

Introduction to

BA (Hons) Journalism with English Language

Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement

Primary Purpose

Course management, monitoring 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 supplement and believes it to be correct. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification supplement but reserve the right to change the content, timetabling and administration of the course whilst maintaining equivalent academic standards and quality.

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1. Named Award

BA (Hons) Journalism with English Language

2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)

C2383 (P5Q3)

3. Awarding Body

University of Portsmouth

4. Teaching Institution

University of Portsmouth

5. Document Control Information

Version: July 2016

6. Effective Session

2016 - 17

7. Home Course Leader

Mary Williams

8. Home Faculty

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

9. Home Department

School of Social, Historical and Literary Studies

10. About this Programme Specification Supplement

This Combined Honours Course Programme Specification Supplement is designed for prospective students, registered students, University staff and potential employers. It provides an introduction to combined honours courses at the University of Portsmouth, and an overview of the course rationale, aims and learning outcomes.

A full Programme Specification is prepared for each half of the course. This supplement links the full Programme Specifications for each half of the Combined Honours Course. In the full Programme Specification documents (see A1. and A2. below), you will find more detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes, unit information, reference points, support for student learning and regulatory arrangements for each half of the Combined Honours.

A1. Combined Honours Journalism - PSD

A2. Combined Honours English Language - PSD

11. The Combined Honours Degree Course at the University of Portsmouth

At the University of Portsmouth, our Combined Honours Degrees are predetermined combinations of subjects (subject A and subject B). Most students will be registered on a joint award where the number of credits studied in both subjects is roughly the same (approximately 50/50).

A small number of Combined Honours courses are designated major/minor courses where subject A is the major subject and subject B is the minor subject (approximately 66/33). For a joint Combined Honours, a student may choose to undertake a dissertation in subject A or subject B; in the case of major/minor awards, the dissertation will always be in the major subject. This is the case for Journalism with English Language.

12. Course Management

For each course, one of the academic departments owning one of the two subject halves will be designated the 'home' department. The home department is often, **but not always**, the first named of the subject combination, see section 9 above for this course's home. The home department will be the students' base and is responsible for providing the academic course leader, personal tutor and student support. A deputy course leader is appointed from the 'away' department.

The University operates a two-tier course management structure at department level, which monitors students' progression and achievement at unit level and award level. At University level, there is a dedicated Combined Honours Management Board, which reviews annually overall student experience, monitors student achievement and advises on the introduction and withdrawal of new course combinations.

13. Course Rationale

The Journalism with English Language course is an exciting combination that focuses on writing across a range of media. Journalism is an exciting, fast changing world where you don't just need the ability to find and tell a story, but an array of technical skills to communicate that tale to the public. English Language is an ideal complement to journalism and this course should help you to become a highly capable wordsmith, whether your eventual goal is to write for magazines, newspapers or to pen something of your own.

At Portsmouth we are committed to helping you gain the skills to progress in your career. From interviewing and writing through to the ability to produce newspaper and magazine pages, online content and websites, you will learn skills that are much sought after in the marketplace.

Over three years you will learn the basic skills of journalism alongside the theory that underlies the practice of journalism. We intend that our graduates are not just proficient but also ethical and reflective practitioners of journalism with significant knowledge of another subject.

The BA (Hons) Journalism with English Language combination is one of three journalism combined honours courses, giving you the opportunity to study with students from sister degrees that combine English or Journalism with a variety of other combined honours. This breadth of specialist interests fosters a wide range of perspectives and helps to make Portsmouth a vibrant place to study.

Evidence of a commitment to journalism and relevant experience is desirable.

The university is also an accredited examination centre for the National Council for the Training of Journalists, the journalism industry's key training body. Students have the opportunity to sit a number of NCTJ examinations but applicants are advised that if they wish to take all the NCTJ core examinations they should apply for the Single Honours Journalism course.

Enquiries are particularly welcomed from mature candidates (over 21 years of age) who may not hold the formal qualifications usually required for admission to the course. This degree is particularly committed to recruiting such students who will usually hold an Access qualification or equivalent.

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.

14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To provide an intellectually stimulating and supportive learning and studying environment allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study.
- To develop students' theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding of Journalism and English Language.
- 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 online 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.
- To provide an understanding of the basic concepts, modes of analysis and theoretical approaches in those areas of study (in particular linguistics), which contribute to the study of the English Language.
- To enable students to understand and apply a range of concepts from the discipline of linguistics to study a range of texts.
- To provide an opportunity to study diverse modes of communication, oral, written and mixed, and their distinctive levels of phonology, morphology, lexis, syntax, semantics, pragmatics and discourse.
- To provide knowledge of the structure, levels and discourse functions of the English language.
- To develop understanding of the role of language in society, its nature as a cognitive domain, the way it is acquired, how it changes and its role in a range of media for communication.
- To introduce students to a range of empirical linguistic phenomena and the relevant descriptive terminology, thereby enabling a practical understanding of what the English language is and how it works.
- To compare the English language with other languages, as appropriate.
- To enable students to develop a high standard of literacy, communication skills, and skills of critical argument.
- To prepare students for further research in journalism, language or linguistics-related areas.
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment.
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a flexible coherent programme of study across two subject areas and to develop specialist interests and knowledge.
- 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.

15. Employability Statement

The degree is intended to produce graduates who will also have the ability to produce a variety of journalism content for print and digital platforms to deadline, to extract key points from complex and conflicting sources, and to analyse and understand nuances of writing and language across a range of media and applications. Graduates will have the ability to interview people using a variety of methods, along with a good knowledge of law 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 print, video and digital content for newspapers, magazines and online platforms, and have a wide range of transferable digital skills.

Employability skills are delivered (and assessed where applicable) throughout the curriculum. 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. Journalism students will have the opportunity to take a work-related unit, Learning from Experience, (LiFE) at Level 5 or Level 6, and can also undertake either the Level 6 Placement and Digital Portfolio unit which involves a ten day placement or the Press and Public Relations unit which involves working with real-world clients for the unit assessment.