PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme name</th>
<th>Political and Public Policy Journalism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>School of Arts and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department or equivalent</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme code</td>
<td>PSPOJO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of study</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total UK credits</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ECTS</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
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PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MA Political and Public Policy Journalism programme is aimed at those wishing to pursue a career in political journalism, broadly defined - this is taken to include writing about politics and policy for newspapers, magazines, television, radio, websites and blogspots; writing and reporting for campaigning groups, for political parties, for charities and for public and private sector organisations.

This innovative course has been developed in consultation with leading figures from the worlds of the media, politics and communications. It reflects the changing world of political communications in which politics and policy is written about and reported in newspapers, radio, television, online and elsewhere.

The course is run primarily in the evenings to enable those already working in journalism or related fields to continue working whilst at the same time completing this one-year MA.

The course combines practical training and rigorous insight into the basic of journalism and the specialist world of reporting politics and policy, alongside an academic understanding of the complex relationship between the media, the decision-makers and the public.

Aims
- To help strengthen democratic processes in the UK and elsewhere by training would-be political communicators
- Provide a practice-based education in political journalism
- Introduce those with no substantial prior experience of political journalism to the relevant disciplines practice and their contexts
- Offer an introduction to the theory and practice of political communications and an opportunity to enhance skills and understanding in these areas
- Enable those with experience of political and/or public policy journalism to gain a broader understanding and wider contextual knowledge, including understanding the interplay between decision-making, political communication, the media and campaigning
- Provide students with key transferable and subject-specific skills that allow them to
- Assist students to develop a critical awareness and understanding of the ethical issues involved in political journalism including the media contexts of political reporting, the disciplines, skills and practices of political journalism; and the application of political journalism in different countries and cultures
- 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:
- Demonstrate a high level of understanding of formal and informal political processes in the UK and other countries, and also of the main academic theories and debates that seek to elucidate these processes
- Display a critical awareness of the responsibilities and roles of communication practitioners in a practical context, and the social, ethical and legal contexts within which communication practitioners work
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse functions of political journalism and the role of communication practitioners in society

Skills:
- Learn and work autonomously, and demonstrate originality in approach to professional problem-solving
- Analyse and interpret critically different kinds of research evidence
- Critically assess strengths and weaknesses of political and public policy initiatives, debates and campaigns Analyse the development and practices of journalism
- Display the skills to relate campaign content, target audience and medium
- Display highly developed, professional communication skills (written, verbal, presentational, and visual)
- Engage in original thought, and exercise professional judgement
- Work effectively within a team and demonstrate interpersonal and leadership skills
- Display a comprehensive understanding of complex relevant concepts and theories
- Apply relevant knowledge and ideas to practical situations, so integrating theory and practice

Values and attitudes:
- Display an awareness of the ethical dimensions of political journalism
- Demonstrate respect for the opinions of others and an appreciation of difference and ‘otherness’
- Display an awareness of your own assumptions and values and the consequences of these for political journalism
- Demonstrate intellectual integrity including an emphasis on correct sourcing and attribution/referencing
HOW WILL I LEARN?

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 students’ participation and critical debate; student-led presentations and discussions and work simulation.

As the programme progresses, there is increased emphasis on student-centred learning, and the self-discipline, organisation and commitment that independent study group project require. This culminates in the production of a portfolio of journalistic work (which can be in print, online or broadcast form) or the writing of a dissertation. Reporting and writing skills are acquired and developed through these practical elements and students are encouraged to undertake work placement. Students are introduced to the ethical contexts in which journalists and communicators operate and which underpin their professions. Transferable skills are generally incorporated within modules and through the assessment.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment strategies complement the teaching and learning in a mixture of coursework, assessment, and formal essays; in-depth political reporting projects are brought together in a professional portfolio of work.

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 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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>180</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>HE Level</th>
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<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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<td>60</td>
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Postgraduate Diploma:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
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<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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Postgraduate Certificate:

<table>
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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
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Class | % required
-----|----------
With Distinction | 70
With Merit | 60
Without classification | 50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students take 5 route core modules totalling 120 credits, plus the MA Professional Project totalling 60 credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>SITS Code</th>
<th>Module Credits</th>
<th>Core/Elective</th>
<th>Can be Compensated?</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political Broadcasting</td>
<td>JOM981</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Reporting</td>
<td>JOM988</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Policy Reporting</td>
<td>JOM982</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics, Publics &amp; Communications</td>
<td>JOM992</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Campaigning and Marketing</td>
<td>JOM993</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA Professional Project</td>
<td>JOM998</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>N</td>
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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).
HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Entry requirements include a 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 field e.g. the media, public relations, public affairs, politics or government.

An IELTS score of at least 7.0 is usually required 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.