good to hear Will!

Barney, I haven’t tried reaching to the media in the UK. I’m in Manchester now for few months taking my IELTS and I know there are many media companies here. I don’t really know who I should contact but I can work on it. But I would be interested to know how difficult it is to get a full time job in journalism here, or to have enough freelance work to be able to earn enough money?

You can definitely make money as a freelancer in the UK. That’s how a lot of journalists do it over here but I recommend you join the NUJ if so.

And Barney, what type of roles and employment have yourself and others got from the course.
we're working throughout the industry. literally all over. BBC, Sky. I'm going for something in Paris at the moment. All paid too. But it does come after some work experience and unpaid shifts.

And how the international journalism master is different from the broadcasting?

Hi, if you take International Journalism, you do both print and broadcast in your first term, then you choose to specialise in one of the two in second term. I chose print, but around two thirds of those on my course chose broadcast. As far as I'm aware, there's a lot of overlap between the two courses if you opt for the broadcast pathway - mainly in the second and third terms.

Barney, broadcasting sounds interesting! Do you feel like you will find a full-time job easily?

Full-time jobs in journalism straight off the bat are not frequent. I know one person on the course on a long-term contract I think. Others are on 6 months etc but I feel confident for him afterwards. However, these are still rarities. Most people are freelancing.

I have a question. There are some media societies like student television and newspaper, student radio on campus. Do you think I should attend all of them or just focus on one or two of them? Regarding to nowadays journalists should know everything.

I suspect it would be quite ambitious to get involved in all of them. The best thing to do would be, for example, to get involved with the student newspaper if you are specialising in broadcast journalism on your course. That way you can add more strings to your bow.

Also to add that it's not obligatory to get involved with any of the societies. But if you are keen, it's encouraged. ;)

Thank you!

Barney, broadcasting sounds interesting! Do you feel like you will find a full-time job easily?

If you've already got an MA and are in Manchester, find some names. E-mail some people. Ask to shadow them for a day. Keep an eye on work experience. It sounds like you've already got some experience. Don't feel you need an MA in England to work here. Luckily you've got some time before September. USE IT. You can always chuck in an application anyway. I don't think there's a deposit.

Barney, how much are you earning at the moment after finishing the program? Is the faculty giving you contacts to freelance with? Is an internship mandatory and when do you have to do the internship?
I am from China. Is it better for international students to apply for international journalism?

Not necessarily! Though about half of the International Journalism course is comprised of international students. The other courses tend to be more "British", but not exclusively so.

Hi there! I currently work as a Field producer-journalist for international news channels, sending news from my home country. Do you recommend me the International Journalism MA or the TV Journalism MA? I mostly work for TV Journalism but I wonder if in the International Journalism Course also help me to improve Broadcast knowledge.

If you would like to improve your Broadcast knowledge then I would suggest taking a look at the Broadcast MA:
https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/broadcast-journalism

Broadcast Journalism MA Course

Study this Broadcast Journalism postgraduate course at a top-ranked London Institution. Alumni include Sophie Raworth (BBC).

We learn similar things between international journalism and broadcast journalism right?

Correct, if you specialise in broadcast journalism in your second term in the International Journalism course.

Hi there! I currently work as a Field producer-journalist for international news channels, sending news from my home country. Do you recommend me the International Journalism MA or the TV Journalism MA? I mostly work for TV Journalism but I wonder if in the International Journalism Course also help me to improve Broadcast knowledge. sounds like you've already got some great experience Monica. broadcast can add radio to your skillset.

We learn similar things between international journalism and broadcast journalism right?

(You can either specialise in print or broadcast in international Journalism in your second term.)

perfect thanks for the advise

but as i say it sounds like you have great experience. think, why am I doing this? if it's to come to the uk, e-mail some editors over here first and ask them :)

not gunna answer that. the faculty doesn't give contacts but they do have working professionals in on the broadcast MA to have a look and for you to network with. city also has a great reputation in the uk.
Thank you all for your help!

This session has now ended. Thank you for joining us for today's chat. If you have any questions, please email journalism@city.ac.uk