

Course Information Form (CIF)

The CIF provides core information to students, staff teams and others on a particular course of study.

Section 1 - General Course Information	
Course Title	Broadcast Journalism Broadcast Journalism (with Professional Practice year)
Qualification	BA (Hons)
Intermediate Qualification(s)	Certificate of Higher Education; Diploma of Higher Education; Bachelor's degree
Awarding Institution	University of Bedfordshire
Location of Delivery	AA University Square Campus,
Mode(s) of Study and Duration	Three years full time Full time with Professional Practice Year over 4 years
FHEQ Level	4,5,6
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation or endorsement	Broadcast Journalism Training Council
PSRB Renewal Date	October 2018
University of Bedfordshire Employability accreditation	
Route Code (SITS)	BABCJAA+BABJPAAF
Subject Community	Media
UCAS Course Code	P500
Relevant External Benchmarking	QAA Communication, media, film and cultural studies 2008 QAA The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland (2008) level descriptors 4,5,6. Broadcast Journalism Training Council Accreditation Guidelines (2013)

Section 2 - Published Information

Material in this section will be used on the course web site to promote the course to potential students. The text should be written with this potential audience in mind.

Course Structure

The Units which make up the course are:

Unit Code	Level	Credits	Unit Name	Core or option
MED011-1	4	30	Reporting & Writing	Core
MED002-1	4	30	Introduction to the Journalism Industry	Core
MED039-1	4	30	Radio Skills for Broadcast Journalists	Core
MED034-1	4	30	TV Skills for Journalists	Core
MED012-2	5	30	Journalism Law & Public Administration	Core
MED048-2	5	30	Radio for Broadcast Journalists	Core
MED207-2	5	30	TV News Production	Core
MED056-2	5	30	Placement for Broadcast Journalists	Core
MEDxxx-2	-	0	Professional Practice Year	Option
MED020-3	6	30	Ethics & Journalism	Core
MED027-3	6	30	Continuous News	Core
MED035-3	6	60	Special Project Professional Journalism	Core

Why study this course

This is an accredited course which prepares you for careers in professional broadcast journalism and other media outlets.

Course Summary – Educational Aims

Our aim is to turn out graduates who can produce industry standard journalism for radio, television and online. You will be taught how to write news stories and how to deliver them across multiple platforms. You will take part in regular newscasts, using industry standard facilities and equipment. You will develop considerable production skills as well as an excellent news sense. You will be expected to find and develop your own news stories, building your portfolio for future employers. You will also master the law and public administration which is essential for all journalists. No one wants to be sued and, to report effectively, you must understand where power lies in society. Alongside this, you will develop your powers of critical analysis, studying the industry itself, its regulations and its ethics, as well as critiquing professional and your own journalistic practice so that you can enter the industry with a rounded understanding of both the theory and practice of broadcast journalism.

Entry requirements

UCAS Tariff Score of 240 points, which should include either two A level passes or an AVCE Double Award, equivalent qualifications such as Irish Leaving Certificate, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate or BTEC National Diploma or an Access qualification.

See <http://www.beds.ac.uk/howtoapply/courses/undergraduate/broadcast-journalism#tab-4>

Students from the European Union: Equivalent to UCAS 240 points. See <http://www.beds.ac.uk/howtoapply/eu/guides>

International students - <http://www.beds.ac.uk/howtoapply/international/apply>

Additional:

You are expected to have a good level of written English, equivalent to IELTS 7.5
Any student identified as not having the requisite facility with their written English but meeting entry requirements will be supported with additional English Language sessions provided by the University. You will be interviewed and have a voice test and written test on application. If you cannot attend an interview, you will be offered an interview via telephone or Skype.

PSRB details

Broadcast Journalism Training Council accreditation granted February 2014, backdated to October 2013

Graduate Impact Statements

The course has been designed to develop graduates who are able to:

- Communicate clearly and to identify, prioritise and process information on multiple platforms in a legally safe manner and who have a keen understanding of journalism, its theory and practice and the technical skills needed to work on broadcast and online platforms.
- Work effectively within multispecialist teams applying collaborative skills.
- Be resourceful and enterprising with an ability to identify and pursue stories and to challenge, test and critique evidence.

Higher Education Achievement Report - Additional Information

You will be required to carry out at least 15 days of work placements to further inform your studies and to prepare you for the industry. You will also be able to visit criminal courts, councils and Parliament and other places of relevance to broadcast journalism and hear from a wide range of guest speakers from industry, the law and politics.

Learning and Teaching

You will learn through a mixture of lectures, seminars, workshops and newsdays. Units such as Introduction to Journalism Industry in your first year, Journalism Law & Public Administration in your second year and Ethics in your final year will see you learning through lectures, seminars and your own self-study as you develop your academic and research skills. By contrast you will spend the radio and television workshops mastering the journalistic and technological skills that you need. A key feature of this course are the regular newsdays run at every level of the course, where you get the opportunity to put the theory, the knowledge and the skills into practice, producing your own broadcast journalism, using industry standard equipment, working closely with your fellow students. Teaching you at every level will be former journalists who now combine academic expertise with considerable experience in the industry. In addition, several newsdays ever year will be run by guest editors from industry.

Developing your employability

Professional behaviour will be expected of you from the start, honing the attitudes and mindset which employers are looking for. Throughout your course you will be studying the industry, its structure and its future as well as analysing news stories and programmes in depth. Accreditation with the industry's accrediting body the Broadcast Journalism Training Council ensures that when you graduate, you will leave with a degree recognised by employers in the industry. Through our membership of the BJTC and through our own links with employers and with the support of University of Bedfordshire's Careers and Recruitment Service, we will be able to provide you with opportunities for the work placements which are so crucial to developing your employability.

We hold regular professional practice events where you can meet leading members of the industry who will pass on their advice and own experience. These sessions give you the opportunity to make contacts and to network. On our virtual learning environment, we have a special section devoted to work experience, job vacancies and careers advice which will keep you informed of the latest opportunities.

In practical terms professional skills and values underpin this course and are an integral part of teaching and learning within all units. We will help you to develop the ability to evaluate effectively and reflect on your own and work of others, and understand the demands and requirements of employers. Former graduates in relevant industries regularly return to outline their experiences, and discuss opportunities with you. Links have also been established for alumni unable to visit in person to communicate with you via email and social networking sites.

Students who register for the degree with professional practice year will additionally attend a series of workshops and activities related to securing a suitable placement and compulsory briefings at the end of year 2 to ensure that all legal requirements for health and safety, safeguarding etc. training have been met,. This will be explained more fully in your professional practice handbook once you have registered with the Careers and Employability Service's Student Development and Awards Team in your first year

Department (s)

Journalism and Communications

Assessment

Assessment methods vary from the academic to the journalistic. Throughout your studies you will do formative exercises to prepare you for your assessments.

You will develop your academic skills through essay writing from the very start, learning to marshal arguments, to analyse and then to evaluate. You will learn to back up your arguments with well-referenced evidence. These essays will cover the industry, regulation, theories, specific programmes and case studies enabling you to demonstrate the depth of your understanding. You will sit two examinations, one in the first year, one in the second, to test your precise knowledge of the law and public administration which employers and the accrediting body deem essential.

Side by side with the academic assessments will be a range of journalistic assessments designed to test your ability to produce broadcast journalism. You will start by learning to write your own news stories and how to deliver them for broadcast platforms. You will complete your first year by producing your very own portfolio of news stories. You will also, each year, take part in assessed news days in which you will produce your own radio and television news programmes, supported by your own online news service. In the first year, these news days will be relatively simple, with plenty of lecturer support as you master both the journalism and the necessary technical skills. By the third year you and your peers will be working increasingly independently, producing your own programmes to industry standard. At each level you will be expected to review your own and your colleagues' newsday work constructively, identifying areas of success and methods of improvements.

Your final assessment will be a major piece of broadcast or online journalism on the subject of your choice, developed in consultation with lecturers. This enables you to demonstrate the skills and the knowledge you have developed over your studies.

Throughout your course, you will be expected to be professional in the presentation of your work, meeting all deadlines and fulfilling word counts and time lengths.

At all stages you will receive detailed feedback on your work. The importance of relevant, constructive feedback in a written, clearly understood, format which is delivered rapidly enables you to incorporate the elements of feedback in your rolling programme of progressive work throughout. This is crucial to your academic and professional progression. Individual tutors all offer the opportunity to discuss any feedback in more detail at each level of study.

After Graduation

Typical employment destinations include broadcast journalism, journalism on other platforms, media production, public relations, digital marketing, and other areas of the creative industries.

Student Support during the course

The University has a range of easily accessible support structures for you both at the start and throughout your university life.

SID (Student Information Desk) is located in the campus centre, which offers confidential advice on all aspects of academic study while the Mitigating Circumstances Team deals with decisions regarding special circumstances that might require extensions for your assessments.

Other areas of University-wide student support include: Housing, Health, Counselling, Study Support, Special Needs/Disability Advice and a highly successful Careers Service. Do not hesitate to ask for help.

At the start of your first year, you will take part in a comprehensive induction in the week prior to the start of term. These will include generic introductions to the university and sessions specific to the journalism division and to broadcast journalism. As you progress, you will also have induction sessions at the end and at the start of each subsequent year to prepare you for each new step. The first lecture of each new unit will give you an outline of the structure of the unit, your methods of learning and your assessments. Your lecturer will also flag up where you can find the resources and materials to support your learning.

In addition to your lecturers and course leader, you will also have a Personal Academic Tutor. This Personal Tutor will work with you throughout your degree, monitoring your academic progression and forming a consistent point of contact for academic support and guidance.

Students will also benefit from Peer Assisted Learning which fosters cross-year support between students on the same course. It encourages students to support each other and learn co-operatively under the guidance of experienced students. PAL has five main aims and is intended to help students: adjust quickly to university life; acquire a clear view of course direction and expectations; improve their study skills and adjust their study habits to meet the requirements of higher education; enhance their understanding of the subject matter of their course through collaborative group discussion; prepare better for assessed work and examinations

PAL uses pairs of students in year 2 and 3 (PAL Leaders) who have “been there, done it and got the t-shirt”, to work with 1st year students to de-mystify academic parlance and terminology, giving them insider knowledge on how to survive the 1st year, and provide pragmatic signposting and support.

At all times of the day and night, throughout your course, you will have access to online support through both www.beds.ac.uk and via the BREO VLE (Virtual Learning Environment).

Students may be required, at the discretion of the Course coordinator, to undergo diagnostic testing for academic English language abilities, and may further be required, at the Course coordinator’s discretion, to participate in academic English support workshops or classes laid on by the University.

Students with disabilities

The University of Bedfordshire is committed to ensuring that curricula across all courses are inclusive to all students. The Disability Advice Team is available to discuss any issues you may have and can provide services such as sign language interpreters, note takers, dyslexia screening/tuition and support with mobility on campus. They offer confidential advice and information about academic and personal issues, adjustments in examinations, applying for the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) and buying suitable equipment.

In the course of your studies in Broadcast Journalism, you will be learning to operate equipment and sometimes transport it when you are filming on location.

If, at any point, you think your studies may be affected by disability, please don't hesitate to contact your Personal Tutor or Course Co-ordinator who will work with you and the Disability Advice Team to resolve any problems.

<http://www.beds.ac.uk/studentlife/support/disabilities>

Section 3 - Academic Information

This section will be used as part of the approval and review process and **peer academics** are the target audience.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:-

1. Produce technically competent, professional, publishable, accurate, ethically and legally sound, grammatically correct news output for radio, television and online platforms from a variety of sources to given outlines and deadlines, understanding the differing demands on journalists of changing platforms and audiences and how to react to those demands.
2. Collate, analyse and employ a variety of news and feature-gathering techniques, working across multiple platforms
3. Engage with and apply critical and analytical theories of journalism to the industry and to your own work
4. Have a thorough understanding of the structure, powers, responsibilities and workings of major UK and EU institutions and governmental organisations and a working knowledge of law as it relates to UK journalism, including court reporting, defamation, contempt and other areas essential to effective journalism.
5. Have an overview of the journalism industry, its regulation and its place within society and within the global economy and to be able to effectively assess the way in which journalism has and is developing.
6. Demonstrate a professional and self-disciplined approach to your work both as an individual and in groups, which should be performed in accordance with professional and ethical standards and conventions.
7. Process texts, images and/or audiovisual content, for effective communication in broadcast journalism, using industry standard software and equipment, while adhering to health and safety requirements.

In order to qualify for the award of BA Broadcast Journalism (with Professional Practice year) students will need to meet all of the outcomes above and:

8. Demonstrate knowledge and analytical understanding of professional practice by successfully completing an approved period of approved work place practice.

Course-specific regulations

IELTS Score of 7.5

Progression is dependent on passing all core modules.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The teaching and learning strategy within journalism is in line with the university education strategy framework that encompasses best practice within teaching and learning.

Close integration of theory and practice, the progressive nature of learning, assessment, and feedback are at the heart of the teaching and learning strategy of Journalism at the University of Bedfordshire. Units are delivered through a range of teaching and learning modes including: practical classes, seminars, workshops and tutorials. Second and third year students help first years with their study skills and other academic issues through weekly structured peer assisted learning sessions.

Self-directed learning is essential for students of broadcast journalism, particularly where individual application is the key to mastering techniques and skills such as use of specialist technology and equipment. This is promoted by informed teaching, task setting in stages building to professional standard projects, online support and developing collaborative projects not just within year groups, but across year groups.

Assessment methods vary across the course, enabling students to develop strategies for a range of tasks, methods of evaluation and presentation giving them valuable employability experience. At all stages students receive focused feedback on their work within 15 working days. Individual tutors all offer the opportunity to discuss any feedback in more detail at each level of study. As student skills and subject

knowledge develop over the duration of their course, it is expected that they will develop increasingly sophisticated responses to assessment and employ increasingly effective methods of peer and self-review.

Additional Academic Information

Peer-assisted learning (PAL)

The first year unit whose scheduled learning hours include an hour a week for Peer Assisted Learning is MED 002-1 Introduction to the Journalism Industry.

Initial Assessment

The first year unit with a summative assessment in week 6 is MED 002-1 Introduction to the Journalism Industry.

Improving students' learning

MED 002-1 Introduction to the Journalism Industry includes sessions on note taking and using learning resources including online resources both within the university library and online more generally. Across second and third year units students are generally called upon to provide contextual studies alongside their practical work in which they are encouraged to reflect on their professional practice

Academic Integrity

Referencing, correct use of sources and the formatting of bibliographies will be introduced in Introduction to the Journalism Industry, in the first year. This is an essential element of ethical and professional academic practice which will be useful to you throughout the three years of your degree, and beyond.

HEAR implementation

Internationalisation

While focussed on UK law and public administration, the techniques taught prepare you for broadcast journalism across the world and students have successfully completed placements and secured jobs outside the UK

Sustainability

Section 3 - Administrative Information	
This section will be used as part of the approval and review process and peer academics are the target audience.	
Faculty	Creative Arts, Technologies and Science
Portfolio	Journalism and Communications, Undergraduate
Subject Community	Media
Department/School/Division	Department of Journalism and Communications
Course Coordinator	Kate Ironside
Version Number	1/17
Approved by (cf Quality Handbook ch.2)	Periodic Review
Date of approval (dd/mm/yyyy)	24/04/2014
Implementation start-date of this version (plus any identified end-date)	Oct 2014

Form completed by:

Name:Kate Ironside Date: 14 March 2014

Authorisation on behalf of the Faculty Teaching Quality and Standards Committee (FTQSC)

Chair: Date:

Course Updates		
Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Nature of Update	FTQSC Minute Ref:
	Update of sandwich year to professional practice and adjustment to employability section and CLO 8	
24/3/2017	Updated PSRB renewal date	