

Programme Specification

Section 1: Basic Data

Awarding institution/body	UWE
Teaching institution	UWE
Faculty responsible for programme	Creative Arts
Programme accredited by	Not Applicable
Highest award title	MA Journalism
Default award title	Not Applicable
Interim award title	Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism; Postgraduate Certificate in Journalism
Modular Scheme title (if different)	Postgraduate Modular Scheme
UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Communications, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
Valid until	Ongoing
Valid from (insert date if appropriate)	September 2006 Revised April 2008 Revised May 2009 Revised July 2010 - Q & S Sub Group July 2010 - Revised Nov 2010 (Change of field for modules)

Authorised by...PCEP

Date:...

Version Code

4 (July 2010)

For coding purposes, a numerical sequence (1, 2, 3 etc.) should be used for successive programme specifications where 2 replaces 1, and where there are no concurrent specifications. A sequential decimal numbering (1.1; 1.2, 2.1; 2.2 etc) should be used where there are different and concurrent programme specifications

Section 2: Educational aims of the programme

- To establish a questioning and intellectually challenging basis for the study of theory and practice of journalism.
- To provide opportunities to learn ethically-informed advanced professional skills in journalism, including relevant software.
- To provide opportunities for the rigorous and critical study of the issues, debates, theories and practices that have emerged in response to developments in journalism and the news media.
- To encourage students to evaluate and demonstrate the usefulness of studies and histories of journalism in analysing the contemporary forms and practices of news reporting.
- To equip students to undertake independent and innovative practice and research into journalism in relation to the processes of news production, distribution, reception and consumption.
- To encourage students to draw on a range of appropriate disciplines and intellectual traditions to develop critical perspectives on journalism.
- To cement Bristol's position as a centre for development in the cultural and creative industries.
- To develop a programme of study reflective of staff research interests and to use that portfolio to inform the curriculum on an ongoing basis.
- To prepare students for future careers in industry, research and academia which require postgraduates with a high level of analytical and communication skills and who are able to pursue complex tasks in an independent and self disciplined manner.

Section 3: Learning outcomes of the programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas: ...

A Knowledge and understanding

Learning outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies
<p>A Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. conceptual frameworks and skills employed in the study and practice of journalism as exemplified in key studies; 2. the relationship of journalism to debates about citizenship and democracy; 3. the importance of historical knowledge and processes in the study of journalism; 4. approaches and methodologies for analysing and interpreting genres of news discourse in relation to their production, reception and consumption; 5. the evaluation and use of theoretical and interpretative frameworks in rigorous, systematic and imaginative ways; 6. the design and realisation of sustained research projects; 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p> <p>Acquisition of skills 1 to 3 has a primary focus in the lectures and seminars of the core module 'Journalism and Democracy' and its required reading.</p> <p>Acquisition of skill 4 has a primary focus in the lectures and seminars of the core module 'Researching Journalism' and its required reading.</p> <p>The acquisition of skills 5 and 6 is more widely encouraged and developed throughout the programme. It is a primary focus of the Journalism Dissertation.</p> <p>The acquisition of skill 7 will take place as appropriate to the individual student on the modules Ethical News Practice, Investigative Reporting, Online Journalism, Work Experience and Journalism Dissertation.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake further independent reading to</p>

<p>7. forms of news writing to publishable standards within an exploratory and critical framework.</p>	<p>supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learned, and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>Assessment is primarily through course work, which takes the form of written seminar papers, essays and projects, and culminates in a dissertation.</p>
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B Intellectual Skills

<p>B Intellectual Skills:</p> <p>Students should have the ability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. read academic and other complex texts closely and critically; 2. analyse genres of news discourse with rigour and insight; 3. construct coherent and defensible arguments; 4. present complex ideas with clarity in writing, verbally, and by using other media; 5. manage and control diverse and complex discursive material ie: locate, select, synthesise, précis and evaluate. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p> <p>Intellectual skills are developed as an integral part of the learning and teaching strategies outlined in Section A above.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>A variety of assessment methods are employed. Those centred upon writing test all of these skills. In addition, students' seminar presentations test skills 4 and 5.</p>
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C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

<p>C Subject/Professional/Practical Skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to produce various forms of journalistic output to publishable standards using relevant software and skills expected in industry; 2. The ability to negotiate and confirm work placement in journalism industry; 3. The ability to identify key questions, issues and debates central to the profession and to undertake analyses of their implications in journalism. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p> <p>This skill is acquired accumulatively through workshops, seminar discussion, tutorial guidance, and feedback on drafts of journalism writing and through supervision of the student's Dissertation.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>This skill is primarily assessed through written work in all modules and the dissertation.</p>
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D Transferable Skills and other attributes

<p>D Transferable skills and other attributes:</p> <p>Students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. communicate effectively in writing and verbally;2. work independently on complex tasks;3. organise and self-direct substantial projects;4. access and evaluate bodies of information from diverse sources;5. manage time and work effectively within given limits;6. use appropriate information technology effectively for research, presentation, and writing;7. work as a supportive member of a team or group.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p> <p>These transferable skills and attributes are developed as an integral part of the learning and teaching strategies outlined in Section A above.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>The assessment of the acquisition and use of these skills is entailed across the range of assessment methods used.</p>
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Section 4: Programme structure

Use next page to provide a structural chart of the programme showing:

- Level and credit requirements
- Interim award requirements
- Module diet, including compulsory/core/optional modules

MA Journalism – Full Time

ENTRY
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Semester 1	Compulsory modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UACP3R-30-M Journalism and Democracy 	Optional modules	Interim Awards: Credit requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 credits: Postgraduate Certificate
	Compulsory modules <ol style="list-style-type: none"> UACAFW-20-M International Journalism UACAHL-20-M Ethics and News Practice 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other requirements: None
Semester 2	Compulsory modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UACP3S-30-M Research Methods 	Optional modules	Interim Awards: Credit requirements 120 credits Postgraduate Diploma
	Core modules Students must take ONE module from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> UACAFU-20-M Investigative Reporting UACAFT-20-M Work Experience. UACAHN-20-M Online Journalism 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other requirements: None
Semester 3	Compulsory modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UACP63-60-M Journalism Dissertation Module 	Optional modules	Prerequisite requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum credit / module requirements 120 credits Other None
	Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of this award.		There are no optional modules for this stage of this award.

→ GRADUATION

MA Journalism - Part Time - Year 1

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Semester 1	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UACP3R-30-M Journalism and Democracy (30 credits) 	Optional modules	<p>Interim Awards:</p> <p>There are no interim awards at this stage of this award.</p>
	<p>Core modules</p> <p>Students opting for Investigative Reporting (UACAFU-20-M) in Semester 2 must complete Ethics & News Practice (UACAHL-20-M) in this semester.</p> <p>Those who do not opt for Investigative Reporting will complete Ethics & News Practice in Semester 1 of Year 2.</p>		
Semester 2	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <p>There are no compulsory modules at this stage of this award.</p>	Optional modules	<p>Interim Awards:</p> <p>Credit requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70 credits: Postgraduate Certificate • Other requirements: None
	<p>Core modules</p> <p>Students must take ONE module from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UACAFU-20-M Investigative Reporting 2. UACAFT-20-M Work Experience. 3. UACAHN-20-M Online Journalism 		
Semester 3 and up to September	<p>No work is carried out during this semester for this award.</p>		

MA Journalism - Part Time - Year 2

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Semester 4	Compulsory modules There are no compulsory modules at this stage of this award.	Optional modules	Interim Awards: There are no interim awards at this stage of this award.
	Core modules 1. UACP5W-20-M International Journalism 2. UACAHL-20-M Ethics and News Practice		
Semester 5	Compulsory modules • UACP3S-30-M Research Methods	Optional modules There are no optional modules at this stage of this award.	Interim Awards: Credit requirements • 120 credits Postgraduate Diploma • Other requirements: None
	Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of this award		
Semester 3 and up to January	Compulsory modules • UACP63-60-M Journalism Dissertation Module	Optional modules There are no optional modules at this stage of this award.	Prerequisite requirements • Minimum credit / module requirements 120 credits • Other None
	Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of this award		Awards: • Target/highest – MA Journalism • Default title None Credit requirements - 180

→ GRADUATION

Transitional arrangements

MA Journalism – Full Time

ENTRY
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Autumn Semester	Compulsory modules	Optional modules	Interim Awards:
	Core modules		
Winter Semester	Compulsory modules	Optional modules	Interim Awards:
	Core modules		
Year out	<i>Use this space to describe optional/compulsory year abroad/placement/clinical placement</i> NOT APPLICABLE FOR THIS AWARD		
Summer Semester and up to September	Compulsory modules	Optional modules	Prerequisite requirements
	Core modules		Awards:
			Credit requirements -

→ GRADUATION

MA Journalism - Part Time - Year 1

ENTRY
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Autumn Semester	Compulsory modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UACP3R-30-M Journalism and Democracy (30 credits) 	Optional modules There are no optional modules at this stage of this award.	Interim Awards: There are no interim awards at this stage of this award.
	Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of this award		
Winter Semester	Compulsory modules There are no compulsory modules at this stage of this award.	Optional modules Students must take TWO modules from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> UACAFV-15-M Online Journalism UACAFU-15-M Investigative Reporting* UACAFT-15-M Work Experience <p>* Students opting for Investigative Reporting must take Ethics and News Practice, and Investigative Reporting in Year 2</p>	Interim Awards: Credit requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 credits: Postgraduate Certificate Other requirements: None
	Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of this award		
Year out	<i>Use this space to describe optional/compulsory year abroad/placement/clinical placement</i> NOT APPLICABLE FOR THIS AWARD		
Summer Semester	No work is carried out during this semester for this award.		

MA Journalism - Part Time - Year 2

ENTRY
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Autumn Semester	Compulsory modules There are no compulsory modules at this stage of this award.	Optional modules Students must take 1. UACP5W-15-M International Journalism 2. UACAFS-15-M Ethics and News Practice	Interim Awards: There are no interim awards at this stage of this award.
	Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of this award		
Winter Semester	Compulsory modules • UACP3S-30-M Research Methods	There are no optional modules at this stage of this award.	Interim Awards: Credit requirements • 120 credits Postgraduate Diploma • Other requirements: None
	Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of this award		
Year out	<i>Use this space to describe optional/compulsory year abroad/placement/clinical placement</i> NOT APPLICABLE FOR THIS AWARD		
Summer Semester and up to January	Compulsory modules • UACP63-60-M Journalism Dissertation Module	There are no optional modules at this stage of this award.	Prerequisite requirements • Minimum credit / module requirements 120 credits • Other None
	Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of this award		Awards: • Target/highest – MA Journalism • Default title None Credit requirements - 180

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Section 5: Entry requirements

Applicants will normally have a first or upper second class honours degree in Journalism, Media, Film, Television, Communication Studies, Arts, Humanities or Social Sciences. (applicants from different academic backgrounds will be considered providing they can demonstrate the critical writing skills required for this MA Programme). If prospective applicants do not meet this criterion, they are advised to consult the Programme Leader before making a formal application. Applicants considered for a place may be required to attend an interview.

Section 6: Assessment Regulations

- a) **Wholly in accordance with MAR** YES
- b) **Approved MAR variant (insert variant)**
- c) **Non MAR**

Section 7: Student learning: distinctive features and support

- Practical induction to the programme and its resources.
- A period of intellectual orientation at outset of programme including a detailed and tailored library induction.
- Students are given instruction and support in the use of internet and other online resources.
- There is a dedicated award website, and module tutors will make extensive use of UWEonline sites to support teaching.
- Detailed module handbooks.
- Dedicated office hours for all teaching staff, student email system, trained counsellors for pastoral and academic support.
- Specialist AV and IT resources and technical support.
- A range of staged teaching and learning strategies and forms of assessment.
- Teaching led by leaders in the theory and practice of Journalism.
- Support and encouragement of independent learning and research.
- Involvement in Journalism Research events.
- Events organised by the Faculty and Department in addition to timetabled modules.
- Invitation to Department research seminars.
- Graduate School with dedicated computer, printing and photocopying facilities, silent study areas and common room. (Conifers, St. Matthias Campus)
- Award Specific Career Workshops.

Section 8 Reference points/benchmarks

- Subject benchmarks
- University teaching and learning policies.
- Staff research projects.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications.