

The Programme Specification for Levels 4, 5 and 6 can be found in the [Undergraduate](#) section of the programme of study catalogue.

This version approved July 2022



**Leeds Trinity
University**

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. General information

Awarding body / institution	Leeds Trinity University
Teaching institution	Leeds Trinity University
'Parent' School (<i>ICE / SAC / SSHS</i>)	Faculty of Business, Computing and Digital Industries
Department	School of Digital and Screen Media
Professional accreditation body (<i>if applicable</i>)	N/A
Final award (<i>eg. BA Hons</i>)	BA (Hons) with Foundation Year in Journalism Studies
Title of programme(s)	BA (Hons) Broadcast and Digital Journalism with Foundation Year in Journalism Studies (wef 2024/25) BA (Hons) Journalism with Foundation Year in Journalism Studies BA (Hons) Sports Journalism with Foundation Year in Journalism Studies
Subsidiary award(s) (<i>if any</i>)	Ordinary Degree (with Foundation Year) Diploma of Higher Education (with Foundation Year) Certificate of Higher Education (with Foundation Year) Foundation Certificate
Honours type (<i>Single / Joint / Combined</i>)	Single after progression to Level 4
Duration and mode(s) of study	4 years full-time (one of these is a Foundation Year)
Month/year of approval of programme	September 2019
Start date (this version) (<i>month and year</i>)	September 2022
Periodic review next due (<i>academic year</i>)	2027
HECoS subject code(s)	101233 100442 100923
UCAS course code & route code (available from Admissions)	
SITS codes (<i>Course / Pathway / Route</i>) (available from Student Administration)	
Delivery venue(s)	Leeds Trinity University

2. Aims of the programme

Rationale and general aims, including what is special about this programme (from the student's and a marketing perspective)

The aim of the Foundation Year is to provide you with an introduction to the main forms of analysis and critical debate applied within journalism and media. Through engagement with journalism (online, social media, print, radio and TV) and communication (how stories capture attention in documentaries, films, TV, drama) you will learn how the creative industries address various audience expectations across a range of media. Your insight and technical understanding will clarify what is involved in assessing, evaluating and critiquing work in journalism and media, but also how to design and create your own practical journalism in a range of formats.

You will be provided with an opportunity to actively develop your knowledge of a variety of debates and concepts whilst gaining specialised tuition in core academic skills. Within interactive sessions practice and production are encouraged as a way to understand analysis and evaluation, but also to bring these subjects alive, demonstrating the range and scope of their application. Through the deep understanding of these fundamental concepts and theories it is anticipated that your confidence and readiness for Level 4 study will be enhanced.

This programme offers you an alternative entry route for undergraduate study if you are not in a position to commence your university studies at Level 4. Therefore, the Journalism Studies Foundation Year pathway aims to provide access to higher education for students who may otherwise be excluded from university study. For example, you might not have the usual entry requirements to commence learning at Level 4. It is also intended to be a useful pathway for students who have been out of education for a number of years. You may also wish to further build your confidence before studying at Level 4. The Foundation Year in Journalism Studies pathway consequently endeavours to promote a widening of participation in higher education.

On completion of the Foundation Year, you should be well equipped to go on to Level 4 study on one of the named linked honours degree programmes in journalism. Students wishing to progress to the accredited programmes of BA Journalism, accredited by the NCTJ, or BA Broadcast Journalism, BJTC, must first pass a news test and an interview with a tutor in order to meet accreditation requirements. Students who do not wish to progress to an accredited programme may go on to study BA Sports Journalism or be considered for other BA programmes within the University.

3. Student learning outcomes of the programme

Learning outcomes in terms of:

- knowledge and understanding (K)
- intellectual / cognitive / 'thinking' skills (I)
- practical skills specific to the subject (P)
- employability skills (E)

The 'K1', etc codes are used in section 7b) and module descriptors to refer to each of these learning outcomes.

On successful completion of the foundation year, students will have demonstrated:

- K1 knowledge of selected concepts and techniques that are central to journalism
- K2 an understanding of the basic theories that academics have used to analyse the nature of communication techniques and also to assess their wider psychological, social, and cultural impact
- K3 knowledge of the role played by those concepts, techniques and theories in establishing contested themes and topics within journalism and media

- K4 knowledge of scholarly conventions and academic processes appropriate to journalism and media
- K5 knowledge of methods and strategies appropriate to communicate research findings in journalism and media
- I1 ability to deploy concepts and theories relevant to journalism and media
- I2 ability to apply appropriate strategies in diverse media to the communication of knowledge
- I3 ability to recognise and describe several theories that have been employed to explain communication
- I4 ability to present results that draw appropriately upon scholarly research and debate

Employability skills

- E1 **Self-management** – the ability to plan and manage time; readiness to accept responsibility and improve their own performance based on feedback/reflective learning; the ability to take initiative and be proactive, flexible and resilient
- E2 **Teamworking** – the ability to co-operate with others on a shared task and to recognise and take on appropriate team roles; leading, contributing to discussions and negotiating; contributing to discussions; awareness of interdependence with others
- E3 **Problem-solving** – a capacity for critical reasoning, analysis and synthesis; a capacity for applying knowledge in practice; an ability to retrieve, analyse and evaluate information from various sources
- E4 **Communication** – the ability to present information clearly and appropriately, both orally and in writing, and to tailor messages to specific audiences and purposes
- E5 **Application of numeracy** – a general awareness of mathematics and its application in practical contexts; the ability to carry out arithmetic operations and understand data, to read and interpret graphs and tables and to manage a budget
- E6 **Application of information technology** – the ability to identify the appropriate IT package for a given task; familiarity with word-processing, spreadsheets and file management; the ability to use the internet and email effectively
- E7 **Social, cultural & civic awareness** – embracement of an ethos of community and civic responsibility; an appreciation of diversity and ethical issues; an understanding of cultures and customs in the wider community.

3a External benchmarks

Statement of congruence with the relevant published subject benchmark statements

(including appropriate references to any PSRB, employer or legislative requirements)

All Leeds Trinity University programmes are congruent with the Framework for HE Qualifications (FHEQ) and, where appropriate, the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) / National Qualification and Credit Framework (NQF).

The subject benchmark statements that are particularly relevant to this programme are:

the QAA subject benchmark statement for communication, media, film and cultural studies

4. Learning outcomes for subsidiary awards

Guidance

<p>The assessment strategy is designed so that each of these outcomes is addressed by more than one module at Level 0.</p>	<p>Generic Learning outcomes for the award of <u>Foundation Certificate in Journalism Studies</u>:</p> <p>On successful completion of 120 credits at Level 3, students will be able to access this award if they formally state that they do not wish to further pursue their studies at Level 4 study on one of the linked pathways to the Foundation Year in Journalism Studies.</p> <p>They must have demonstrated an ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) describe key academic concepts that are used to explore communication and how to develop these into broader arguments relevant to the study of the media; ii) produce journalism in a number of multi-media formats and communicate their knowledge and awareness coherently, using appropriate scholarly conventions and techniques; iii) undertake a sustained project on an issue related to media or journalism
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5. Content

Summary of content by theme

(providing a 'vertical' view through the programme)

The Journalism Studies Foundation Year is designed to provide you with: (1) an introduction to studies of, written ideas for journalism and media content and the development of story ideas, (2) the skills that will allow you to make a successful progression to Level 4 study and (3) an opportunity to undertake a sustained investigation on a topic of your choice in an area related to their intended future undergraduate studies.

6. Structure

Foundation Year to a linked journalism degree

Duration: 1 year full-time

Total credit rating: 120 (for those not progressing to Level 4 on to a linked degree)

Level 3 – with effect from September 2022

Core: Students are required to take:

SOC/SHN/LAW/CYP/BMM/COM/HUM/JOU3113			
Academic Skills and Studying with Confidence credits	Sem 1&2	30	
SOC/SHN/LAW/CYP/BMM/COM/HUM/JOU3103			
Project credits	Sem 1&2	30	
JOU3003	Introduction to Journalism	Sems 1&2	30 credits
MFC3013	Communication: Introduction to Modern Media credits	Sems 1&2	30
<i>Please refer to relevant degree Programme Specification(s) for the structure of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the following three years.</i>			

7. Learning, teaching and assessment

7a) Statement of the strategy for learning, teaching and assessment for the programme

The learning and teaching provision on the Foundation Year in Journalism Studies is aligned with the central goals, objectives and features of the University's Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2020-23. It will provide an experience which is inclusive and engaged; professionally relevant; and a framework within which students are encouraged to begin to their abilities to engage in critical thinking and analytical skills. These are however contextualised within the nature of Level 3.

The following approaches are prioritised in the Foundation Year of the linked Journalism degrees:

Learning

The focus will be on ensuring that students have an opportunity to develop their understanding of key concepts that are introduced in each module by applying them through active enquiry, practical research tasks, exercises and collaborative projects.

A Progressive Learning Structure is built into the course design:

Students will begin their Level 3 by having an opportunity to develop their academic skills and confidence, before having an opportunity to apply these when they study a negotiated topic of choice for the Project module in Semester 2. How to effectively engage in academic writing, oral presentation and research information will be focused upon in the first semester of the Foundation Year. In their studies of arts, communication and humanities students will begin by looking at key issues before applying academic concepts and theories to these.

Teaching

- **Student-Led Enquiry:** The main form of teaching session will be seminars and workshops, where concepts and skills introduced by the lecturer will be learned through practical application – specific tasks, problem-solving and discussion, with regular provision of formative feedback on those activities.

- **Directed Activities:** Although students will not undertake directed activities at Level 0, students will be set regular activities that will require completion outside formal classes. Formative feedback will be provided on these.
- **Use of VLE:** To support student-led inquiry, learning materials and resources are supplied in advance via Moodle. Resources offered include bespoke videos and podcasts; links to external sites and online resources; online quizzes; and access to all handouts, powerpoints, etc. In addition, all seminars will be followed by a student-led summary of key points learned and discussed, posted on Moodle.
- **Use of other online resources and technology:** Full use will be made, in teaching sessions, independent study, and assessment, of online resources available to support an understanding of image, the modern media and academic skills.

Assessment:

- **Formative Assessment:** Students will have access to formative assessment in every module that they study on. This will usually take the form of feedback on specific tasks given in teaching sessions, online feedback, or feedback on outline plans for assessed work.
- **Diversity of Assessment methods:** Assessment methods will be varied in form and credit value.
- **Negotiated Assessment:** Students will have the opportunity, in SOC/SHN/LAW/CYP/BMM/COM/HUM3103 Project to negotiate the mode of assessment for a particular assignment. Forms of negotiated assessment might include: video, podcast, written project.

7b) Programme learning outcomes covered

	Assessed learning outcomes of the programme									Skills development						
<i>Adjust LO codes as necessary. ↓</i>	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	I1	I2	I3	I4	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7
Lighter or hatched shading indicates modules that are not core, ie. not all students on this programme will undertake these.	<i>Concepts</i>	<i>Theories</i>	<i>Debates</i>	<i>Scholarly Conventions</i>	<i>Effective Communication</i>	<i>Analysis of Concepts</i>	<i>Application of Theories</i>	<i>Critical Practice</i>	<i>Presentation of Research Findings</i>	Self-management	Teamworking	Problem-solving	Communication	Application of numeracy	Application of IT	Social, cultural & civic awareness
SOC/SHN/LAW/CYP/BMM/COM/HUM3113 Academic Skills and Studying with Confidence																
SOC/SHN/LAW/CYP/BMM/COM/HUM3103 Project																
MFC3013 Communication: Introduction to Modern Media																
JOU3003 Introduction to Journalism																

8. Entry requirements

Do the University's standard entry requirements apply (as outlined within the University's Admissions Policy)?	Yes
Detail of any deviation from and/or addition to the University's standard entry requirements (if applicable)	

9. Progression, classification and award requirements

Details of requirements for student progression between levels and receipt of the award(s) (A certain level of attainment which <u>must</u> be achieved in a specific module; any modules exempted from condonement, any deviation from the standard institutional stipulations for award classification, e.g. exclusion of Level 4 module marks from Foundation Degree classification)
<p>The standard progression requirements, as set out in the current Taught Programme Academic Regulations, will apply.</p> <p>You will have to pass the Foundation Year to progress to a named linked honours degree programme.</p> <p>All modules are exempt from marginal failure and must be passed for progression.</p> <p>Students who wish to progress to one of the accredited BA Journalism programmes must first pass a news test and interview with a tutor, in order to meet PSRB entry requirements.</p> <p>The following regulations apply, together with the General Academic Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programme Regulations for the Foundation Year

10. Prerequisites

Details of modules students <u>must</u> study and achieve credit for before enrolling on a module at a higher level, or attaining their final programme award <i>Include the rationale which justifies imposition of the prerequisite(s) and the mark/grade required.</i>
None

11. Additional support needs

Arrangements made to accommodate students with additional support needs and any unavoidable restrictions on their participation in the programme/scheme
Students with disabilities or other support needs will have access to the 4-year pathway and are expected to be able to participate fully in this programme. Arrangements will be made, via the normal University support systems, to accommodate students with additional support needs wherever possible, with reasonable adjustments made to accommodate individual needs.