PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name</th>
<th>Journalism and Contemporary History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>BA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Arts and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department or equivalent</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS Code</td>
<td>PV51</td>
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<td>Programme code</td>
<td>UJJACH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of study</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total UK credits</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ECTS</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partner (partnership programmes only)</td>
<td>Queen Mary, University of London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of partnership</td>
<td>Joint Programme with Degree Awarding Powers Body</td>
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</table>

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The course is run jointly between City University London and Queen Mary University of London. It is based on City's practical journalism teaching and Queen Mary's broad range of history modules. Students learn the full range of skills relevant to a career in journalism, including writing for and designing newspapers and magazines, editing and production for radio and TV and web journalism. They will also have a rigorous academic education in contemporary history, which is likely to be valuable in a career in journalism. Students have the opportunity to spend a year abroad studying or working on placements.

The joint degree in Journalism and Contemporary gives students a thorough grounding in journalism, informed by a knowledge of the recent past. Three years, full time. 360 credits, 180 in Journalism, 180 in Contemporary History. Two semesters, each of 12 weeks. Regular assessment, with exams in most areas during the summer examination period. Journalism modules range from 15 to 30 credits, and a total of 60 credits are taken each year. In Contemporary History, students follow four equally weighted modules.

The history modules are taught and assessed at Queen Mary College and are therefore not covered in City University's specification. Students have an opportunity to take a third year out either studying at a university abroad or at placements in the industry.

Programme Aims:
- Provide education in journalism and proficiency in journalism skills, informed and improved by knowledge of the recent past and its influence on the present
- Develop written and verbal communication skills, including an option to obtain a working knowledge of another language.
- Develop the journalistic and communication skills required for a first job in the media or related fields
- Introduce students to the three main strands in journalism (print, internet and broadcasting) allowing specialisation in either print or broadcasting in the final year
- Learn skills in developing and communicating argument both in written and oral forms
- Provide students with a thorough grounding in key aspects of modern and contemporary history
- Equip students to understand the unique problems of dealing with the challenges of recent and contemporary history.
- Introduce students to, and encourage them to employ, a range of methodological approaches in relation to History.
- Expose students to political, cultural, religious, social and economic themes as appropriate drawn from Queen Mary's strengths in British, European and North American history.
- Provide the opportunity for students to develop specialisms in areas such as film history, cultural history, modern American history and contemporary British political history.
- Encourage and support students to design their own coherent pathway of study.
- Equip students with the generic and transferable skills as defined in the History Benchmarks (2000) including self-direction; independence of mind; ability to gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information; structure, coherence, clarity and fluency of both oral and written expression; intellectual integrity.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- the practice of journalism today, the structure of the industry and the historical context
- the different types of journalism required for newspapers, magazines, broadcast and the web, and an understanding of the different audiences
- the law as relating to journalism, and the current ethical issues and debates within the media
- major political, cultural and social systems in contemporary history, with a coherent and detailed knowledge of the complex influences that impact on recent history and on journalism
- continuity and change from the nineteenth century to the present day
- historical research, the formulation of historical argument and its presentation in written and oral forms

Skills:

- use various media to communicate to a specific audience
- communicate ideas, information, problems and solutions to a wide range of audiences
- demonstrate an ability to work independently, to manage time effectively and work to deadlines
- present written work clearly and effectively, drawing on information technology as appropriate
- use media equipment creatively at an advanced level to begin a career in the
media or related fields
• critically assess information from a range of sources
• choose a career based on the knowledge, skills, and contacts gained
• demonstrate interpersonal skills and work in a team both at university and on work attachments
• research and assess subject specific facts, concepts, underlying values and theories
• write engaging, concise, well constructed copy which is accurate, legally and grammatically correct and appropriate to the target audience
• exercise professional judgment and take into account such issues as the public interest and benefit to society
• demonstrate motivation, self-discipline, and initiative
• write well-argued, well-researched, tightly constructed, theoretically underpinned and correctly annotated essays for their contemporary history modules
• display the habits of critical inquiry and reflection
• master recording techniques (both manual and technical) appropriate for use in the media and related fields
• demonstrate an awareness of the diverse functions of the media
• present information both visually and orally in a creative and engaging style
• manage complex production processes
• show an ability to evaluate information from a wide variety of sources (such as interviews, the mass media, internet, books, specialist journals, press conferences, press releases, courts, public meetings, eye-witnessing) and present it according to specific demands
• demonstrate the ability to adapt to new and changing technologies
• show ability to deal with various sources for the study of contemporary history, to evaluate their limitations and determine their relative worth and use as historical evidence
• have an option to begin or develop knowledge of a foreign language
• develop the ability to make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts
• have an option to learn Pitman Teeline shorthand, the industry standard
• communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to a range of audiences (both specialist and non-specialist) and in a variety of formats

Values and attitudes:
• gain an insight into the major ethical issues facing journalists today
• develop a critical awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the journalist in society
• become aware of the importance of accuracy and fairness and the right to personal privacy
• learn to reflect and study independently
• students will develop an awareness of the value of thorough and accurate research, and the value and importance of transferring their findings accurately to their own work

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark statements for Communication, Media Film and Cultural Studies.
HOW WILL I LEARN?

In journalism, the first year introduces students to the basics of journalism practice (print and internet) together with a study of the historical context. A foreign language can be studied at an appropriate level or students may choose to make an in depth study of the British media. In contemporary history first year students choose four course-units with the guidance of their personal adviser in the department. Normally their choices will include at least one of the broad outline courses on American, British or European History: Shaping of Contemporary Britain, Europe since 1870 and The American Century: The United States since 1900 (all two units each). There is also the opportunity to take skills courses, such as Methods of History.

In the second year journalism courses students develop their reporting, feature writing and subbing skills. They are introduced to the principles of newspaper and magazine design, using the QuarkXpress program, and the basics of radio production. Students have an option to continue with their foreign language studies, take up Teeline shorthand, study British government, international news or make an in-depth study of the British magazine market. In History, students take four units at levels 1 or 2, with a minimum of two units at level 2, with the guidance of their personal adviser. Students are able to choose from a very wide range of courses offered by the history department, other departments within the College, and other history departments within the University (Group 1 or Group 2 courses as defined by the University of London School of History). The flexibility of the system enables students to design their own coherent pathway of study in accordance with their developing intellectual interests. By the end of their second year, most students will have been encouraged to have undertaken at least one historiographically reflexive course unit, such as Methods of History (level 1) or the Historiographical Essay (level 2). A third year option allows students to study abroad at journalism schools or take up work attachments in the industry, or a combination of both.

In the final year students choose between print and broadcasting for their advanced practical journalism. They study newspaper law and ethics and have an option of producing a major project (either for a print publication or for radio) or taking a course in specialised journalism. In history students take either a four-unit special subject (either offered by the Department or by another college within the University) or a four-unit history research dissertation, both at level 3. Both the special subject and the history research dissertation require extensive use of primary sources. Students write their dissertations (15,000 words long) on a subject of their own choosing under individual supervision, additionally supported by a programme of dissertation workshops. Course choices are made with the guidance of the student’s personal adviser in the Department. All the practical journalism modules are assessed through a mix of regular weekly assignments and three hour examinations, with the exception of the final year project or specialism, which are continually assessed.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria
Work attachments are assessed in the second and third year through the production of portfolios. Practical assignments in the first year are usually set by the lecturer, and as students progress through the course, gradually more of the work is based on their own ideas and initiative, and on live reporting assignments. Group working skills are developed through joint newspaper and magazine projects and the final year broadcasting studio work. Students also, through presentations and seminars, reflect critically on the values and routines underpinning journalistic practice. Contemporary History is taught through lectures, seminars and essay-writing. Teachers comment on essays in detail, either in writing or in one-to-one discussions, or both.

The subject knowledge base is assessed through marked coursework, project work, presentations, unseen examinations and work attachment portfolios. A university-wide system for assessment and moderation ensures that processes are fair, rigorous and consistent.

Values and Attitudes are assessed in journalism coursework and examinations.

Cognitive/Intellectual Skills are assessed through a combination of exams, regular marked coursework, essays, project work and the production of work attachment portfolios.

Regular individual and group work assignments to deadlines and in examinations.

To prepare them for a career, they complete a work attachment portfolio. This will contain a CV, references from employers and a diary of their activities, which should cover details of the work the student undertook, an assessment of the publication, broadcast station or website and reflection on any professional and ethical issues arising during the placement.

A range of assessment methods will be employed to ensure that you have met the learning outcomes. The assessment will vary with each module but will include the following:

a) Assessed coursework including:
   • Essays (individual written report based on research and reading about an assigned topic);
   • Student presentations and group and individual project work;
   • A dissertation undertaken with supervision;
   • Reports or reviews on areas of practical or theoretical interest or identifying the contribution of an individual student to a group project;

b) Unseen written examinations to assess your knowledge of key concepts and theories

Your work will be assessed according to the assessment criteria published for the programme. 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 attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order 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

You will receive feedback on your work in a variety of ways: through formal written feedback of assessment tasks; through advice from tutors on drafts of your work as it progresses; and orally from tutors and other students in seminars and other forums.

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. You also need to pass each Part of your Programme in order to progress to the following Part.

The manner in which the final award is calculated is outlined below.

The Pass mark for each module is 40%. Where the marks for a module arise from several assessment tasks, the final mark will be taken as an aggregate mark calculated in proportion to the weighting of each component.

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 of a Part at first or resit attempt, 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 Part, and
   - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10 percentage points below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
   - An aggregate mark of 40% has been achieved for the Part.

   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 to the next Part and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Part, but satisfy the requirements for the previous Part, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Part 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

The regulations for the BA Journalism and Contemporary History are set out in the Memorandum of Cooperation and Special Regulations.

In summary during the first two years a student is required to pass six of the possible eight History modules at 40%.

For Journalism students are normally required to pass all four units at L4 to progress to Part 2. The examination board may, however, permit a student to progress provided that the student has failed no more than one unit, and the unit is not a core unit.

A student who is permitted to progress carrying a fail may elect either to resit the failed unit at the next available opportunity, or to retain the failed unit in his/her profile.

Students who fail units at City are required to resit at the first opportunity, in September of the same year.

A student who fails a QM unit will normally be expected to resit the following May.

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Bachelor's Degree with Honours:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>III</td>
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Ordinary Degree:

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<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
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Diploma of Higher Education:
Certificate of Higher Education:

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<th>Part</th>
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<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
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<tr>
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<td>30</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
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<td>With Merit</td>
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<td></td>
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WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Part 2

Programme Core Modules

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/Elective</th>
<th>Compensation Yes/No</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reporting 2 and Features</td>
<td>JO2205</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<td>Production 2 (print &amp; radio)</td>
<td>JO2208</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Core</td>
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Programme Elective Modules

| Structure of Government             | JO2107    | 15             | Elective      | No                  | 5     |
| Shorthand                           | JO2108    | 15             | Elective      | No                  | 5     |
| History of Journalism 2            | JO2301    | 15             | Elective      | No                  | 6     |
| Visual Journalism                  | JO2350    | 15             | Elective      | No                  | 5     |
| International News                 | JO3112    | 15             | Elective      | No                  | 5     |

Structure

Two core practical journalism modules:
Reporting Features 2 a core 30 credit module
Production a core 15 credit modules

One elective module all at 15 credits.

The remainder of Parts 1, 2 and 3 will consist of modules from Queen Mary University of London to the value of 60 credits.
Please check with the programme director for the current list of contemporary history modules available.
Contemporary history: students choose four units, mainly from broad introductory modules such as ‘The American Century’, ‘Europe Since 1890’; and ‘The Road from 1945: Britain Since the Second World War’. There is also the opportunity to take skills-
based modules such as methods of history.

Part 3

Programme Core Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/Elective</th>
<th>Compensation Yes/No</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media Law and ethics</td>
<td>JO3101</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

Programme Elective Modules

| Advance practical journalism     | JO3109    | 30             | Elective      | No                  | 6     |
| Print/online project and portfolio| JO3110    | 15             | Elective      | No                  | 6     |
| Advance practical journalism (broadcast) | JO3114  | 30             | Elective      | No                  | 6     |
| Broadcast project and portfolio  | JO3115    | 15             | Elective      | No                  | 6     |
| Specialism journalism            | JO3310    | 15             | Elective      | No                  | 6     |

Structure

All students take Advanced Practical Journalism, in which they can choose print or broadcast. They are also required to take Media Law and Ethics. As well as these 45 credit compulsory modules, students choose between specialist journalism courses or a project, each rated at 15 credits.

In contemporary history students either undertake a four course unit research dissertation or a four-course unit special subject.

The reminder of the part 1, 2, 3 will consist of modules from Queen Mary University of London to the value of 60 credits.

Please check with the programme director for the current list of contemporary history modules available.

Contemporary history: students choose four units, mainly from broad introductory modules such as 'The American Century'; 'Europe Since 1890'; and 'The Road from 1945: Britain since the Second World War'. There is also the opportunity to take skills-based modules such as methods of history.

**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](http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates).

### WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

Students are encouraged to spend the third year either on one of the exchange programmes arranged by City to journalism schools abroad, or doing work placements or paid work in the journalism industry. To date students have studied abroad in Europe, at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, at various Canadian universities (in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal) and in Hong Kong. Others have worked for TV companies, newspapers, publishing houses and websites in the UK and overseas.

### WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

See above

### WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

There is no professional accreditation of this programme

### HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

The programme is no longer accepting students.

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