



## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### 1. General information

<b>Awarding body / institution</b>	<b>Leeds Trinity University</b>
<b>Teaching institution</b>	<b>Leeds Trinity University</b>
<b>'Parent' School</b> ( <i>ICE / SAC / SSHS</i> )	<b>SAC</b>
<b>Professional accreditation body</b> ( <i>if applicable</i> )	<b>National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ)</b> <b>Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC)</b>
<b>Final award</b> ( <i>eg. BA Hons</i> )	<b>MA</b>
<b>Title of programme(s)</b>	<b>Journalism</b>
<b>Subsidiary award(s)</b> ( <i>if any</i> )	<b>PgCert and PgDip (fallback awards)</b>
<b>Honours type</b> ( <i>Single / Joint / Combined</i> )	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Duration and mode(s) of study</b>	<b>One year full-time</b>
<b>Start date</b> (this version) ( <i>month and year</i> )	<b>September 2017</b>
<b>Periodic review next due</b> ( <i>acad. year</i> )	
<b>JACS subject code(s)</b> ( <i>Level 3</i> ) (Please refer to HESA listing on AQO website)	<b>P500 Journalism</b> <b>P311 TV production</b> <b>P312 Radio production</b>
<b>UCAS course code &amp; code name</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>SITS codes</b> ( <i>Course / Pathway / Route</i> )	<b>JOURNLM</b>
<b>Delivery venue(s)</b>	<b>Leeds Trinity University and professional placements</b>

### 2. Aims of the programme

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

### 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)**

Module modifications – various changes to modules including change to title of dissertation module (July 2017 re BJTC requirements)

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:

- K1 Effective acquisition and utilisation of professional skills in a newsroom setting and in the production of artefacts.
- K2 High levels of competence in research and writing and in the application of technical skills.
- K3 Knowledge and understanding of UK media law, regulation, ethical principles and issues and of British government.
- I1 Secure use of analytical techniques appropriate to the discipline, particularly in terms of ethical decision making and the consideration of all types of content and information for dissemination to audiences.
- I2 Critical evaluation of approaches to solving problems in a disciplinary context, particularly the social and ethical consequences of news-gathering, production and dissemination.
- I3 Effective and sustained communication of the results of research in relation to the discipline.
- I4 Understanding of the limits of their knowledge and the consequent influence on content produced for audiences.
- I5 An ability to practically apply academic research and dissemination skills or professional skills to a major body of work and critically evaluate the results or the learning process through the production of a dissertation or artefacts
- P1 An ability to produce written material for print, digital platforms, broadcast and social media.
- P2 An ability to produce video, audio and photographic content for digital platforms (including emerging platforms), broadcast and social media.
- P3 An ability to produce content through mobile journalism such as smart phones.
- P4 An ability to take and transcribe shorthand notes.
- P5 An ability to apply media law knowledge to practical situations and make legally safe decisions in relation to reporting and publication.
- P6 Practical use of content management systems and social media sharing platforms

#### 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 a 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

#### Statement of congruence with the relevant published subject benchmark statements

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

The aims and objectives are congruent with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008). The programme aims and objectives are also consonant with the benchmark statement for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2016).

The course is accredited by the National Council for the Training of Journalists, which has rigorous professional standards, and also aims to meet the requirements of the Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC).

### 4. Learning outcomes for subsidiary awards

Students who pass the first six modules but do not successfully complete *JOU7006 Journalism Artefact or Research Dissertation* are awarded a PgDip or PgCert.

### 5. Content

#### Summary of content by theme

(providing a 'vertical' view through the programme)

This programme is designed to provide you with the skills, knowledge and understanding to enable you to enter a highly competitive marketplace as skilled, legally aware journalists with the professional skills relevant for higher level practice.

The MA in Journalism comprises six modules covering:

- 1) News Skills – the core skills of journalism regardless of the medium, including training in the taking of shorthand to a minimum of 60wpm and voice training.

Module modifications – various changes to modules including change to title of dissertation module (July 2017 re BJTC requirements)

- 2) Law, Ethics and Regulation – the knowledge required to be legally safe, operate within regulatory frameworks and make ethically sound decisions relating to professional practice. Includes a court visit.
- 3) Live Production – technical, production and narrative skills. Includes voice coaching.
- 4) Public Affairs – the knowledge of British local and national government. Includes the observation of a council meeting.
- 5) A placement, or placements, in an industry setting that has a journalism bias. This is usually for six weeks but has a minimum of three weeks.
- 6) Journalism Artefact - equivalent to a 20-minute radio or tv documentary or a multimedia production, plus critically reflective report.

## 6. Structure

### MA JOURNALISM

**Duration:** 9 months full-time, plus completion of final project, 12 months after registering for the MA.

**Total credit rating:** 180 credits

**Candidates are required to take:**

JOU 7173	News Skills	Semester 1 & 2	30 credits
JOU 7043	Law, Ethics and Regulation	Semester 1 & 2	30 credits
JOU 7063	Live Production	Semester 1 & 2	30 credits
JOU 7091	Professional Placement	Semester 2	10 credits
JOU 7132	Public Affairs	Semester 1	20 credits
JOU 7006	Journalism Artefact	Semester 2 & summer	60 credits

## 7. Learning, teaching and assessment

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

The programme is consistent with the University Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy for 2015-19, which has the following overarching aim:

*A Leeds Trinity University graduate will be a confident individual, able to make a significant contribution to society. They will be comfortable with knowledge at the boundaries of their discipline, understand the connections between different disciplines and be able to collaborate across disciplines in professional contexts. Their professionalism will be underpinned by a clear understanding of ethical practice.*

Entrants to the programme come from a broad range of disciplines and backgrounds and the programme is designed to provide an interactive learning experience and to be professionally relevant, academically coherent and challenging, with formative and summative feedback provided throughout the programme to monitor progress, support learning and allow time for reflection, evaluation and enhancement.

Teaching methods relate specifically to module objectives. Workshops form the key mode of delivery and the emphasis throughout is on interactivity. Links are made between modules to ensure you can make the connections between discrete elements and bring together your learning experience.

Teaching is structured so that the first semester provides the core skills and knowledge which are built on during the second semester and during live production / placement. The bulk of summative assessment is completed prior to live production, when you will be able to concentrate on multimedia production, including online, TV and radio. Live production emulates the professional newsroom environment with students having to take on a range of different roles.

Considerable care is taken in the selection of students for placements to ensure compatibility with the ethos and output of the host organisation. The progress of students is monitored through regular contact between the tutor, student and placement host.

Ethics is a key feature of the programme and is explicit within the Law, Ethics and Regulation module and in the News Skills and Live Production modules.

A balance is struck between the high level skills required of a Masters level programme (as demonstrated through modules JOU 7173 *News Skills*, JOU 7043 *Law, Ethics and Regulation*, JOU 7091 *Professional Placement* and JOU 7006 *Journalism Artefact*) and the high level practical/professional skills required for a career in journalism (as demonstrated through modules JOU 7173 *News Skills*, JOU 7063 *Live Production*, JOU 7132 *Public Affairs* and JOU 7006 *Journalism Artefact*).

Assessment methods are determined on the basis of what most effectively enables students to demonstrate they have met the module objectives. Assessments are staggered through the programme but most take place in the first six months, with the Live Production portfolios and Journalism Artefact being handed in towards the end of the programme.

The taught content / live production and placement elements of the programme will take place between the start of the academic year (late September / early October) and May the following year. During this time, attendance at the University will be full-time.

You will undertake the preparatory research methods / planning for your final project prior to live production and have project proposals approved. These projects will then be completed by October (12 months on from starting the course). Once you have completed live production / placement, full-time attendance at University is not required. You will work independently to complete your artefact/report, with access to supervisor meetings during this time.

Marking criteria have been specified and published for each form of assessment.





## 8. Entry requirements

OROR:

**Postgraduate programmes**

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

A 2-1 honours degree in a relevant subject (or equivalent).

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), with no component below 7.5, or equivalent test.

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 Taught Course Academic Regulations apply.

To be eligible for the award of MA in Journalism candidates must accumulate a total of 180 credits. The fallback awards of PgDip and PgCert are also available.

Progression to *JOU 7091 Professional Placement* is conditional on a satisfactory recommendation by a designated tutor based on appraisals carried out during Live Production.

## 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.*

Candidates must pass all other modules before progression to *JOU 7006 Journalism Artefact*.

## 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)

The external examiner is Mike Baker, from the University of St Mark and St John in Plymouth.

## 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)

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13. Additional support needs

Arrangements made to accommodate students with additional support needs and any unavoidable restrictions on their participation in the programme/scheme

Candidates with disabilities will be welcomed on the course and reasonable adjustments will be made wherever possible to accommodate their individual needs. Candidates with visual or hearing impairments might have difficulty with certain modules such as for TV and Radio production and these will be addressed as individual cases arise and every reasonable effort made to enable candidates to participate fully. Some candidates with physical impairments might encounter difficulties with lifting and managing camera equipment. In some cases this might require personal assistance. Again these matters will be discussed as individual cases arise. 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.