

Programme Specification for
BA (Hons) Journalism



1. Programme title	BA (Hons) Journalism
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	Broadcasting Journalism Training Council (Pending)
5. Final qualification	BA of Arts (Hons) Journalism
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

We require a minimum of 300 UCAS points, or a relevant equivalent qualification. Applications from mature students with non-standard qualifications are welcomed. We require an overall IELTS 7.5; applicants should have at least 7.5 in each element, and they are strongly recommended to take the International Foundation Programme (IFP) if they have not.

We welcome applications from the new Advanced and Progression diploma qualifications: these should be at advanced (level 3) level and relevant to the programme of study.

Additionally, the BJTC guidelines require candidates to be interviewed, and to sit a journalism-based assessment test.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- enable students to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in journalism

across print, TV, radio and web platforms reflecting its converged, multiplatform delivery;

- enable students to originate and develop story ideas, drawing from contemporary news agendas whilst demonstrating an understanding of audiences;
- equip students with practical journalistic production skills including a knowledge of writing, sub editing or re-versioning copy for different news organisations, audiences, platforms and purposes;
- enable students to inform their journalism practice with a critical understanding of standard frameworks established in ethics, law, industry regulation, professional guidelines and ethical concerns in different national and international contexts;
- develop students' understanding of the political economy and organisation of journalistic practice and news operations within the broader context of the media industries;
- establish a questioning and intellectually challenging approach to the study of theory and practice of journalism;
- recognise issues relating to employment and self-employment in relation to current, and changing, industry/professional needs;
- give students the opportunity to gain professional experience of multimedia journalism through work placement within the industry.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. Academic theories relevant to the production, circulation and reception of journalism, and media communications more broadly.
2. The important relationship between the political economy and media ownership, both in a national and international context.
3. Current and future media industry trends, with consideration of how these dynamics impact on delivery methods, consumption and employment.
4. Multimedia news production processes, and how different editorial

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- lectures and seminars;
- independent study, including core and independent reading, as well as independent and guided study;
- group debate and discussion;
- tutorials;
- the experience of undertaking formative assessment and discussing feedback;
- work placements;
- news days;
- producing creative and practical work in response to briefs.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

<p>roles interplay with the workflow.</p> <p>5. The legal bodies and regulatory institutions that regulate the media industry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays; • case studies; • exams; • critical analysis; • group work in seminars and in presentation; • projects.
<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creatively interpret and apply theories, concepts and other critical material to processes and practices of journalism and other forms of media communication. 2. Evaluate their own critical and practical work and that of their peers with reflexivity and consideration. 3. Analyse primary and secondary sources using a range of methods appropriate to the programme (eg. content analysis; social media analytics; ethnographic observation). 4. Think creatively, researching and problem solving in both practical and intellectual contexts and thereby developing distinctive skills as a critical practitioner. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion, debate and participation in lectures, seminars and workshops; • ‘problem solving’ in the context of seminar exercises, workshops, practical sessions; • news days; • work experience; • independent and guided study; • critical guided and independent reading; • undertaking formative assessment and dealing with feedback; • consideration of work placements. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students’ cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • critical analysis in a range of contexts; • essays; • case studies; • practical portfolio production; • all requiring evidence of cognitive skills as part of the criteria for specific modules.
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce or reversion content demonstrating an awareness of time constraints, news agendas, news values and audiences. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshops; • critical analysis of examples of existing practice; • project development; • guided group sessions;

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Originate and produce journalism that adheres to the appropriate legal frameworks, professional guidelines and ethical standards of practice. 3. Work confidently in a team, demonstrating skills in time management, leadership, communication, personal organisation and self-reflection. 4. Confidently employ both traditional and digital strategies for story sourcing, people finding, interviewing and background research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drafting and producing written work; • planning and developing practical projects with guidance from tutors; • structure exercises; • news days; • work placements. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual and group project work; • reflective essays; • case studies; • reports; • critical analysis; • producing written, audio and video work for range of audiences.
<p>D. Graduate skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate employability through a reflective understanding of how knowledge and skills developed through academic study and practical work translate into the professional contexts. 2. Demonstrate critical learning skills: the ability to function as an effective self-directed learner, using the range of resources and skills available responsibly and ethically; the ability to relate their studies to career and personal development. 3. Demonstrate the appropriate communication skills dependent on the audience, context and setting. 4. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively as part of a team and apply this to processes of news production. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures and seminars; • sessions on specific technologies; • independent study including core and independent reading, as well as independent and guided study; • group debate and discussion; • tutorials; • the experience of undertaking formative assessment; • other specific structured opportunities for learning. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' graduate skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures and seminars; • sessions on specific technologies; • independent study including core and independent reading, as well as independent and guided study; • group debate and discussion; • tutorials; • the experience of undertaking formative assessment;

<p>5. Demonstrate IT skills and other technical competencies appropriate to the context of Journalism.</p> <p>6. Demonstrate as appropriate numeracy competencies (eg. analysis and evaluation of statistical data, data visualisation).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other specific structured opportunities for learning.
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12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 4 (1)

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>JRN1000</p> <p>JRN1001</p> <p>MED1002</p> <p>JRN1003</p>		<p>All students must gain 120 credits at Level 4.</p>

Level 5 (2)

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must take all of the following: JRN2000 JRN2001 JRN2002 JRN2003 MED2053		All students must gain 120 credits at Level 5.
Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: JRN3002 JRN3003 JRN3004	Students must also choose one of the following: JRN3000 JRN3001 MED3052 MED3053	All students must gain 120 credits at Level 6.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

Module level	Module code
Level 4	All modules
Level 5	All modules
Level 6	JRN3002, JRN3003, JRN3004

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

Middlesex University assessment procedures and regulations apply – see the University Regulations (mdx.ac.uk/regulations).

For JRN and MED-coded modules students will pass a module if the average of their marks of all components is grade 16 or above.

All law exams must be passed.

Module narratives in the Journalism programme handbook give outline information on assessment, as it relates to specific modules. See also the module handbooks/outlines issued in taught sessions at the commencement of individual modules.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

All students must undertake an average of five days' work experience per year (or 15 days in total during their programme of study). This will be discussed and assessed via the relevant modules and subject tutors. There is also a School Placement administrator, Amanda Adnyana-Roberts, who will introduce the work placement procedures and provide a drop in advice clinic in Year 1.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

This programme has been designed to meet Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC) requirements; as such, preparing students for a career within the media sector is at its core.

In addition to the vocationally focused syllabus, the programme has strong links with the industry and the core teaching staff all have backgrounds in journalism practice.

Besides the focus on vocational skills, the programme also develops students' critical thinking abilities. Graduates are as equally prepared for work in journalism as they are for postgraduate study or non-media careers.

Students should be aware that some post-graduate institutions might insist that an applicant has completed a final-year dissertation. Students will receive further advice relating to their option choices towards the end of Year 2.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	P500
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies

20. Reference points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QAA Benchmark statement 14. Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies • QAA Quality Code • QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Middlesex University Interim Learning and Teaching Strategy Middlesex University Assessment Regulations • The Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook • Broadcast Journalism Training Council

21. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for *[title of Programme]*

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1		C1	
A2		C2	
A3		C3	
A4		C4	
A5		C5	
A6		C6	
A7		C7	
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1		D1	
B2		D2	
B3		D3	
B4		D4	
B5		D5	
B6		D6	
B7		D7	

