

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. General information

Awarding body / institution	Leeds Trinity University
Teaching institution	Leeds Trinity University
'Parent' School	SAC
Professional accreditation body <i>(if applicable)</i>	n/a
Final award	BA (Hons)
Title of programme(s)	Journalism and Politics
Subsidiary award(s) <i>(if any)</i>	Cert HE in Journalism and Politics; Dip HE in Journalism and Politics; BA in Journalism and Politics
Honours type	Joint
Duration and mode(s) of study	3 years: full-time
Start date <i>(this version)</i>	September 2017
Periodic review next due <i>(acad. year)</i>	2017/18
JACS subject code(s) <i>(Level 3)</i>	P500 + L200
UCAS course code & code name	P5L2 Journalism and Politics
SITS codes <i>(Course / Pathway / Route)</i>	UJOUAPOL
Delivery venue(s)	Leeds Trinity University

2. Aims of the programme

Rationale and general aims <i>(from the student's perspective)</i>
<p>The BA (Hons) Journalism and Politics programme is designed for students wishing to pursue a career in the news media and related fields with specialist understanding of politics and international relations. It combines a study of key aspects of journalism, both practical and theoretical, and has a strong emphasis on nurturing industry-ready graduates who have the broad and flexible skills required by industry.</p> <p>The distinctive feature of the Journalism and Politics programme at Leeds Trinity is the way in which it is designed to integrate content and skills in both disciplines, so that the Journalism and the Politics provision informs and enhances each other. Modules in the Politics provision specifically focus on the role journalistic media have played in shaping the nature and processes of political life in the modern world and also the role the media have had in reporting on international conflicts and crises.</p>

The programme stimulates critical thinking through engagement with contemporary social and political issues (both as a body of knowledge and an academic discipline), and to develop the interpretative methodologies necessary to ensure rigorous analysis of evidence, in the formation and support of their own opinions and arguments and the situating of these understandings within the framework of existing knowledge.

The main themes of the programme are contemporary national and international politics; the relation of the media to politics, both in recording national and international events and in shaping the way politics is conducted, and contemporary social issues and debates that draw upon a range of cultural and legal debates that integrate media law and political analysis.

The programme cultivates your reflective, complex decision-making, and problem-solving skills, assisting them to manage and integrate their knowledge effectively, and to communicate and present ideas well, thus developing you into a rounded and engaged graduate who is able to progress to a wide range of further study, career, and life options. The professional placement modules at Levels 4 and 5 each offer extended (5/6 weeks) placement experience with partner organisations and agencies that have established relations with Leeds Trinity University. The University has production studios with industry-standard radio and television and students have the opportunity to take part in live broadcasts and online production.

3. Student learning outcomes of the programme

Learning outcomes in terms of:

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

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

On successful completion of the programme students will have demonstrated:

Knowledge Skills

- K1 **Discipline knowledge:** a coherent and detailed subject knowledge in the disciplines of politics and international relations and in the disciplines of journalism, and a secure understanding of the appropriate concepts, theories, perspectives utilised in those disciplines, including reference to recent scholarly resources and evidence and the accurate use of scholarly conventions in so doing;
- K2 **Understanding of Processes:** understand processes of news-related journalism and apply appropriate concepts and theories to analysis of national and international political processes;
- K3 **Issues and Debates:** an advanced knowledge and understanding of a variety of contemporary issues and debates in politics and international relations and in journalism, and an ability to evaluate the mutual effects of these disciplines and society;
- K4 **Research methods:** knowledge of appropriate methods used in the collection, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of quantitative and qualitative data from primary and secondary sources relevant to the discipline, including a detailed knowledge of the legal and ethical implications involved;
- K5 **Professional practice:** a detailed knowledge of the range of agencies and institutions in the public, private and third sectors involved in the processes of politics and media/journalism.

Intellectual / Cognitive / 'Thinking' Skills

- I1 **Secure use of Critical and Analytical Techniques:** an ability to create and evaluate information in the range of formats relevant to politics and international relations (theoretical; ideological, and statistical);
- I2 **Critical Approach to Solving Problems:** an ability to select and employ appropriate problem-solving means and methods in conducting research, analysis and critique;

- I3 **Effective and Sustained Communication of Results and Arguments:** the ability to select and employ appropriate means of presentational technologies and media through which to report findings or to express viewpoints;
- I4 **Understanding of the Limits of their Knowledge:** an ability to identify and understand the salient aspect of their own perspective (personal, social, geographical, ethical, or ideological) and the consequent influence on their analysis;

Physical Skills

- P1 **Practical Skills:** The acquisition of specific practical and transferable skills of writing for the news media and the acquisition of multi-media skills relevant to journalism and other news-related communication fields;
- P2 **News-Related Communication:** The effective utilisation of communication skills relevant specifically to journalism and more broadly to other news-related communication fields;
- P3 **Work-Readiness:** Initiative, inquiry and time-management, both in self-directed and team work;

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 **Business and sector awareness** – an understanding of the key drivers for business success, including the importance of customer/client satisfaction and innovation; understanding of the market/sector in which an organisation operates; the ability to recognise the external context and pressures on an organisation, including concepts such as value for money, profitability and sustainability;
- E4 **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 different sources;
- E5 **Communication** – the ability to present information clearly and appropriately, both orally and in writing, and to tailor messages to specific audiences and purposes;
- E6 **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;
- E7 **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;
- E8 **Entrepreneurship/enterprise** – the ability to demonstrate an innovative approach and creativity, to generate ideas and to identify and take opportunities;
- E9 **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.

See also the generic learning outcomes for subsidiary awards set out in section 4 below.

3a External benchmarks

<p>Statement of congruence with the relevant published subject benchmark statements <i>(including appropriate references to the FHEQ and any PSRB, employer or legislative requirements)</i></p> <p><i>All new programme submissions should be accompanied by copies of external advisory and regulatory documents relevant to the programme.</i></p>
<p>The programme is fully congruent with the the most recent subject benchmark statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QAA [Quality Assurance Agency] – benchmark statement for Politics and International Relations (2015). Accessible at: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf • QAA [Quality Assurance Agency] draft benchmark statement for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (April 2016): http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Communication-Media-Film-and-Cultural-Studies-consultation-16.pdf

4. Learning outcomes for subsidiary awards

This section is currently being reviewed with a view to replacing generic learning outcomes with learning outcomes that are specific to the programme. Advice should be sought from AQSO before this section is completed.

Guidance	
<p>The assessment strategy is designed so that each of these outcomes is addressed by more than one module at Level 4.</p>	<p>Generic learning outcomes for the award of <u>Certificate of Higher Education</u>:</p> <p>On successful completion of 120 credits at Level 4, students will have demonstrated an ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) interpret and evaluate data appropriate to the discipline; ii) make sound judgements in accordance with basic disciplinary theories and concepts; iii) evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems within the discipline; iv) communicate the results of their work coherently; <p>and will have had specific opportunities to display transferable skills relevant to employment related to the discipline.</p>
<p>The assessment strategy is designed so that each of these outcomes is addressed by more than one module over Levels 4 & 5.</p>	<p>Generic learning outcomes for the award of <u>Diploma of Higher Education</u>:</p> <p>On successful completion of 240 credits, including 120 at Level 5, students will have demonstrated, in addition to the outcomes for a Certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) critical understanding of disciplinary principles; ii) application of concepts outside their initial context; iii) use of a range disciplinary techniques; iv) proficient communication of the results of their work; <p>and will have had the opportunity to develop transferable skills relevant to employment related to the discipline including successful completion of at least one professional placement or school-based training component.</p>

The assessment strategy is designed so that each of these outcomes is addressed by more than one module over Levels 4, 5 & 6.

Generic learning outcomes for the award of an Ordinary Degree:

On successful completion of 300 credits, including 60 at Level 6, students will have demonstrated, **in addition to the outcomes for a Diploma**:

- i) an ability to make flexible use of disciplinary concepts and techniques;
 - ii) critical evaluation of approaches to solving problems in a disciplinary context;
 - iii) an ability to work autonomously within a structured learning experience;
 - iv) effective communication of the results of their work in a variety of forms;
- and will have had the opportunity to develop transferable skills relevant to employment related to the discipline including successful completion of two professional placements or school-based training placements.

5. Content

Summary of content by theme

(providing a 'vertical' view through the programme)

The Journalism and Politics programme enables students to develop discipline-specific skills in five core themes: practical journalism; analysis of politics; political theory; media behaviour in contemporary society, and professional engagement and practice. There is a further theme, supported through the option modules on politics and international relations. The programme is designed to deliver these skills through vertical strands that provide a means of developing skills and knowledge across all three years of undergraduate study. The step-wise nature of the 3 year learning structure is detailed in section 7 below. The strands are as follows:

In the themes listed below the **core modules** are set in bold text:

Practical Journalism

- L4 – JOU 4424 **Practical Journalism** [40 credits]
- L5 – JOU 5404 **Practical Journalism 2: Newswriting** [40 credits]
- L6 – JOU 6174 **Digital Media Portfolio** [40 credits]

Analysis of Politics

- L4 – PTC 4002 **British Politics in Comparative Perspective**
- L5 – PTC 5002 **British Party Politics**
- L6 – PTC 6072 *Counter-Terrorism and the State*

Political Theory

- L4 – PTC 4052 **Classical Political Theory**
- L5 – PTC 5052 **Contemporary Political Theory**
- L6 – PTC 6062 *Freedom of Speech*

Media Behaviour in Contemporary History

- L5 – PTC 5062 **Politics and the Media**
- L5 – PTC 5002 **British Party Politics**
- L6 – PTC 6402 *Politics in Literature and Film*

Professional Engagement and Practice

- L4 – HUM 4992 **Ethics and Society**
- L4 – PTC 4042 **Professional Placement**
- L5 – JOU 5992 *PR in Practice*
- L5 – PTC 5042 **Professional Placement 2 - or**
- L5 – PTC 5082 **Professional Development and Placement (Volunteering)**

- **L6 – JOU 6902 *Law for Journalists***

Politics and International Relations [optional theme]

- L5 – PTC 5022 *Global Crises*
- L5 – JOU 5432 *Reporting Conflict*
- L6 – HIS 6792 *History and Media: Reporting Crisis*
- **L6 – PTC 6022 *Democracy and Democratization***

Section 7a of this document (below) describes how the content of the programme is further structured in progressive stages (by level) to ensure that the teaching and learning is cumulative and progressive.

6. Structure

BA (Hons) JOURNALISM AND POLITICS (Joint Honours)

Duration: 3 years full-time

Total credit rating: 360 (180 ECTS)

Level 4 – with effect from September 2017

Core: Students are required to take:

JOU 4424	Practical Journalism	Sem 1&2	40 credits
JOU 4912	Journalism in Society	Sem 1&2	20 credits
PTC 4002	British Politics in Comparative Perspective	Sem 1	20 credits
HUM 4992	Ethics and Society	Sem 1	20 credits
PTC 4042	Professional Placement	Sem 2	20 credits

Programme Level Assessment: This takes place at the end of the academic year.

Level 5 – with effect from September 2018

Core: Students are required to take:

JOU 5404	Practical Journalism 2: Newswriting	Sem 1&2	40 credits
PTC 5062	Politics and the Media	Sem 1&2	20 credits

Option: Students are required to choose 20 credits from:

JOU 5432	Reporting Conflict	Sem 1&2	20 credits
JOU 5962	Practical Journalistic Styles	Sem 1&2	20 credits
JOU 5992	PR in Practice	Sem 1&2	20 credits

Option: Students are also required to choose 20 credits from:

PTC 5002	British Party Politics	Sem 1	20 credits
PTC 5022	Global Crises	Sem 1	20 credits

Option: Students are also required to choose 20 credits from:

PTC 5042	Professional Placement 2	Sem 1&2	20 credits
PTC 5082	Professional Development and Placement (Volunteering)	Sem 1&2	20 credits

Level 6 – with effect from September 2019

Core: Students are required to take:

PTC 6022	Democracy and Democratization	Sem 1	20 credits
JOU 6174	Digital Media Portfolio	Sem 1&2	40 credits
JOU 6902	Law for Journalists	Sem 1&2	20 credits
HIS 6792	History and Media: Reporting Crisis	Sem 1&2	20 credits

Students are also required to choose 20 credits from:

PTC 6062	Politics in Literature and Film	Sem 2	20 credits
PTC 6072	Counter-Terrorism and the State	Sem 2	20 credits

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 Journalism and Politics programme is aligned with the University's Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2015-2019, supporting the principle that students are co-creators of their own learning and providing the skills and understanding required for them to manage that learning. The following approaches are prioritised in delivering the programme:

Learning:

- **Progressive Learning Structure:** The learning is structured according to levels, to ensure that you are equipped with the knowledge and basic skills in the first year that enable you to explore project work at Level 5, building confidence for the independent work undertaken at Level 6. The principles involved are as follows:
 - **Level 4 (Foundation and Tools):** There is a focus on introducing new undergraduates to the skills, standards and requirements for professional practice in Journalism. JOU 4424 *Practical Journalism* trains you to find, research and write up news stories, including conducting live interviews. There is also professional training in shorthand to 100 words-per-minute standard. In the Politics modules, there is an emphasis on learning what university-level study involves – including formal qualities of scholarship and the construction and communication of a clear argument. The core Politics module PTC 4002 *British Politics in Comparative Perspective* investigates the structure and scope of contemporary politics and also explores the divergence in the institutions and processes across a range of nation states. In each of these modules there is guidance and support for the transition from A-Level to university study and they also provide the basic outlook and skills to enable further more in-depth study in Level 5.
 - **Level 5 (Range and Exploration):** student research and writing are given more scope in Level 5. You will work within pre-set themes or select from a range of topics and work with established criteria and formative guidance and support. The aim is to develop student confidence and to model the kind of choices required for fully independent work. The transition into Level 5 work and on to the fully independent Level 6 work is managed through several core modules. In JOU 5404 *Practical Journalism 2: Newswriting* there is continuity and development of the professional skills from JOU 4424. News stories are identified and researched and then published online (varying the style for the expected audience). PTC 5002 *British Party Politics* provides a similar theme of continuity and development of content and skills from PTC 4002 *British Politics in Comparative Perspective*, where the nature of comparative politics is further broadened out and developed. PTC 5062 *Politics and the Media* has been designed to help integrate the core strands of Journalism and Politics and to develop a specialist focus on the media behaviour in contemporary society.
 - **Level 6 (Focus and Specialisation):** you are encouraged to put your research methods and professional practice into use, with an emphasis on work-readiness. You will plan and structure active research and writing projects; and are required to formulate your own writing projects. In JOU 6174 *Digital Media Portfolio* an 8,000-word professional portfolio of reportage is designed, developed and submitted, accompanied by a professional job application, interview and reflective commentary. JOU 6902 *Law for Journalists* provides essential training in legal issues directly relevant to professional practice in Journalism. Option modules offer scope for independent work in areas selected for their ethical and cultural complexity, presenting challenges and opportunities for various types of self-defined project work. PTC 6082 *Freedom of Speech* specifically engages and complicates some of the issues covered in JOU 6902.

Teaching:

- **Flipped Classroom:** The programme's modules offer small-class sizes, and employ 'flipped classroom' teaching methods to encourage active student participation in learning (both as individuals and in groups), with regular provision of formative feedback on those activities.
- **Directed Activities:** To help structure active student-led sessions specific activities are provided each week for reporting in class. This provides a means for quick and repeated experiences of formative assessment in each module.
- **Use of VLE:** To support student-led inquiry learning materials and resources are supplied in advance via Moodle. Resources offered include e-Clarc's packs of reading materials; bespoke videos and podcasts; links to external sites and materials; quizzes, and additional module handout material and Powerpoints. In addition, all non-lecture sessions are followed by a student-led summary of discussion posted on Moodle.

Assessment:

- **Formative Assessment:** Students have formative assessment in every module studied. In the practical journalism modules formative assessment is central and students are specifically expected to provide feedback on the work of other students. In the politics modules formative feedback is provided prior to each assessment point to ensure that the writing and presentation skills are as professional as the content knowledge.
- **Diversity of Assessment methods:** Assessment methods will vary according to the level of each module and its specific discipline. As a principle, no assessment should be undertaken in later years that has not been already undertaken, with guidance, support and feedback (formative and summative) in an earlier year.
- **Negotiated Assessment:** Students will have opportunities, at each level, to negotiate the mode of assessment. The nature and level of negotiation is stepped-up at each Level. The principle here is to help guide and support students in making informed choices that are supported by previous experience and feedback. The nature of the practical journalism modules means that the nature of the negotiation is at the level of both content and form – though there is a focus on the selecting among the formats typically used in the profession. In the politics provision there is scope in most modules to select the content through which the core skills are demonstrated.

Programme Level Assessment: You will undertake programme level assessment at Level 4. This is delivered through a 3-week practical group project, scheduled after the academic sessions in Semester 2, but before the placement. It integrates the learning for these levels and helps demonstrate the progressive Level structure of the programme. At Level 6 JOU 6174 *Digital Media Portfolio* performs an equivalent integrative and demonstrative function.

7b) Programme learning outcomes covered

Adjust LO codes as necessary. ↓ These must match module descriptors.	Assessed learning outcomes of the programme												Skills development									
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	I1	I2	I3	I4	P1	P2	P3	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	
Lighter or hatched shading indicates modules that are not core, ie. not all students on this programme will undertake these.	Discipline Knowledge	Understanding Processes	Issues and Debates	Research Methods	Professional Practice	Critical and Analytical Techniques	Critical Approaches to Problem Solving	Communication of Findings	Limitations on Knowledge	News-Related Communication	Practical Skills	Work-Readiness	Self-management	Teamworking	Business & sector awareness	Problem-solving	Communication	Application of numeracy	Application of IT	Entrepreneurship / enterprise	Social, cultural & civic awareness	
JOU 4424 Practical Journalism																						
JOU 4912 Journalism in Society																						
PTC 4002 British Politics in Contemporary Perspective																						
JOU 4992 Ethics and Society																						
PTC 4042 Professional Placement																						
JOU 5404 Practical Journalism 2: Newswriting																						
PTC 5062 Politics and the Media																						
JOU 5432 Reporting Conflict																						
JOU 5962 Practical Journalistic Styles																						
JOU 5992 PR in Practice																						
PTC 5002 British Party Politics																						
PTC 5022 Global Crises																						

PTC 5042 Professional Placement 2															■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
PTC 5082 Professional Placement (Volunteering) 2															■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
JOU 6174 Digital Media Portfolio	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■				■	
JOU 6902 Law for Journalists	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■			■	■						■	
PTC 6022 Democracy and Democratization	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■					■			■	■				■	■
HIS 6792 History and Media: Reporting Crisis	■		■	■	■	■	■	■						■	■			■			■	■	■
PTC 6062 Politics in Literature and Film	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						■	■	■	■	■				■	■
PTC 6072 Counter-Terrorism and the State	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						■	■	■	■	■				■	■
PTC 6082 Freedom of Speech	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						■	■	■	■	■				■	■

8. Entry requirements

Honours degree programmes

Applicants should normally have achieved the following prior to registration for the programme:

5 academic or vocational qualifications, of which at least 2 should be GCE 'A' levels (or equivalent at level 3) and one should be GCSE English Language at grade C (or equivalent).

Some equivalent qualifications and the current typical offer conditions in terms of UCAS Tariff points are detailed in the undergraduate prospectus. For students whose first language is not English a pass in an approved test in English is needed, eg. the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) at a minimum of 6.0 with no element lower than 5.5.

Applications are welcome from those with few or no formal qualifications. Any previous relevant work experience and learning will be assessed and, where appropriate, accredited as part of the application process. Please see Leeds Trinity's Principles and Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning.

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 must be achieved in a specific module; any modules exempted from condonement, any deviation from the standard institutional stipulations for award classification, eg. exclusion of Level 4 module marks from Foundation Degree classification)

The normal University undergraduate academic requirements apply.

10. Prerequisites

Details of modules which must be passed before enrolment on a module at a higher level

Include the rationale which justifies imposition of the prerequisite(s) and the mark/grade required.

None

11. External examining arrangements

External examining arrangements

(eg. joint with another programme – extended duties for someone already in post – or separate, single/multiple examiners; if multiple examiners, which subjects / types of module are to be allocated to each; any PSRB requirements)

Under the current external examiner arrangements there will be multiple examiners:

- The Journalism external examiner will scrutinise work from JOU modules on this programme.
- The Politics and International Relations external examiner will scrutinise work from the PTC modules.
- The History external examiner will scrutinise work on HIS 6792 *History and the Media: Reporting Crisis*.

These arrangements and those for the external examiner with oversight of the programme are subject to annual approval.

12. Additional information

Details regarding arrangements in respect of any special features of the programme/scheme, (eg. a non-standard delivery pattern, study abroad, a field course, specific work placement, opportunities for onward progression from foundation degrees, constraints on out-of-programme optional module choices)

The semesterised programme structure affords opportunities for students to take up international exchange schemes, such as Erasmus+ and it also enables international students to undertake modules on this programme.

13. 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 are welcome 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.

Shorthand is a competence standard and while every effort will be made to support students with disabilities to acquire this professional skill, there may be instances where alternative assessment is required. This will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.