

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	BA Journalism, Politics and History BA Journalism, Politics and History with Study Abroad BA Journalism, Politics and History with Integrated Professional Training
Award	BA (Hons)
Exit Awards	BA (Ord), Dip HE, Cert HE, N/A
School	School of Communication & Creativity
Department or equivalent	Journalism (and International Politics)
UCAS Code	P5LV
Programme code	USJPHI
Type of study	Full time
Total UK credits	360
Total ECTS	180

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The BA in Journalism, Politics, and History combines professional practical teaching in journalism with a rigorous education in two of the academic disciplines most relevant to helping a journalist understand the contemporary world—and confidently report its complexity. It aims to produce critical thinkers and reflective practitioners who are skilled in multimedia and digital production. In addition to developing the practical skills required for a career in journalism, you will gain a strong understanding of the major political, cultural, social and economic forces that have shaped the modern world. You will examine the major theories that underpin politics, political analysis and political systems, and situate these ideas in their historical and social contexts. This degree will train you to be a critical thinker and independent researcher: preparing you for a career not only in journalism, but also many others that require excellent communication and analytical skills built on a sound understanding of politics and history, or for further study at postgraduate level.

#### Aims

The programme aims to provide you with:

- Skills in digital journalism and associated practical skills and knowledge.
- Knowledge and understanding of European, non-European and transnational history
- An introduction to the main theories, analytical approaches and methods of contemporary political studies
- Academic and professional research skills

- The ability to produce high quality journalism informed and improved by a knowledge of the history of journalism, knowledge of the politics of states and societies across the world, and the impact of history on current events and contemporary politics
- 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
- The ability to reflect on and analyse the role of journalism and the journalist in society
- The critical and language skills required to work in a national or international context
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

### **Certificate/Programme Stage 1**

Following successful completion of Programme Stage one or the Certificate in Journalism, Politics, and History you will be able to discuss underlying concepts and principles associated with Journalism and interpret these within the context of your practice. You will be familiar with the key issues, concepts, and theoretical perspectives in politics. You will be able to identify and discuss major historical events.

### **Diploma/Programme Stage 2**

When you have successfully completed of Programme Stage two, or the Diploma in Journalism, Politics, and History, you will have built on your previous knowledge and experience. You will have developed skills of enquiry, and different approaches to problem solving. You will also be able to identify the limitations of your knowledge.

You will have demonstrated knowledge and critical understanding of established principles of the study of Journalism, Politics, and History and of the way in which those principles have developed; the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context; knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in History and Politics and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study.

### **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 of Journalism who can draw on a systematic understanding of key aspects of Politics and History.

Bachelor's Degrees with honours are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- Conceptual understanding that enables the student:
  - to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline
  - to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline
- An appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge

- The ability to manage their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline)
- The ability to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Produce accurate and engaging news and features, suitable for a target publication or broadcast
- Edit to professional standards on multiple platforms
- Critically examine and describe the ways that ideas and ideologies have shaped the modern world
- Assess the historical underpinnings of contemporary political and social debates and think critically about the role of history in the public sphere and contemporary world
- Identify and be able to apply the laws and ethical issues relating to the media and understand the ethical issues relating to the media
- Describe, compare and analyse the history of multiple countries and regions
- Define and apply the main theoretical traditions, concepts, and models in the study of politics
- Compare and contrast the impact of different political and electoral systems
- Develop the analytical and intellectual skills required to think critically about political institutions, processes and behaviours within different national, sub-national, and regional contexts
- Read, analyse, and reflect critically on a broad range of historical sources and their contexts
- Evaluate and deploy a variety of historical research methods, including the use of digital technology in historical research and preservation
- Reflect on the complexity of reconstructing the past, and the problematic and varied nature of historical evidence
- Relate the academic study of history and politics to employment opportunities and your professional future

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
- Think critically and argue persuasively in academic and professional contexts using evidence from appropriate sources
- Analyse academic texts and accurately describe theoretical hypotheses and arguments
- 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
- Edit journalistic material and design print and internet publications to a professional standard
- Communicate ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral form for academic and non-academic audiences
- Manage your time, work under pressure, and meet deadlines
- Use digital technology and the Internet as research tools, and critically evaluate digital historical sources and historical repositories
- Relate the skills and knowledge you gain in your degree to your personal and professional goals

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 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
- Show consideration of the rules and regulations of the university
- Respect and acknowledge the work of others
- Acknowledge and value a diversity of opinions and ideas
- Apply critical thinking and reflection and study independently
- Produce written materials that indicate in a precise and honest matter what is your own work and what is attributable to others
- Reflect on and effectively manage your own learning and make use of constructive feedback

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

You will learn through varied forms of teaching and assessment, which will include formative assignments, portfolios, and projects as well as traditional essays and examinations. You will engage with rich debates in current scholarship while also developing your applied skills in a wide range of contexts.

Your modules will be delivered through a combination of lectures, interactive sessions, practical workshops, small group classes, research seminars, and individual supervisions. Lectures are used to provide a broad overview of, commentary on, and explanation of key content areas. Small group modules will help you further and deepen your understanding of the course content by inviting you to work closely with historical materials, raise questions, and discuss key concepts and debates. Lecturing and teaching is supported by a personal tutorial, mentoring and supervision system.

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. 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. Ethical issues in Journalism are addressed during practical journalism sessions throughout the course, and media law is studied in year 3.

All the values and 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. Course content will also be complemented by an organised research seminar series hosted by the Centre for Modern History with outside speakers, both professional and academic, from your second year of study onward, as well as a broad range of events hosted by the Departments of International Politics and Journalism.

You will be required throughout your studies to undertake extensive reading and independent study in order to understand the topics covered in lectures and classes, and to broaden and deepen your knowledge of the subject. Your self-directed learning will be supported in a variety of ways, including Moodle, group work, external visits, use of online resources, and showcases of creative work.

In addition to coursework, the BA Journalism, Politics, and History and Politics includes a dissertation or final project to be submitted at the end of your third year of study. You will choose your research topic yourself, in consultation with module leaders and supervisors.

## **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed through a variety of formative assessments, with emphasis on both intellectual rigor and transferable skills that will become crucial in your subsequent professional life. In addition to practical journalism assignments, assessment may include essays, unseen written examinations, reading reflections, oral presentations, blogs, reflective journals, and research projects. You will receive supervision and support in developing your research and writing skills throughout the programme. Group projects will help you develop your skills in group work, providing and receiving peer review, and presentation.

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 to 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. The full policy can be found at: <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/education/quality-manual/6-assessment>

### 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:

[https://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/453652/s19.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/453652/s19.pdf)

## 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

You begin with four core introductory modules in Journalism, Politics and History (90 credits). The remaining 30 credits are made up by choosing two 15 credit elective modules from the three disciplines, or a language module.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Introduction to News Writing	JO1105	30	C	N	4
Introduction to audio and video journalism	JO1204	15	C	N	4
The Development of the Modern World	HI1001	30	C	N	4
Introduction to Politics	IP1030	15	C	N	4
History in the Age of Digital Information	HI1004	15	E	Y	4
Introduction to Political Theory	IP1032	15	E	Y	4
Introduction to Political and Economic Data Analysis	IP1041	15	E	Y	4
Puzzles in Comparative Politics	IP1031	15	E	Y	4
History of Journalism	JO1205	15	E	Y	4
Introduction to digital Journalism	JO1203	15	E	Y	4
<b>Language modules</b>					
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
<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>					



## Programme Stage 2

During your second year, you will have three core Journalism modules, 60 credits in total. The remaining 60 credits must be gained from choosing one of the two Employability core-electives (15 credits), and three 15-credit elective modules from Politics, History and Languages.

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>SITS Code</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	<b>Core/ Elective</b>	<b>Compensation Yes/No</b>	<b>Level</b>
Broadcast News Live	JO2106	30	C	N	5
Feature Writing	JO2220	15	C	N	5
Online and Social Media Journalism	JO2211	15	C	N	5
Comparative Asian Politics	IP2037	15	E	Y	5
Practical Politics	IP2052	15	CE	Y	5
Employability and Enterprise Skills for Journalism	JO2212	15	CE	Y	5
Comparative Political Economy	IP2031	15	E	Y	5
Political Psychology: Emotion & Reason in Politics	IP2042	15	E	Y	5
Fifty Shades of Red – Russia in the Twentieth Century	HI2003	15	E	Y	5
The American Century: The United States in the Twentieth Century	HI2006	15	E	Y	5
Slavery, Colonialism and Revolution in the Caribbean	HI2012	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
<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>					

**Programme Stage 3**

In your third year, you will take the core module Media Law and Ethics plus one other Advanced Journalism module (Broadcast or Print/ Online) – 45 credits in total. You will select one Project or Dissertation module from Journalism, History or Politics from the second table (Core Electives), and the remaining credits will be made up by choosing elective modules from the third table (up to 60 credits depending on your choice of project/dissertation).

You will take JO3101 AND either JO3114 OR JO3109:

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Media Law	JO3101	15	C	N	6
Advanced Practical Journalism (Broadcast)	JO3114	30	CE	N	6
Magazine Branding, Content and Design	JO3109	30	CE	N	6

You will take one of the modules from this list:

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Journalism Project	JO3500	15	CE	N	6
Journalism Dissertation	JO3120	30	CE	N	6
History dissertation	HI3001	30	CE	N	6
History Dissertation Research and Writing Seminar	HI3002	15	CE	N	6
International Politics Final Year Dissertation Project	IP3017	45	CE	N	6

You will make up your remaining credits by choosing from this list of electives (up to 60 credits depending on which project/dissertation module you choose):

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Radicals and Reformers: Left-Wing Politics and Activism in Britain and the World since 1945	HI3003	15	E	Y	6

Revolution: Rebels and Riots in Modern History	HI3004	15	E	Y	6
Comparative Empires in the Modern Era	HI3005	15	E	Y	6
Genocide and the Holocaust in History and Memory	HI3006	15	E	Y	6
Global governance	IP3018	15	E	Y	6
International Politics of the Middle East	IP3019	15	E	Y	6
American Foreign Policy	IP3020	15	E	Y	6
Political Change in Europe	IP3022	15	E	Y	6
Global Ethics: Power and Principle in World Politics	IP3025	15	E	Y	6
The theory and practice of conflict and peace	IP3027	15	E	Y	6
Micro-placements	CO3000	15	E	Y	6

**Language modules**

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.*

**TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?**

This programme equips you with a range of transferrable and employment-oriented skills, including critical analysis, time management, research, teamwork, oral and written communication, and the use of digital technology.

As a Journalism, Politics, and History graduate, you can aspire to future roles in:

- Journalism
- The cultural and creative industries
- Public policy and the public sector
- Politics

- Advocacy and NGOs
- International Organisations
- Education
- Publishing
- Consulting
- Archive management or librarianship
- Museums and the heritage sector
- Research
- The corporate sector

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:  
<https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/your-career>

### **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, Politics and History 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](mailto: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, Politics and History 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](mailto: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, Politics, or History (other disciplines may be considered, at the discretion of programme director) 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: 2.1

Version date: July 2023

For use from: 2023-24

Information is provided subject to Terms and Conditions for study at City, University of London.