



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) Journalism with Media Studies

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

July 2021

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

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| Course Title | <i>BA (Hons) Journalism with Media Studies</i> |
| Final Award | <i>BA (Hons)</i> |
| Exit Awards | <i>CertHE, DipHE. BA</i> |
| Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable) | <i>U2181PYC, C2381S / P5P3</i> |
| Mode of study | <i>Full time</i> |
| Mode of delivery | <i>Campus</i> |
| Normal length of course | <i>3 years, 4 years with placement</i> |
| Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies | <i>September 2019 intake onwards</i> |
| Awarding Body | <i>University of Portsmouth</i> |
| Teaching Institution | <i>University of Portsmouth</i> |
| Faculty | <i>Creative and Cultural Industries</i> |
| School/Department/Subject Group | <i>School of Film, Media and Communication</i> |
| School/Department/Subject Group webpage | <i>School of Film, Media and Communication</i> |
| Course webpage including entry criteria | <i>BA (Hons) Journalism with Media Studies</i> |
| Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations | <i>None</i> |
| <u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u> | <i>Level 6</i> |

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible and coherent programme of study across journalism and media subject areas.
- 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 foster within students an awareness of professional values, ethical codes and regulatory frameworks governing practitioners of journalism
- To develop students' theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding of journalism and media studies.
- To enable students to place journalism and media issues in their historical and political context, and to acquire the critical skills necessary for their study.
- To provide students with the knowledge and skills to be able to analyse and evaluate media influence on individuals and society.
- To enable students to explore identity in the media so as to instil an understanding of its place in society, both at home and globally.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below, referencing QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (BS) for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| A1 | A range of theoretical and practical approaches to journalism and media studies (BS) | Lectures, seminars. Practical newsroom workshops teach specific employability skills | Portfolios, exams, essays (including formative), podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), presentations, news articles, features, article analyses. |
| A2 | The history of journalism and media organisations and a recognition of the way that technological change has affected their form and shaped the modern world; also, the economic forces that influence and frame media industries (BS). | Lectures, seminars. | Essays, presentations, online quizzes. |
| A3 | A range of different media genres and of types of journalism, their appropriateness for target audiences and the dynamics of public discourse in shaping culture (BS) | Lectures, seminars. Practical writing workshops for different genres of journalism enhance employability skills. | Portfolios, essays, podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), presentations, article analyses. |
| A4 | The legal, ethical and regulatory frameworks that are relevant to the media and journalism industries (BS). | Lectures, seminars, court visits. | Essays, exams, presentations. |
| A5 | The construction of identities through the media and modes of representation in relation to class, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality and other social divisions (BS). | Lectures, seminars. | Essays, presentations, article analyses, reports. |

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

| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
|-----------|---|--|---|
| B1 | Engage critically with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within journalism and media studies and put them to productive use (BS) | Lectures, seminars. | Essays, presentations. |
| B2 | Analyse the social, cultural and political background and practices through which media and journalism institutions have emerged historically (BS) | Lectures, seminars, workshops. | Essays, presentations. |
| B3 | Make critical judgements in understanding how different social groups engage with media and forms of communication, with appropriate reference to social and cultural contexts and the diversity of contemporary society (BS) | Lectures, seminars, workshops. | Essays, presentations, article analyses, market analyses. |
| B4 | Plan and conduct research through self-formulated questions. (BS) | Lectures, seminars, workshops, personal tutorials. | Essays, presentations, reports, dissertation (including formative feedback) |
| B5 | Consider and evaluate their own work in a reflective manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions. (BS) | Lectures, seminars, personal tutorials. | Essays, presentations, dissertation (including formative feedback) |

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

| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| C1 | Produce work showing flexibility and competency in writing for academic purposes and for various print and online media (BS). | Practical newsroom workshops teach specific employability skills. | Portfolios, exams, podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), news articles, features. |
| C2 | Conduct interviews and communicate effectively in interpersonal settings, accurately recording and analysing information while carrying out independent research (BS). | Practical newsroom workshops teach specific employability skills. | Portfolios, podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), news articles, features. |
| C3 | Produce work showing competency in designing and laying out information for a variety of multi-platform media (BS). | Practical newsroom workshops teach specific employability skills. | Portfolios. |
| C4 | Work in teams to produce media group projects and journalism artefacts to an agreed deadline (BS) | Practical newsroom workshops teach specific employability skills, seminars, tutorials. | Formative tutorials, portfolios. |
| C5 | Meet professional and practical standards, understanding the legal, ethical and regulatory conditions relevant to the production of media products (BS) | Lectures, practical newsroom seminars. | Portfolios, exams, podcasts, news articles, features. |

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

| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
|-----------|--|---|---|
| D1 | Synthesise, analyse and present material in a variety of media forms (BS) | Lectures, practical newsroom workshops, seminars | Portfolios, exams, podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), news articles, features, article analyses, presentations, reports, market analyses. |
| D2 | Work in flexible ways to record and retrieve information accurately and be aware of relevant ethical and societal considerations (BS) | Lectures, practical newsroom workshops, seminars. | Portfolios, essays, presentations, dissertation. |
| D3 | Work as a member of a group, or individual, in a professional media or other environment (BS) | Practical newsroom workshops, seminars. | Portfolios, presentations. |
| D4 | Work to deadline, managing media projects and delivering work in an appropriate format and to a given brief, demonstrating skills of time management and planning (BS) | Practical newsroom workshops, seminars. | Portfolios, exams, essays, podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), news articles, features. |
| D5 | Put to use a range of IT skills from basic competencies such as word processing to more complex tasks as appropriate, such as page layout of magazines and newspapers to video and web-based multimedia (BS) | Lectures, practical newsroom workshops, seminars. | Portfolios, exams, podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), presentations. |

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides access to:

CCI Creative Careers: Support to add degree-related and relevant work experience for CV building including a work placement year, summer or short internships and part-time work.

CCI Creative Skills: One to one support sessions and group tutorials in creative software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: Access to resources to support learning strategies and techniques through one to one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Support Advisor: Help to find appropriate academic, pastoral or practical support.
Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

Additional reference points for the course are:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement: Communication, media, film and cultural studies \(BS\)](#).
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **N/A**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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