



# BA (Hons) Journalism

## *Programme Specification*

### **Primary Purpose**

Course management and quality assurance.

### **Secondary Purpose**

Detailed information for students, staff and employers. Current students should refer to the related Course Handbook for further detail.

### **Disclaimer**

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information given in this Programme Specification. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification; however, changes may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, review and update of units and courses. Where this activity leads to significant changes to units and courses, there will be prior consultation of students and others, wherever possible, and the University will take all reasonable steps to minimize disruption to students. It is also possible that the University may not be able to offer a unit or course for reasons outside of its control, for example; the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible. Where appropriate, the University will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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## **Course Details**

### **1. Named Awards**

BA (Hons) Journalism

This programme offers subject Pathways in English Language and Linguistics, and, in English Literature, each with a different named award. A student who satisfies the Pathway requirements will qualify for the following named awards:

- BA (Hons) Journalism with English Language and Linguistics
- BA (Hons) Journalism with English Literature

Pathways provide flexibility in the programme by offering an academically coherent combination of units in another subject area for a student to undertake alongside their main degree subject. All students apply for the Single Honours programme and follow a common curricula of core units at level 4.

A student chooses whether to continue on the Single Honours programme or join a Pathway when making their options choices for Level 5. Professional accreditation requirements apply to this programme and so a student who selects a Pathway may not return to the Single Honours award.

### **2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)**

C2150 (P5P3)

### **3. Awarding Body**

University of Portsmouth

### **4. Teaching Institution**

University of Portsmouth

### **5. Accrediting Body**

National Council for the Training of Journalists

### **6. QAA Benchmark Groups**

Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2016) includes Journalism

### **7. Document Control Information**

Version 2, August 2018

### **8. Effective Session**

2018/2019

### **9. Author**

Claire Perry

### **10. Faculty**

Creative and Cultural Industries

## 11. Department

School of Film, Media and Communication

## Curriculum

### 12. Educational Aims

- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop key skills.
- To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets.
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities.
- To develop students' theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding of journalism
- To enable students to place journalism in its historical and political context, and to acquire the critical skills necessary to study journalism
- To provide the means for students to acquire practical and production skills in print and web journalism to a professional pre-entry standard
- To foster within students an awareness of professional values, ethical codes and regulatory frameworks governing practitioners of journalism
- To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities

Journalism is also offered as a joint and major pathway of the combined Honours Degree Programme with English Language, English Literature and Media Studies.

### 13. Reference Points

- The Benchmark Statement for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies; Journalism. (BS)
- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Document (CFD)
- The scholarship and research expertise of academic members of staff (AS)
- QAA Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education (particularly section 7 appendix 2 and appendix 3) (QAA)
- The National Qualifications Framework (NQF)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- National Council for the Training of Journalists (pre-entry curriculum NCTJ)
- Periodicals Training Council (PTC)

### 14. General Learning Outcomes

#### Level 4

Certificates of Higher Education are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with their area(s) of study, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study
- an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of their subject(s) of study

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to their area(s) of study and/or work
- communicate the results of their study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments
- undertake further training and develop new skills within a structured and managed environment

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility

#### Level 5

Diplomas in Higher Education are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of their area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed
- 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 the subject(s) relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study
- an understanding of the limits of their knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis
- effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively
- undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making

#### Level 6

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

- a systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline
- an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline
- 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)

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
- critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
- communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
  - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
  - decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
- the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature

## 15. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate ability to:

- Understand the key aspects of Journalism (BS, NCTJ, PTC, QAA)
- Apply appropriate techniques of analysis to Journalism (BS, AS, QAA, NQF, CFD)
- Research topics and devise and sustain arguments related to Journalism (BS, AS, QAA, CFD)
- Discuss current research and scholarship related to Journalism (BS, AS)
- Discuss the current limits of knowledge in Journalism (AS, BS, CFD)
- Take responsibility for their own learning (CFD, FHEQ, PAS)
- Carry out an extended piece of independent enquiry in Journalism (NCTJ, CFD)
- Communicate information in a manner appropriate to the subject and the intended audience using appropriate technology (NCTJ, PTC, CFD)
- Show initiative and be able to make and justify decisions. (CFD, )
- Achieve the standards required by relevant professional bodies including the NCTJ Diploma in Journalism (NCTJ)

### A. Knowledge and Understanding of:

- A.1 A range of theoretical and practical approaches to journalism (PTC, NCTJ, BS 4.0, 4.1, 4.5, 5.2, 5.6), gained from lectures and exercises with formative feedback to groups and individually
- A.2 The history of journalism and a recognition of the way that technological change has affected its form, (BS 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4).
- A.3 The historical evolution of particular forms of journalism, their current characteristics and future developments (BS 4.2, 4.3, 4.4).
- A.4 The legal, ethical and regulatory frameworks which affect journalism (BS 4.3, 5.6, NCTJ, PTC),
- A.5 Modes of representation in journalism in relation to class, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality and other social divisions (BS 4.5, NCTJ, PTC).
- A.6 A range of print, web-based and broadcast journalism and its appropriateness for target audiences (NCTJ, PTC, BS 4.5)
- A.7 A historically informed perspective on the role of journalism and the press in shaping contemporary culture (BS 4.1, 4.2,).
- A.8 The use of type, layout and visual imagery across a range of media, including newspapers, magazines the web, mobile devices and television (PTC, BS),
- A.9 Production processes and professional practices in newspapers, magazines, websites and television understanding. (NCTJ, PTC, BS 4.3, 4.4, 4.5).
- A.10 How local, central and EU government institutions interact and appropriate ways of reporting such interactions (NCTJ)

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) Skills, able to:**

- B.1 Engage critically with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within
- B.2 Journalism and put them to productive use (BS 5.2)
- B.3 Analyse forms and institutions of journalism as they have emerged historically and appreciate the processes through which they have come into being, with reference to social, cultural and technological change (BS 5.2)
- B.4 Critically examine texts in journalism with appropriate reference to the social and cultural contexts and the diversity of contemporary society (BS 5.2)
- B.5 Analyse closely, interpret and show critical judgment in the understanding of journalism, either their own work or that of others (BS 5.2, 5.3)
- B.6 Consider and evaluate their own work in a reflective manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions. (BS 5.2)
- B.7 Plan and conduct research through self-formulated questions. (BS 5.2)

**C. Practical (Professional or Subject) Skills, able to:**

- C.1 Produce work showing competency in writing and researching news and features for various print and online media (BS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, NCTJ, PTC).
- C.2 Conduct interviews and accurately record information and analyse it to a professional standard (BS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, NCTJ, PTC).
- C.3 Produce work showing competency in designing and laying out news and features for print and digital online media (BS 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, NCTJ, PTC) using industry standard software such as Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Premiere Pro (BS 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, NCTJ, PTC).
- C.4 Work in an editorial team to produce an artefact to an agreed deadline (BS (BS 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, NCTJ, PTC)
- C.5 Extract key ideas from a mass of conflicting material and accurately represent it in a shorter form (BS 5.5, NCTJ, PTC).
- C.6 Be adaptable, creative and reflective in producing output for a variety of audiences and in a variety of print and digital media forms (BS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, NCTJ, PTC).
- C.7 Retrieve and generate information, and evaluate sources in carrying out independent research (BS 5.3)
- C.8 Record and analyse information accurately and present it to professional standards (BS5.3)
- C.9 Carry out various forms of research for essays and projects involving sustained independent inquiry (BS 5.2, 5.3).
- C.10 Carry out research to produce news and feature content including written articles and videos for magazines, newspapers, web sites and, mobile devices, (BS 4.3, 5,2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, NCTJ, PTC).
- C.11 Behave ethically and as a reflective practitioner (BS 5.6).
- C.12 Record and analyse information using shorthand and/or digital voice recorders.
- C.13 Meet professional and practical standards equivalent to the NCTJ Diploma in Journalism (NCTJ)

**D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) Skills, able to:**

- D.1 Synthesise, analyse and present material in a variety of media forms (BS 6.1, BS 5.6, 5.5, 5.4, 5.3)
- D.2 Interview people, and record and analyse information confidently and accurately (BS 6.1. 5.5, 5.4, 5.3)
- D.3 Work as a member of a group, or individual, in a professional media environment (BS 6.1, 5.5, 5.4, 5.3)
- D.4 Work to deadline, delivering work in an appropriate format and to a given brief, demonstrating skills of time management and planning (BS 6.1, 5.5, 5.4, 5.3)
- D.5 Work independently, demonstrating communication skills and initiative, (BS 6.1, 5.5, 5.4, 5.3)
- D.6 Put to use a range of IT skills from basic competencies such as word processing to more complex tasks such as page layout of magazines and newspapers to web-based multimedia (BS 6.1, 5.5, 5.4, 5.3)
- D.7 Carry out independent research (BS 6.1, 5.5, 5.4, 5.3)

D.8 Utilise feedback to plan, organise and review own performance in a career management context. (CFD)

## 16. Learning and Teaching Strategies and Methods

Subject knowledge and competencies are fostered through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and online provision. (A1- A10).

- Lectures are used to set out major theories, concepts, issues and evidence in a given area of study with critical and interpretative skills underpinned by seminar activities.
- Mini-lectures also form part of small-group teaching in workshops with individual and group exercises often involving debates and discussions as well as practical exercises with formative feedback to advance learning (A1-A10).
- The Level Four skills unit, Academic and Professional Skills, supported by online learning resources, reinforces the development of academic skills.
- At level five, Journalism students will acquire the skills to write Teeline shorthand.
- Guided study using books, journals and set readings enables students to develop their subject knowledge and critical approaches.
- Students engage in a range of individual and group practical journalism projects of increasing complexity to hone their journalistic skills across the three years.
- Newsroom workshops using industry standard software enable students to experience first-hand production processes with formative feedback, (A1, A3, A4, A5, A6, A8, A9).
- Further journalism knowledge and understanding is consolidated by final year students undertaking as their major project, the Journalism Dissertation or the Journalism Special Investigation, both with tutor support. (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6).
- Virtual learning environments are embedded within every unit to complement face to face teaching with unit information and learning resources.

Conceptual and critical understanding will be advanced through lectures and seminars involving a steady progression of complexity of tasks across the three years. Students will be encouraged to engage in critical analysis of texts, fields of knowledge, concepts and production practices.

Opportunities for questioning, debate critical reflection and formative feedback will be progressively developed in seminars and workshops. The teaching and learning of intellectual (thinking) skills occurs alongside the teaching and learning of the practice of journalism as set out in A and C.

Formal teaching strategies promote students' independent learning in preparation for seminar and workshop discussions and writing and production exercises. Cognitive skills (B1-B5) are developed via seminar/tutorial discussions and student presentations, B1 and B2 are also supported by lectures, B3 will be developed throughout all three years with a particularly strong focus on this area in L4 and L5 tutorial groups. Working independently with tutor support to complete the dissertation/project at L6 will develop B1-B6.

- Substantive journalism skills and issues are taught in lectures, workshops and seminars where formative feedback is given and further knowledge in relation to these is developed through independent practice (C1, C2, C3, C5, C6).
- Practical journalism skills are further developed through workshop exercises, seminars, tutorials and discussions (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6), all with significant formative feedback.
- Journalism research strategies are taught in workshops and tutorials are enhanced through independent study such as the L6 major project units, (C1, C2, C6, C7, C8, C9, C10, C11 and C12). All students receive significant formative feedback.
- Journalism production strategies and practice are acquired in workshops and through portfolio work (C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C10, C11) with small group teaching allowing significant formative feedback for individual students.
- Journalism theory is taught in lectures and exercises with formative feedback and further knowledge in relation to this is developed through independent reading (C1, C5, C8).
- Students gain expertise in a range of industry standard software applications.
- Students are taught how to work individually and in groups to produce newspapers, magazines, online video and online content.
- Students have the opportunity to take the professional examinations of the National Council for the Training of Journalists.



- Students are supported in the production of essays, group presentations and individual reports (D1-D9).
- At Level 6 students are required to take the Placement unit, which involves a compulsory placement of a minimum of ten days. (D1- D9).
- Students will also be given the opportunity to practice CV writing and completing graduate application forms as well as attend employability events at Levels 4, 5 and 6 (D1, D4 and D5).
- The Level 6 major project units provide the opportunity for the assessment of a range of key journalism skills as outlined above, which are highly transferable. (D1-D9).

## 17. Assessment Strategy

The assessment methods used on the programme are varied including in-class tests, examinations, individual and group presentations, coursework including essays, reports, journalistic exercises using print, online, and multimedia components, group portfolio projects and individual journalism tasks.

- Essay drafts provide the opportunity for formative feedback on proposals for longer work at Level Four (PAS, CFD).
- Analysis of newspapers, magazines and online journalism sites provide opportunities for discussion, formative and summative assessment (PAS, CFD, PTC).
- In-class tests assessing practical journalism skills provide the opportunity for summative feedback. Pre-tests also provide the opportunity for formative feedback on complex tasks (AS, CFD, NCTJ, PTC).
- Examinations for subjects such as newswriting, shorthand and law provide summative feedback (AS, CFD, NCTJ).
- Group presentations provide the opportunity for both formative and summative feedback (PAS, CFD).
- Journalistic tasks provide the opportunity for both formative feedback, through regular newsroom exercises, and summative feedback in, for example, portfolio work (AS, CFD, NCTJ, PTC).
- The final year Dissertation and the Journalism Special Investigation major projects provide the opportunity for significant formative feedback building towards the final summative components (AS, CFD, NCTJ, PTC).
- Reflective analysis provides the opportunity for students to reflect on their work (AS, CFD).

Production of print, online and multimedia artefacts all allow significant formative feedback from unit lecturers before the final summative assessment, (AS, CFD, NCTJ, PTC).

- Assessment and formative and summative feedback address the coherence, structure and logic of an argument as well as subject specific knowledge (B1-B5).
- The range of modes of assessment as outlined in Section A tests students' thinking skills in a variety of contexts and situations. For example closed exams call for an immediate and time-limited response whereas the dissertation or Journalism Special Investigation Major Project demands an extended period of research, planning, reflection and evaluation (B1-B6)
- Marking criteria for assessment is designed to address a range of intellectual skills (B1-B6)

Assessment will focus on the production by students of news stories and feature content including print and digital video, on editing and designing material for newspapers, magazines, mobile devices, all under the guidance of experienced journalists who provide them with formative feedback. All practical journalism units take place in a newsroom where students are given lectures in theory, shown practical examples, then set exercises on which they are then given formative feedback as they work. These small group sessions, with approximately 20 students in each, allow significant formative feedback to be given. More formal sessions include lectures, but also debates and discussions where students can be given further formative feedback.

In addition there are:

- Individually produced news and feature content, including written articles and digital video for magazines, newspapers and online sites with significant formative feedback at all stages (PTC, NCTJ).
- Graduated speed tests in shorthand provide both formative and summative feedback opportunities (NCTJ).

- Group produced magazines and online content are used to assess production skills, along with individual critical analysis of the final products, with formative feedback at all stages (PTC, NCTJ.)
- Students produce individual content for newspapers, magazines, online sites and mobile devices and are given formative feedback on both their proposals and their practice (PTC, NCTJ).
- Essays also provide the opportunity for formative feedback on proposals for longer work (AS, CFD).
- Individual analyses of the content and design of newspapers, magazines, web sites, and broadcast programmes. Examples of these are given in class and discussed, allowing formative feedback on proposed student work (AS, CFD).
- In-class tests provide the opportunity for both formative and summative feedback (CFD).
- Group presentations provide the opportunity for both formative and summative feedback, with proposals for summative assessments being given via presentations (AS, CFD).
- The Journalism Special Investigation allows students to demonstrate their journalism research, interviewing and writing skills, working independently with tutor support, (AS, CFD, NCTJ).
- NCTJ examinations (students are prepared for all NCTJ exams and are expected to take these external examinations) (NCTJ).

Skills will be assessed by all forms of assessment as outlined above. An analysis accompanies some of the journalistic artefacts students produce. These require students to engage critically with theories relating to structure, content and design. In-class tests are a regular feature, but there are also external (NCTJ) professional examinations. D1-2 and D4-7 are central to the assessment criteria requirements for one or more practice-based units. Students will have considerable opportunity to develop their skills in working with others (D3), across all levels. Transferable skills in the use of industry-standard software packages such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Premiere Pro, along with other technical expertise, are taught at Levels 5 and 6, and assessed via the production of practical artefacts.

## 18. Course Structure, Progression and Award Requirements

See [Unit Web Search](#)<sup>1</sup> for full details on the course structure and units

- The Journalism degree comprises 120 credits per level over three year's full time study. One credit is equivalent to ten hours of learning.
- Students can elect to take a sandwich year. This usually takes place at the end of the second year. On completion of the year-long work placement the student returns to full time study to complete Level Six.
- Achievement of 120 credits by the end of L4 means the exit award would be a Certificate in Higher Education.
- Achievement of 240 credits by the end of L5 means the exit award would be a Diploma in Higher Education.
- Standard University rules apply. A full description of exit awards is available in the regulations.
- To be awarded a BA Journalism degree students need to achieve 300 credits and 360 credits for a BA (Hons) Journalism degree.
- Each level comprises a maximum of 120 units.
- Units are offered as 20 credits apart from the third-year Journalism Dissertation and the Journalism Special Investigation) which are 40 credits.
- Journalism is offered in Single Honours in full-time (3 year) an also as a combined honours degree with English Literature, English Language and Media Studies.

Students study a core diet of six compulsory units at Level 4. At Level 5, students take four core units and can choose from various options. At Level Six students take a mandatory 40 credit major project, alongside a mixture of other core and optional units.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch](http://www.port.ac.uk/unitwebsearch)

## 19. Employability Statement

Employability skills will be delivered (and assessed where applicable) throughout the curriculum as outlined below. We provide structured support to enable students to develop their employability skills from Level 4 to Level 6. Core units at each level will include most of the academic and employability skills that are listed in Annex 5 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework. Throughout the three years of study, students undertake journalistic assessments that are similar to journalism tasks carried out in media workplaces. The course maintains close contact with a network of employers offering work placements although it is the responsibility of the student to arrange such a placement.

Career management skills, as a subset of employability skills are embedded throughout the curriculum, as outlined below:

At Level Four management of self-learning tasks and time management are embedded. Students are introduced to basic career management skills such as professional development planning, self-learning tasks, and the communication of information, interpersonal skills, professional development planning and CV development. This unit helps students 'learn how to learn' as part of studying the discipline of a subject area.

At Level Five we continue with developing career management skills during re-induction. There are plenary sessions for students on the further development of career management skills and this is backed up by interactive online exercises and website resources related to the subject area. Students also have access to an interactive, online Employability Hub. At this level, students also learn about how editorial content using Adobe InDesign in the Press and PR unit and create smartphone video content in the Mobile and Social Journalism unit.

At Level Five, students are taught more sophisticated multimedia journalistic skills from video filming and editing to design layout as well as feature writing, sports and music reporting to boost their employability.

At Level Six the core Placement unit conforms to the University of Portsmouth Policy for Work Based and Placement Learning, setting students a minimum work-based placement of ten days. Students also produce a portfolio of published work for the NCTJ, as well as a website featuring samples of their work, a CV and a piece to camera about themselves.

At Level Six, students can also learn how to write and design entire magazines. They also have the opportunity of producing a Journalism Special Investigation, writing a series of four features on a subject of their choosing, targeting a particular publication, providing a specific potential employment opportunity.

Our units across the three years of study are specifically designed to cover the requirements of the National Council for the Training of Journalists and prepare students for the NCTJ examinations. Students are expected to complete the external examinations of the NCTJ. Student entry to these NCTJ examinations is paid for by the university, which also pays for entry to two shorthand examinations. Passes in NCTJ examinations do not affect degree progression. Shorthand provision is included in core units at Level Five to meet the requirements of the National Council for the Training of Journalists and give students another core employability skill.

The degree is intended to produce graduates who will also have the ability to produce a variety of digital journalism content to deadline, to extract key points from complex and conflicting sources, and to present narratives across a range of media. Graduates will have the ability to interview people using a variety of methods, along with a good knowledge of law, government and ethics, and a strong sense of time management based on the many journalism tasks they will have undertaken during their three years at Portsmouth. In addition, they will be able to produce newspapers, magazines, web sites, videos for online and have a wide range of transferable academic, oral and written communication and digital skills. One of the great strengths of the journalism programme at Portsmouth is its emphasis on employability, not just through accreditation by the National Council for the Training of Journalists, but the diverse opportunities for journalism graduates provided by units which offer expertise in niche Journalism roles.

In addition, close links with The News in Portsmouth and other media outlets in the region help students to have work published and also boost employability.

Students on the Single Honours Journalism degree are on a course that carries accreditation from the Journalism industry's key professional training body the NCTJ, but also allows the development of a raft of transferable digital skills. Graduates will have skills that will enable them to produce a newspaper, magazine, website, digital show reel, video content, plus expertise that they will have acquired through work related units at Levels 4, 5 and 6.

Students acquire familiarity with industry standard software packages throughout the course, including Adobe InDesign, Dreamweaver, Photoshop and Premiere Pro. These digital skills, along with their interviewing and writing skills, are transferable to other media industries. Journalism has been successful in producing quality graduates, including winners of NCTJ Awards and runners-up in the Guardian Media Awards, who are working on national and regional newspapers, magazines, online sites and across a range of high-profile jobs in advertising, web design, marketing and public relations.

For both Level Five and Level Six students we run a series of Faculty-wide careers events with employers from a range of relevant employment sectors during the year (including a Faculty Alumni Day).

Within Journalism, we also have a programme of regular speakers from the industry, who both speak to the students and occasionally take part in interactive exercises.

All these activities are supported by the Personal Tutor system and a refocused PDP. Since professional practice takes place in small groups of up to 25 students, tutors, all with significant professional experience, can provide direct and individual support for students. Simulations and tests reflect real-world practice. Professional development is one of the principal aims of the course and it is delivered in every newsroom unit. In each case, students work to real-world standards.

We provide opportunities for students to engage in work-related learning through active learning and the application of skills in work-related environments including the LF3 newsroom. Work-related learning in the newsroom takes place at Levels Four, Five and Six.

All single honours Journalism students will be expected to take the external examinations of the National Council for the Training of Journalists. This remains the standard by which entrants to the newspaper industry are judged. Student entry to these NCTJ examinations is paid for by the School of Film, Media and Communication, which also pays for entry to two shorthand examinations.

All Journalism Single Honours students engage with formal PDP tasks at all levels via the Personal Tutoring system. The Personal Tutor system adopted at each level ensures that each student has at least one member of academic staff who monitors their progress and can write references if required.

## **Course Management**

### **20. Support for Student Learning**

- The BA (Hons) Journalism is managed by a Subject Leader.
- An extensive induction programme introduces the student to the University and their course.
- Each student has a personal tutor, responsible for pastoral support and guidance, who will oversee the first two years of the student's academic study and provide pastoral support. In the final year, this role is taken by the Dissertation or Journalism Special Investigation supervisor.
- Extensive online resources are available, including a Student Common Room site to provide key information about the degree and Moodle (the Virtual Learning Environment) sites for individual units.
- University support services include - careers, financial advice, housing, counselling etc.
- The Academic Skills Unit (ASK)
- CCI Creative Skills Centre and CCI Academic Skills Centre.
- CCI Creative Careers Centre.
- The Additional Support and Disability Advice Centre (ASDAC)
- Excellent library facilities.

- The University of Portsmouth has consistently been awarded an excellent rating for student support and guidance in a number of Quality Assurance Agency inspections.
- Student course and unit handbooks, both online and on paper provide information about the course structure, University regulations, unit content and assessment etc.
- Feedback is provided for all assessments.
- Students are supported with Personal Development Planning.
- Study skills to support students making the academic transition to university are delivered at Level 4
- Students undertaking a placement for the Placement unit are provided with support prior to and during their placements.
- Access to a dedicated newsroom with industry standard software and hardware.

## 21. Admissions Criteria

### A. Academic Admissions Criteria

Students are recruited with a variety of different qualifications. All should be able to refer to some experience that demonstrates a keen interest in Journalism. As general guidance:

- 96-120 points to include a minimum of 2 A levels or equivalent.
- GNVQ: students must have achieved at least a C grade for a single 12-unit GNVQ in a relevant area.
- Students may also offer more varied GNVQ and A/AS combinations, including 6-unit and 3-unit GNVQ awards.
- Professional qualifications & experience and other equivalent qualifications considered positively
- Access courses: 60% overall
- Mature and International students are welcomed
- Highly accurate English writing and listening skills with an IELTS or equivalent of at least 6.5 with no component score below 6.0 for applicants for whom English is not their mother tongue
- If appropriate, prior learning may be assessed and accredited.

Single Honours Journalism students have to undergo an entrance test and if successful will be invited for interview.

### B. Disability

The University makes no distinction in its admissions policy with regard to disability and will endeavour to make all reasonable adjustments in order to make it possible for students to study at Portsmouth on a course of their choice.

## 22. Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

### A. Mechanisms for Review and Evaluation

- Subject Leader's Annual Standards and Quality Evaluative Review.
- Head of Department's Annual Standards and Quality Evaluative Review.
- Unit and Course Level student feedback considered at Board of Studies.
- Unit Assessment Board consideration of student performance for each programme.
- Annual Standards and Quality Reports to Board of Studies, including consideration of Subject and Award External Examiner Reports.
- Periodic Programme Review
- Student Representatives and Student/Staff Consultative Committees.
- National Student Survey.
- Staff Performance and Development Review.
- Peer Review and Development Framework.
- Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee.
- Employer input from work placement reports.
- Examination reports from the National Council for the Training of Journalists



## **B. Responsibilities for Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Unit Co-ordinators for unit content and delivery.
- Subject Leader, for day-to-day running of course.
- Subject Leader for coordination of delivery of the syllabus of the National Council for the Training of Journalists
- Board of Studies with overall responsibilities for operation and content of course.
- Head of Department.
- Associate Dean (Academic).
- Associate Dean (Students).
- Quality Assurance Committee.
- Unit, Award and Progression Board of Examiners.

## **C. Mechanisms for Gaining Student Feedback**

- Student Representation on Board of Studies.
- Student Staff Consultative Committees.
- Unit and Course level student feedback questionnaires.
- University participates in external student surveys, e.g. National Student Survey (NSS) and International Student Barometer (ISB),

## **D. Staff Development Priorities**

- Academic staff undertake activities related to research, scholarship, teaching and learning and student support and guidance.
- Annual staff performance and development reviews match development to needs.
- Managers undertake a variety of management development programmes.
- Academic staff undertake initial and continuing professional development within the Academic Professional Excellence Framework (APEX) programme which is aligned with the Higher Education Academy (HEA)'s UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF).
- All academic staff encouraged to seek Higher Education Academy Fellowship.
- Academic staff new to teaching required to undertake Graduate Professional Development Programme (gPROF).
- Support Staff are encouraged to attend short courses in areas such as minute taking, and specific IT packages.

## **23. Assessment Regulations**

The current University of Portsmouth academic regulations will apply to this programme (see [Assessment and Regulations<sup>2</sup>](#)).

## **24. Role of Externals**

Subject External Examiners who will:

- Oversee unit assessment and usually attend Unit Assessment Boards
- Review unit assessment strategy
- Sample assessment artefacts
- Present report to Unit Assessment Boards

Award External Examiners (usually also a Subject External Examiner) who will:

- Oversee and attend Award/Progression Boards
- Scrutinise and endorse the outcomes of assessment
- Ensure that the standard of the award is maintained at a level comparable with that of similar awards elsewhere in the United Kingdom

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<sup>2</sup> [http://policies.docstore.port.ac.uk/policy-107.pdf?\\_ga=2.35873504.1363879306.1532935696-1470967879.1491987462](http://policies.docstore.port.ac.uk/policy-107.pdf?_ga=2.35873504.1363879306.1532935696-1470967879.1491987462)

## 25. Indicators of Standards and Quality

### A. Professional Accreditation/Recognition

National Council for the Training of Journalists, reaccreditation November 2017

### B. Periodic Programme Review (or equivalent)

The programme is assessed within the University's programme of regular review including the ASQER and the Periodic Programme Review. Journalism Single and Combined Honours successfully underwent a Periodic Programme Review on January 29, 2014.

### C. Quality Assurance Agency

QAA Higher Education Review, March 2015, judgements about standards and quality meet UK expectations (*for full report see [Higher Education Review of the University of Portsmouth, March 2015](#)*<sup>3</sup>).

### D. Others

None.

## 26. Further Information

Further information may be found in:

- Student Handbook
- University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Document
- University of Portsmouth Prospectus
- [University of Portsmouth](#)<sup>4</sup> and [Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries](#)<sup>5</sup> websites

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/reports/university-of-portsmouth-her-15.pdf?sfvrsn=5071f581\\_4](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/reports/university-of-portsmouth-her-15.pdf?sfvrsn=5071f581_4)

<sup>4</sup> [www.port.ac.uk/](http://www.port.ac.uk/)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www2.port.ac.uk/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/?\\_ga=2.258035018.1363879306.1532935696-1470967879.1491987462](http://www2.port.ac.uk/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/?_ga=2.258035018.1363879306.1532935696-1470967879.1491987462)