# COURSE SPECIFICATION

## *MA Journalism (DL) (DA)*

## *Senior Journalist Degree Apprenticeship*

# COURSE SPECIFICATION

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| Course Title | MA Journalism (DL) (DA)<br>Senior Journalist Degree Apprenticeship |
| Final Award | MA |
| Exit Awards | PGCert, PGDip |
| Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable) | P3287PDD |
| Mode of study | Part time |
| Mode of delivery | Distance Learning |
| Normal length of course | 2 years |
| Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies | September 2024 intake onwards |
| Awarding Body | University of Portsmouth |
| Teaching Institution | University of Portsmouth |
| Faculty | Creative and Cultural Industries |
| School/Department/Subject Group | School of Film, Media, and Creative Technologies |
| School/Department/Subject Group webpage | https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/school-of-film-media-and-creative-technologies |
| Course webpage including entry criteria | https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ma-senior-journalist-masters-degree-apprenticeship |
| Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations | National Council for the Training of Journalists (students will be able to pass the Level 6 National Qualification in Journalism alongside their Master's) |
| Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level | Level 7 |

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 Senior Journalist Degree Apprenticeship 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 encourages individual, creative approaches to all forms of reporting, from news reporting and feature writing to investigative and data journalism. While developing your practical skills, you will explore the theoretical debates relevant to journalism and learn what it takes to become a senior leader in the newsroom. Alongside your apprenticeship, you will earn credits towards achieving a Master's and the Level 6 National Qualification in 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.

| A. Knowledge and understanding of: | | | |
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| **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 |
| D3 | Can operate in complex and unpredictable, possibly specialised contexts and works effectively with a group as leader or member, making appropriate use of the capacities of group members. | Lectures, seminars, group work | Portfolios, presentations, oral assessment |
| D4 | Can lead assignments ensuring they are authentic and accurate, resulting in the publication/broadcast of material which leads to positive audience engagement. | Lectures, seminars, group work | Portfolios, presentations, oral assessment |

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment 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:**

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

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [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

## Changes to your course/modules

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

| Document Details | |
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