



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) Journalism

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

July 2021

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	<i>BA (Hons) Journalism</i>
Final Award	<i>BA (Hons)</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE, BA</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>U2150PYC, C2150S / P500</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</i>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>National Council for the Training of Journalists</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 coherent programme of study.
- To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets and the growing importance of global engagement.
- 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, political and global 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.

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 (BS)	Lectures, seminars. Practical newsroom workshops teach specific employability skills	Portfolios, exams, essays (including formative), podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), presentations, shorthand tests (including formative), news articles, features, article analyses.
A2	The history of journalism and a recognition of the way that technological change has affected its form (BS).	Lectures, seminars.	Essays, presentations.
A3	A range of print, web-based and broadcast journalism and its appropriateness for target audiences (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 which affect journalism (BS,	Lectures, seminars, court visits.	Essays, exams, presentations.
A5	Modes of representation in journalism in relation to class, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality and other social divisions (BS).	Lectures, seminars.	Essays, presentations, article analyses.

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 put them to productive use (BS)	Lectures, seminars.	Essays, presentations.
B2	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)	Lectures, seminars.	Essays, presentations.
B3	Critically examine texts in journalism with appropriate reference to the social and cultural contexts and the diversity of contemporary society (BS)	Lectures, seminars.	Essays, presentations, article analyses.
B4	Plan and conduct research through self-formulated questions. (BS)	Lectures, seminars, personal tutorials.	Essays, presentations, 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 competency in writing and researching news and features 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 accurately record information and analyse it to a professional standard (BS).	Practical newsroom workshops and shorthand workshops teach specific employability skills.	Portfolios, podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), news articles, features, shorthand tests (including formative).
C3	Produce work showing competency in designing and laying out news and features for print and digital online media using industry standard software such as Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Premiere Pro (BS).	Practical newsroom workshops teach specific employability skills.	Portfolios.
C4	Work in an editorial team to produce an artefact to an agreed deadline (BS)	Practical newsroom workshops teach specific employability skills.	Portfolios.
C5	Meet professional and practical standards equivalent to the NCTJ Diploma in Journalism (BS)	Lectures, practical newsroom and shorthand workshops, seminars.	Portfolios, exams, podcasts, news articles, features, shorthand tests (including formative).

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 and shorthand workshops. seminars	Portfolios, exams, podcasts, blogs, videos (including formative), news articles, features, shorthand tests (including formative), article analyses
D2	Interview people, record information accurately and be aware of relevant ethical considerations (BS)	Lectures, practical newsroom and shorthand workshops, seminars.	Portfolios, essays, presentations, shorthand tests (including formative), 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, 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 such as page layout of magazines and newspapers to 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: **NCTJ**
- 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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