



Course Information Form

This Course Information Form provides the definitive record of the designated course

General Course Information

Course Title	Journalism Journalism (with Professional Practice Year)
Qualification	BA (Hons)
FHEQ Level	6
Intermediate Qualification(s)	
Awarding Institution	University of Bedfordshire.
Location of Delivery	AA University Square Campus
Mode(s) of Study and Duration	Three years full time, six years part time Full-time with professional Practice Year over 4 years
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation or endorsement	To be submitted for BJTC accreditation.
UCAS Course Code	P500
External Benchmarking	QAA Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2016). QAA The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2014) level descriptors 4,5,6.
Entry Month(s)	September

Why study this course

You will learn to work as a multiplatform journalist and develop strong communication and analytical skills, as you gain insight into a rapidly changing media industry in the globalised age.

Educational Aims

This course blends a solid understanding of practical journalism with insight into the broader media industry, enabling you to grasp both the theory and practice of journalism. You will learn about current practice and future developments in the industry.

You will develop skills as a news gatherer, features writer and editor. In addition, you will learn to both produce and present your journalism across media platforms and will have the chance to deepen your knowledge and application of journalism, across several, for instance radio and the internet.

You will learn about public administration, ethics and media law, preparing you for the rigours of the industry. You will also have the chance to explore work experience opportunities within journalism and the wider creative industries.

Course Structure

The Units which make up the course (including the Professional Practice Year as applicable) are:

Unit Code	Level	Credits	Unit Name	Core or option
MED011-1	4	30	Reporting and Writing	Core
MED002-1	4	30	Introduction to the Journalism Industry	Core
new	4	30	Introduction to Broadcast News Skills	Core
new JS	4	30	Journalism and Society	Core
new Law	5	30	Law, Regulation & Public Administration	Core
MED020-2	5	30	Print and Digital Production and Design	Core
MED021-2	5	30	Radio	Option
new PR	5	30	Public Relations and Marketing	Option
newART	5	30	The Art and Craft of Journalism	Option
newJN	5	30	Journalism Newsdays	Core
MED066-2	5	0	Professional Practice Year (subject area Culture and Communications)	Option
MED020-3	6	30	Ethics and Journalism	Core
MED012-3	6	30	Magazine and Online Publishing	Option
new	6	30	Radio 24/7 for Journalists	Option
new	6	60	Practical Special Project CnC	Option
new	6	60	Dissertation Special Project CnC	Option

Each year consists of 120 credits; to satisfy the credit volume of the course you have to complete all core units and choose:

- One of the three 30 credits optional units offered at level 5
- One of the two 30 credits optional units offered at level 6
- One of the two 60 credits optional units offered at level 6

Course-Specific Regulations

Entry requirements

Standard entry requirements

Additional Course Costs

Throughout the course, you will be required to purchase SD cards for use in practical units, and apps for mobile journalism. You will also need a pair of semi-professional headphones (not ear-buds) for listening and for digital editing.

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 and ethical manner and who have a keen understanding of journalism, its theory and practice

Work effectively within journalism teams applying collaborative skills.

Be resourceful and enterprising with an ability to identify and pursue stories and to challenge, test and critique evidence.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Produce professional, publishable, accurate, correct, ethically and legally sound news output for radio, print 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. Critically evaluate, analyse and employ a variety of news and feature-gathering techniques, working across multiple platforms.
3. Apply critical analysis of theories of journalism to the industry and to your own work.
4. Have a thorough knowledge of appropriate organisations, powers, responsibilities and workings of UK civic governance and of the EU and a working knowledge of law, including court reporting, defamation, contempt and other areas essential to effective

journalism.

5. Apply a systematic understanding of key aspects of the journalism industry, its regulation and its place within society and within the global economy and to be able to effectively critically evaluate the way in which journalism has and is developing.
6. Demonstrate a professional and self-disciplined approach, exercising initiative and personal responsibility in your work both as an individual and in groups, which should be performed in accordance with professional and ethical standards and conventions.
7. Demonstrate the ability to complete a placement, in which you demonstrate both professional behaviour and produce appropriate professional work, in accordance with professional and ethical standards and conventions. Apply the same approach to your work within university.

In order to qualify for the award of BA (Hons) 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.

PSRB details

This course is due to be submitted to the Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC) for accreditation.

Students not able to complete the 15 days work placement prior to begin the third year of study will be transferred to the BA(Hons) Journalism Practices (not BJTC accredited).

Learning and Teaching

You will learn to become effective researchers communicators, ready to deliver in the media industry and the wider creative industries. You will learn to research and produce news, features, commentaries and editorials for several platforms and a variety of audiences, from the local to the global, with a sound knowledge of ethics, media law and public administration, to help you deliver your work with confidence. We will also make you fully aware of and can respond to the rapid changes in the industry and you will analyse your industry in oral presentations, essays, examinations and dissertations

Assessment

You will develop an initial understanding of how to write and research in the first year, assessed through a series of practical assignments, explored further and in greater depth in the second year, culminating in a possible portfolio of journalism work in which you seek to be of a publishable standard, in your final year.

You will explore the structures, ownership, regulations and theories of how journalism is produced, assessed in presentations and essays in the first year. This analysis grows in its sophistication, in the second year, looking at media law and your engagement with public institutions and assessed through examinations. This strand culminates in an analysis of ethics,

insofar as they affect working journalists, assessed in essays and a possible academic dissertation, in your final year.

Assessment methods vary across the course, enabling you to develop strategies for a range of tasks, methods of evaluation and presentation giving you valuable employability experience. 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 your course. 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. As your skills and subject knowledge develop over the duration of your course, it is expected that you will develop increasingly sophisticated responses to assessment and employ increasingly effective methods of peer and self-review.

Assessment Map

Unit Code	C/O	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Level 4: Sem 1															
MED011-1	C					IT-PT									CW-Port
MED002-1	C								CW-Ess					IT-PT	
Level 4: Sem 2															
MED029-1	C			PR-OT									PR-OT		
new-1 JS	C						Pr-ORAL								IT-PT
Level 5: Sem 1															
MED012-2	C								CW-Ess						IT-PT
MED020-2	C					CW-PORT								CW-PORT	
MED021-2	O							PR-OT							PR-OT
Level 5: Sem 2															
new-2 JN	C				CW-Ess										CW-Port
new-22 PR	O							PR-Oral							CW-RW
new-2 A&C	O								CW-Port						CW-OT
Level 6: Sem 1															
MED020-3	C							CW-ESS							CW-Ess
MED012-3	O										PR-OT			PR-OT	
new-3 Radio	O							PR-OT						PR-OT	
Level 6: Sem 2															
Practical Project	O														PJ-Proj or PJ-Art AND CW-RW
Dissertation project	O														PJ-Diss AND CW-JOUR

The assessment grid indicates the final hand-in dates; final assessments are based on progressive nature tasks.

FEEDBACK: formative feedback is given with every formative assignment and summative feedback is given within 20 working days of submission for level 4 and 5, and within 15 working days for level 6.

Developing your employability

We will help you find your feet in the media industry. Alumni will share good and bad practice and help you network. Lecturers will draw on their anecdotal experience, encouraging good working practices and localising bad ones. Professionals from the industry will watch you work, advise you on improvements, give you tips on getting into the industry and guest lecture. Trips are made to courts, councils and Parliament, reinforcing your understanding of media law and public administration.

You will also receive advice on how to succeed from current journalism students, who will meet you regularly.

You will have opportunities to work on the university community radio station, RadioLab, write and edit and for the student newspaper and follow alumni in attaining work experience with local media, such as the Bedfordshire on Sunday newspaper group and BBC Three Counties Radio, as well as opportunities in nearby London.

The transferable and relevant skills which you will acquire remain in demand in the fields of publishing; copywriting, public relations work; in-house press office positions; teaching; sports journalism; media research; digital media production and academia.

Professional Practice Year

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. If you will be working with children and/or vulnerable people you will be required to have a DBS check and undertake Safeguarding and Prevent training.

After Graduation

Typical destinations of graduates after graduation include: news journalists; web content manager; public relations officer; teacher and manager. An increasing number also go on to further study. Postgraduate courses at the University of Bedfordshire currently include a wide range of media and journalism-orientated Master's degree opportunities, such as the MA in International Journalism.

Additional Information

Student Support during the course

At institutional level, the University already has in place a range of easily accessible support structures for new and existing students. The Student Information Desk (SID) is where students can attain face-to-face advice on many issues. They are then offered university-wide support, which include: Housing, Health, Counselling, Study Support, Special Needs/Disability Advice and a highly successful Careers Service.

During your journalism course specific support will also be in place for you:

First Year students will receive a comprehensive generic induction in the week prior to the commencement of term. 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. In addition to this you will be guided at each level of your studies, by individual unit leaders. Unit introductions will give you an outline of the structure of the unit, an introduction to the ways you will be encouraged to develop your knowledge and skills, and signpost resources and materials to assist the process of your learning and success.

All students are assigned a Personal Academic Tutor. This Personal Tutor will work with you – where possible - throughout your degree, monitoring your academic progression and forming a consistent point of contact for academic support and guidance. This support may extend to

providing advice on careers and further academic study.

Throughout your course, you will have 24-hour 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.

Peer-Assisted Learning 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.

As a student, you will be appointed a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT), to provide you with further support, catering for your specific needs, concerns and development, while at university.

Course Equality Impact Assessment

Question	Y/N	Anticipatory adjustments/actions
The promotion of the course is open and inclusive in terms of language, images and location?	Y	
Are there any aspects of the curriculum that might present difficulties for disabled students? For example, skills and practical tests, use of equipment, use of e-learning, placements, field trips etc.	N	If so indicate the anticipatory adjustments and arrangements here
Are there any elements of the content of the course that might have an adverse impact on any of the other groups with protected characteristics ¹ ?	N	If so then indicate the anticipatory adjustments and arrangements here
If the admission process involves interviews, performances or portfolios indicate how you demonstrate fairness and avoid practices that could lead to unlawful discrimination?	N/A	
Confirm that you have considered that the course learning outcomes and Graduate Impact Statements are framed in a non-discriminatory way.	Y	

¹ Age, Gender reassignment, Marriage and civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Race, Religion and belief, Sex, Sexual orientation

Confirm that the course handbook makes appropriate reference to the support of disabled students.	Y	
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Administrative Information – Faculty completion	
Faculty	CATS
Portfolio	UG Culture and Communications
Department/School	Culture and Communications
Course Coordinator	Dr Paul Rowinski
Trimester pattern of operation	Oct starts Sem 1 – Sem 2 Feb starters Sem 2 – Sem 1
PSRB renewal date (where recognised)	
Version number	1/18
Approved by (c.f. Quality Handbook ch.2)	University Periodic Review
Date of approval (dd/mm/yyyy)	31/01/2018
Implementation start-date of this version (plus any identified end-date)	2018/2019
Study model type (e.g. study centre)	

Form completed by:

Name:Dr Paul Rowinski..... **Date:**December 1, 2017.....

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:

Administrative Information – Academic Registry completion	
Route code (post approval)	
JACS / HECoS code (KIS)	
SLC code (post approval)	
Qualification aim (based on HESA coding framework)	



Annexes to the Course Information Form

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

General course information

Course Title	<i>Journalism</i>
Qualification	<i>BA(Hons)</i>
Route Code (SITS)	BAJOR-S
Faculty	<i>CATS</i>
Department/School/Division	<i>School of Culture and Communications</i>
Version Number	1/18

Annex A: Course mapping of unit learning outcomes to course learning outcomes

Unit code	MED002-1	MED011-1	ME029-1	Medxxx-1 JS	MED012-2	MED020-2	MEDXXX-2	MEDXXX-S ART	MEDXXX-2PR	MED020-3	MED012-3	MED021-2	MED013-3	MED066-2	Prac Proj	Diss Proj
Level	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5	6	5	6	6
Credits	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	0	60	60
Core or option	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	O	O	C	C	O	O	O	Option	Option
Course Learning Outcome (number)	<i>Insert LO1 and/or LO2 for each unit into cell corresponding to the course learning outcome</i>															
1	LO1	LO1	LO1		LO1&2	LO2	LO1, LO2	LO1&2			LO1&2		LO1		LO1&2	LO1&2
2		LO2	LO1&2			LO2	LO2	LO2			LO2		LO1 & 2		LO1&2	LO1&2
3	LO2			LO1&2		LO1	LO1		LO2	LO1&2	LO2				LO1	LO1
4	LO1				LO1&2		LO2			LO2	LO2		LO2		LO2	LO2
5	LO2			LO1&2			LO2		LO1&2	LO1&2	LO1				LO1	LO1
6					LO1&2	LO2	LO2				LO2		LO1&2		LO1&2	LO1&2
7		LO1&2	LO2			LO2	LO2				LO2				LO2	LO2
8														LO1&2		

Annex B: Named exit or target intermediate qualifications

This annex should be used when Schools wish to offer intermediate qualifications which sit under the main course qualification as named exit or target awards, rather than unnamed exit/default awards.

Section 1: General course information

Intermediate Qualification(s) and titles	<p><i>Specify the intermediate qualifications which are named exit or target qualifications (award types) AND what the qualification titles will be, as stated in the course information section of the associated CIF</i></p> <p><i>It is not necessary for the intermediate qualifications to have the same titles as the overall award, but the title must reflect the units taken to achieve it.</i></p>
Mode(s) of Study and Duration	<p><i>Indicate whether each intermediate qualification will be offered full time, part time or both, and the standard amount of time a student will take to complete each target qualification.</i></p>
Type of Intermediate Qualification(s)	<p><i>State whether the intermediate qualifications are named exit and/or target awards.</i></p> <p><i>Students register for target awards at the commencement of their study. Named exit awards provide an opportunity to gain a named qualification when a student fails to complete the main qualification for which they were registered or because they do not achieve the requirements of their original main qualification.</i></p>
Route Code(s) (SITS) of Intermediate Qualification(s)	

Section 2: Qualification unit diet

One table to be used for each intermediate qualification

Confirmation of unit diet for:	<i>Insert intermediate qualification and title</i>	
The units to achieve the credits required may be taken from any on the overall diet for the main course qualification		<input type="checkbox"/>
A combination of units from a restricted list must be taken to achieve the credits required (specify the list below)		<input type="checkbox"/>
A specific set of units must be taken to achieve the credits required (specify units below)		<input type="checkbox"/>
List of units (if applicable):-		

Annex C: Course mapping to FHEQ level descriptor, subject benchmark(s) and professional body or other external reference points

One set of mapping tables to be produced for the course and each named intermediate qualification

Course (or intermediate) qualification and title	BA(Hons) Journalism
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FHEQ Descriptor for a higher education qualification	Higher Education Qualifications Framework (2014) FHEQ descriptors for levels 4, 5 and 6	Course Learning Outcome(s)							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems, related to their area of study and/or work (Level 4)		X		X		X	X	X	
Communicate the results of their study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments (Level 4)									
Undertake further training and develop news skills within a structured and managed environment (Level 4)				X		X	X		
Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis (Level 5)		X		x		X			
Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively (Level 5)			X				X		
Undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competencies that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations (Level 5)				X		X	X	X	
Apply the methods and techniques that they have learnt to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects (Level 6)			X	X	X	X			
Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete, to make judgement and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution – or identify a range of solutions – to a problem. (Level 6)				x		X			
Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences (Level 6)		x	X						

Subject Benchmark Statement(s)	QAA Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2016). Benchmark standards, section 7.3, numbers 1-3, p19.	Evidence and/or Course Learning Outcome(s) <i>How the course takes account of relevant subject benchmark statements</i>
Coherent knowledge of the communication, media, film and cultural forms and processes chosen for study within their degree programme		LO1, LO2, LO6, LO7.
Understanding of a range of concepts, theories and approaches appropriate to the study of those objects and processes and the capacity to apply them.		LO3, LO4, LO5,
Skills in critical analysis , research, production and communication appropriate to the learning tasks set by their programme, as well as an array of generic and creative skills .		LO1, LO2, LO3, LO5,LO6.

The format of the following mapping tables may be adjusted.

Qualification Characteristic	<i>(insert title and year where appropriate)</i>	Evidence <i>How the course takes account of relevant qualification characteristics documents</i>

Professional body or other external reference points	<i>(insert title and year)</i>	Evidence <i>How the course takes account of Professional body or other external reference points</i>
Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC, 2015)		The course has been structured to adhere to the BJTC 2015 guidelines.