



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Journalism (DL)

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

July 2021

Copyright

The contents of this document are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	<i>MA Journalism (DL)</i>
Final Award	<i>MA</i>
Exit Awards	<i>PGDip, PGCert</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>P3280FTD, P3280PTD</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full Time and Part Time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Distance Learning</i>
Normal length of course	<i>1 year (Full Time) and 2 years (Part Time)</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>From September 2022 Full Time - September and January intakes Part Time - September intakes</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	<u><i>School of Film, Media and Communication</i></u>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<u><i>MA Journalism (DL)</i></u>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>National Council for the Training of Journalists (students will be able to pass the Level 5 Diploma in Journalism alongside their Master's)</i>
<u>Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</u>	<i>Level 7</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

The MA Journalism is a practical course which will equip you with a wide range of technical skills required to be a digital journalist in today's fast-moving industry. The course has a strong focus on employability, supporting you finding work placements and preparing you for life in a modern newsroom. The course encourages individual, creative approaches to all forms of reporting, from news reporting and feature writing to investigative and data journalism. While learning the practical skills of a journalist, you will develop a critical understanding of the theoretical debates relevant to journalism and learn what it takes to become a senior leader. Alongside your Master's, you will have the opportunity to take the Level 5 NCTJ Diploma in Journalism, a highly-regarded industry qualification recognised by editors and publishers.

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.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Gather, critically evaluate and synthesise new and existing knowledge, for application in self-directed and original ways to inform story-telling so as to best serve the audience's needs, increase engagement and reach new people.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment
A2	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the techniques and strategies required to extract the maximum relevant information from interviewees.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment
A3	Develop advanced, critical and reflective knowledge and understanding of legal and ethical regulations that apply to journalism, focussing on the ability and readiness to question its principles, practices and boundaries	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, exams, portfolios, written assignment

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Think independently, analytically and creatively, and engage imaginatively with story-telling methods prior to publishing to ensure the desired impact	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment
B2	Actively seek out challenges and seize opportunities for the development of new understanding and knowledge by monitoring the progression through different cognitive and technical tasks at a professional or equivalent level.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment
B3	Manage the research and development process and its workflow, in terms of concept development, planning, implementation, testing, and troubleshooting, to develop innovative approaches.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Engage with an extended piece of independent, analytic and creative research by acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks, within and across subject boundaries.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment
C2	Has technical expertise and performs smoothly with precision and effectiveness, to deliver video, audio and photographic multimedia content for multi-platform journalistic use.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment
C3	Demonstrates self-direction and personal responsibility in editing and formatting material for publication/broadcast in line with ethical, legal and regulatory requirements.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment
C4	Professionally communicate a reasoned perspective on a complex aesthetic and/or technological problem clearly and effectively to a range of different audiences, including face to face presentations, demonstrations and written communication.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Develop a reflexive approach to work that is defined by equality, respect and ethical practice, whilst identifying enterprise and innovation opportunities.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Portfolios, presentations,
D2	Proactively pursue academic, professional and career aspirations by addressing personal development needs, making professional use of others where appropriate, maintaining their knowledge and skills in relation to industry developments that influence their work, including emerging trends, innovations, tools and techniques.	Lectures, seminars, group work	Essays, portfolios, presentations, written assignment

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 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.

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

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- [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 for **Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies 2019**](#)
- [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.

Copyright

The contents of this Course Specification are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

Document details

Author	<i>Paul Foster</i>
Date of production and version number	<i>May 2021 v1.0</i>
Date of update and version number	<i>18/08/2021 V1.1</i>
Minimum student registration numbers	<i>10</i>