

8 Programme Specification

KEY FACTS

Programme name	BA Journalism
Award	BA (Hons)
School	School of Communication & Creativity
Department or equivalent	Journalism
UCAS Code	P500
Programme code	USJOURN
Type of study	Full time
Total UK credits	360
Total ECTS	180

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The BA Journalism programme combines professional practical teaching with rigorous academic provision in order to develop the skills required for a career in professional journalism. It aims to produce critical thinkers and reflective practitioners who are skilled in multimedia and digital production. The programme offers the chance to critically reflect from an analytical perspective upon the development of contemporary local, national and international print, broadcast and digital journalism and ethical concepts such as accountability and accuracy.

Aims

The programme aims to provide you with:

- Develop skills in digital journalism and associated practical skills and knowledge.
- Provide written and verbal communication skills which would enable graduates to work in the industry.
- Develop academic and professional research skills
- Develop the ability to produce high quality journalism informed and improved by a knowledge of the history of journalism, and the government structures of Britain and Europe.
- Develop the ability to adapt to new technology and to seek and assimilate information from a range of sources. Encourage and develop the consideration of legal, ethical issues and copyright issues in relation to journalistic output and behaviour
- Encourage and develop reflection and analysis of the role of journalism and the journalist in society
- Develop the ability to produce extended pieces of journalism and also extended essays on related subjects.
- Develop the critical and language skills required to facilitate work in a national or international context.

Certificate/Programme Stage 1

Following successful completion of Programme Stage one or the Certificate in Journalism you will be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with Journalism and interpret these within the context of your practice.

Diploma/Programme Stage 2

When you have successfully completed of Programme Stage two or the Diploma in Journalism you will have built on your previous knowledge and experience. You will

have developed skills of enquiry in your subject and different approaches to problem-solving, you will also be able to identify the limitations of your knowledge.

Degree/Programme Stage 3

Following successful completion of Programme Stage three or the degree you will have a coherent, systematic and detailed knowledge of your discipline. You will be able to develop techniques for practice drawing on research and scholarship demonstrating your role as a reflective practitioner.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate understanding of the skills required to produce accurate and engaging news and features, suitable for a target publication or broadcast,
- Display understanding of how to edit to professional standards on multiple platforms and design for a variety of print, broadcast, online, multimedia and digital output.
- Show an awareness of the value of thorough and accurate research, and the importance of transferring findings accurately to your own work, and the importance of correct sourcing and referencing.
- Demonstrate understanding and be able to apply the laws and ethical issues relating to the media and understand the ethical issues relating to the media.

Skills:

- Research and assess facts, concepts, underlying values and theories from a wide variety of sources, and use this research to produce journalism and essays of varying length, and presentations, exercising professional judgement.
- Research, through all methods outlined above, and analyse sources available to journalists.
- Work constructively with other members of a team when producing joint projects for coursework and student publications and on work placements
- Individually and in teams produce magazines, newspapers, websites and broadcast programmes of professional quality and to a deadline; produce responsible solutions to ethical problems which arise in the media.
- Take responsibility for work both individually and in teams.
- Write engaging, concise, well-constructed copy for different publications, both print and internet, and produce professional quality broadcast packages appropriate to a target audience.
- Edit journalistic material and design print and internet publications to a professional standard.
- Manage information and time constructively and solve problems effectively.
- Research topics relating to historical and ethical journalistic issues, analyse data, draw conclusions and present them in essays and orally.

Values and Attitudes:

- Show an awareness of the ethical and legal roles and responsibilities of a journalist in society; become aware of the importance of accuracy and fairness and the right to personal privacy; show respect for the views of others, both in the media and the outside world.
- Show consideration of the rules and regulations of the university.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The practical journalism subjects will be taught in seminars, workshops, and one-to-one copy clinics. You will undertake individual research using electronic resources and libraries and through contacting and interviewing newsworthy people. Full use will be made of the radio and TV studios and the online and print newsrooms. The emphasis will be on replicating the professional world, and you will produce newspapers, magazines and radio programmes about live issues regularly. These exercises develop group working and time management skills. Work attachments and other journalism are assessed in the third year through the production of portfolios. As you progress through the course, gradually more of the work is based on your own ideas and initiative, and on live reporting assignments. You will also, through presentations and seminars, reflect critically on the values and routines underpinning journalistic practice.

Politics and Current Affairs, Journalism History and Culture, International News and Media Law and other academic modules will be taught through lectures, seminars, essay writing, library research, presentations and extended project work. These courses will enable you to extend your in-depth research analytical skills through extended essay writing. Assessment will be by essay writing and examinations.

All the values & attitudes will be taught through the models of good professional practice provided through the work of lecturers and guest speakers, and through reflection on issues in the media now and in the past. Ethical issues are addressed during practical journalism sessions throughout the course, and media law is studied in year 3.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Coursework, essay writing and examinations.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on Assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer.

City's full policy on feedback can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your Programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

The pass mark for each module is 40%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to 30 credits or one sixth of the total credits within a Programme Stage, whichever is greater, you may be allowed compensation if:
 - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the programme specification), and
 - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme Stage, and
 - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
 - An aggregate mark of 40% has been achieved for the Programme Stage, and
 - The total volume of credits compensated over the entire degree does not exceed 45 credits.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your original module mark will be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

2. Resit: where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress to the next Programme Stage and the Assessment Board will require you to be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for a particular Programme Stage or the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Bachelor's Degree with Honours:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	0
2	5	120	33
3	6	120	67

Class	% required
I	70
II upper division	60
II lower division	50
III	40

Ordinary Degree:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	0
2	5	120	33
3	6	60	67

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	40

Diploma of Higher Education:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	33
2	5	120	67

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	40

Certificate of Higher Education:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
1	4	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	40

WHAT WILL I STUDY?*

Programme Stage 1 120 credits

You begin by concentrating on basic journalism skills (news reporting, feature writing, production/subbing and the using the internet as a source and making web pages) and learning about the historic context of contemporary practice (105 credits), plus one language module (15 credits).

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Introduction to News Writing	JO1107	15	C	N	4
Journalism, History and Culture	JO1205	15	C	Y	4
Politics and Current Affairs	JO1206	15	C	Y	4

UK Media	JO1202	15	C	Y	4
Introduction to Digital Journalism	JO1203	15	C	Y	4
Introduction to Audio Journalism	JO1204	15	C	Y	4
Introduction to Video Journalism	JO1207	15	C	Y	4

Language modules

Any Language breadth module at level 1 (beginner level)	LA1XXX	15	CE	Y	4
Any Language for specific purposes module at level 1 (beginner level)	LA1XXX	15	CE	Y	4
Any Language breadth module at Level 2 (intermediate level)	LA2XXX	15	CE	Y	5
Any Language for specific purposes module at Level 2 (intermediate level)	LA2XXX	15	CE	Y	5
Any Language breadth module at Level 3 (upper intermediate level or higher)	LA3XXX	15	CE	Y	5
Any Language for specific purposes module at Level 3 (upper intermediate level or higher)	LA3XXX	15	CE	Y	5
Any Language for specific purposes module at Level 4 (advanced)	LA4XXX	15	CE	Y	6

Language for Specific Purposes: The language is taught in the context of your main subject in Media/Journalism/Social Sciences.

French, German, Spanish, Russian are studied in this format.

Language Breadth Modules: The language is taught for general purposes.

Arabic and Mandarin are studied in this format.

Programme Stage 2

In Programme Stage 2 you will take five core modules which together make up 90 credits and two 15 credit modules from a choice of electives.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Broadcast News Live	JO2106	30	C	N	5
Feature Writing	JO2220	15	C	Y	5
Online and Social Media Journalism	JO2211	15	C	Y	5
Media, Theory and Society	JO2202	15	C	Y	5
Employability and Enterprise skills for Journalism	JO2212	15	C	Y	5
Shorthand	JO2108	15	E	Y	5
Visual Journalism	JO2350	15	E	Y	5

Data Journalism	JO2204	15	E	Y	5
Humanitarian Reporting	JO2206	15	E	Y	5
Sports Journalism	JO2207	15	E	Y	5
Cultures of Conspiracy	JO2213	15	E	Y	5
Learning from Social Data	SG1021	15	E	Y	4
Creative Writing Workshop	EN2003	15	E	Y	5
London After Empire: City and Society	EN2007	15	E	Y	5
Writing about Music	MU2206	15	E	Y	5
Writing Women	EN2014	15	E	Y	5
Reporting London (Study Abroad and Exchange students only)	JO2214	15	E	Y	5
The American Century: The United States in the Twentieth Century	HI2006	15	E	Y	5

Language modules

Any Language breadth module at level 1 (beginner level)	LA1XXX	15	E	Y	4
Any Language for specific purposes module at level 1 (beginner level)	LA1XXX	15	E	Y	4
Any Language breadth module at Level 2 (intermediate level)	LA2XXX	15	E	Y	5
Any Language for specific purposes module at Level 2 (intermediate level)	LA2XXX	15	E	Y	5
Any Language breadth module at Level 3 (upper intermediate level or higher)	LA3XXX	15	E	Y	5
Any Language for specific purposes module at Level 3 (upper intermediate level or higher)	LA3XXX	15	E	Y	5
Any Language for specific purposes module at Level 4 (advanced)	LA4XXX	15	E	Y	6

Language for Specific Purposes: The language is taught in the context of your main subject in Media/Journalism/Social Sciences.

French, German, Spanish, Russian are studied in this format.

Language Breadth Modules: The language is taught for general purposes.

Arabic and Mandarin are studied in this format.

Programme Stage 3

To pass Programme Stage 3, you must have:

- acquired 120 credits at HE Level 6, OR
- acquired 105 credits at HE Level 6 and 15 credits at HE Level 5 from the modules listed above in this Programme Stage.

- You will take two core modules (Media Law and Journalism Ethics).
- You must take at least one core elective (or both) from, Advanced Practical Journalism (Broadcast) and/or Magazine Branding Content and Design.
- You must take EITHER Journalism Project (15 credits) or Dissertation (30 credits)

If you take both core electives (JO3109 and JO3114) and dissertation you will not take any further electives.

If you take both core electives (JO3109 and JO3114) and project, you can take one further elective.

If you take one core elective out of JO3109 and JO3114 and dissertation you can take two further electives.

If you take one core elective out of JO3109 and JO3114 and project you can take three further electives.

Where modules appear at both Programme Stages 2 and 3, you may opt to take the module only once.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Media Law	JO3101	15	C	N	6
Journalism Ethics	JO3104	15	C	N	6
Magazine Branding, Content and Design	JO3109	30	CE	N	6
Advanced Practical Journalism (Broadcast)	JO3114	30	CE	N	6
Journalism Project	JO3500	15	CE	N	6
Dissertation	JO3120	30	CE	N	6
Fashion and Lifestyle Journalism	JO3121	15	E	Y	6
Arts and Culture Journalism	JO3122	15	E	Y	6
Reporting Science and the Environment	JO3123	15	E	Y	6
Reporting business	JO3241	15	E	Y	6
Reporting Conflict	JO3409	15	E	Y	6
AI-Enhanced News Reporting	JO3127	15	E	Y	6
Reporting Underserved Communities	JO3128	15	E	Y	6
Micro-placements (<i>not available to those taking placement year</i>)	CO3000	15	E	Y	6
International Politics of the Middle East	IP3019	15	E	Y	6
Strategic Studies.	IP3051	15	E	Y	6
Comparative Asian Politics	IP3047	15	E	Y	6
Women on the Edge	EN3010	15	E	Y	6
Writing the Global City	EN3008	15	E	Y	6

Visual Storytelling	EN3015	15	E	Y	6
Language modules					
Any Language breadth module at Level 3 (upper intermediate level or higher)	LA3XXX	15	E	Y	5
Any Language for specific purposes module at Level 3 (upper intermediate level or higher)	LA3XXX	15	E	Y	5
Any Language for specific purposes module at Level 4 (advanced)	LA4XXX	15	E	Y	6
Foreign Language for Media (Advanced – Portfolio)	LA3500	15	E	Y	6
<p><u>Language for Specific Purposes:</u> The language is taught in the context of your main subject in Media/Journalism/Social Sciences. <i>French, German, Spanish, Russian are studied in this format.</i></p> <p><u>Language Breadth Modules:</u> The language is taught for general purposes. <i>Arabic and Mandarin are studied in this format.</i></p> <p><i>*Please note that this is an indicative list. These modules are subject to change depending on staff availability, student demand and some are offered on a biennial basis. There is no guarantee that every elective module listed above will run.</i></p>					

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

As an Undergraduate student you can undertake a period of study abroad whilst completing the programme. This is possible through the SCC Exchange Programme, a year of study at one of our European and/or international partner universities via a sandwich year, which is undertaken between completing Programme Stage 2 and entering Programme Stage 3, extending the degree to four years.

The resulting degree title awarded would be: BA Journalism with Study Abroad.

Participation in the SCC Exchange Programme is through an application process. You are encouraged to investigate the opportunities available to you within your Department in your first year at City.

Information and support for this programme is provided by the SCC Exchanges Team (SPGA-SCC-outgoing@city.ac.uk).

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

As an Undergraduate student you can undertake a one year work placement whilst completing the programme. This is possible through joining the Integrated Professional Training Programme, which is a sandwich year that is taken between completing Programme Stage 2 and entering Programme Stage 3, extending the degree to four years.

The resulting degree title awarded would be: BA Journalism with Integrated Professional Training.

In identifying relevant placement opportunities you should consider your long-term plans for employment; whether the work placement proposed is relevant to final year modules; whether it might provide experience on which a project could be based.

Information and support for this programme is provided by the SCC Placements Team (SCC-Placements@city.ac.uk).

- 1) You should discuss your plans with the relevant Department Placement Officer at the earliest opportunity, preferably during the autumn term of their second year.
- 2) The work placement must extend over a minimum of 9 months and a maximum of 12 months (including holidays allowed by the employing body). The Placement should normally run between the 1st September and the 31st August in the following year.
- 3) The placement must be approved by City as providing suitable supervision and training.
- 4) Participant students are required to pay an administrative charge to cover the School's costs associated with the work placement. This will be in the form of a reduced tuition fee for the placement year, which will cover continued enrolment with City and access to all of its facilities.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

A level: 128 UCAS tariff points (typically ABB at A-Level) excluding key skills and general studies. International Baccalaureate: 33 pts.

In addition GCSE grade C or equivalent in English language and mathematics or statistics. An IELTS score of at least 7 is mandatory for all students for whom English is not their first language. Full details of acceptable English language qualifications are given in the Undergraduate Prospectus.

Students are selected on the basis of academic performance, writing ability as well as their commitment to journalism.

Students may be invited for interviews and/or be asked to send in some journalism work. Applications are welcomed from mature students who have attended Access courses.

RPL/RPEL Requirements

Direct entry onto Programme Stage 2

It may be possible, if suitable candidates apply, to offer a place to students who have successfully completed the first year of a single or joint honours journalism degree at

another institution, using the RPL/RPEL procedure. In this case a reference from the tutor at the original university, confirmation that the student has obtained 120 credits, (making one third of the total of 360 for the degree) and an interview may take place. The maximum RPL/RPEL available shall be 120 credits at HE Level 1. Students whose mother tongue is not English will be required to hold an IELTS pass of 7 or higher, unless they have proof of several years of study in an English environment.

Version: 13.1

Version date: May 2024

For use from: 2024-25