

Course Specification

Course Summary Information			
1	Course Title		BA (Hons) Journalism
2	BCU Course Code	UCAS Code	US0892
3	Awarding Institution		Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)		
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)		

6	Course Description		
	<p>Get practical, professional preparation for a career in journalism with our BA (Hons) Journalism degree course. You'll get the chance to develop the skills you'll need to cover stories for print, digital, TV and radio, as well as exploring the global impact of journalism on audiences. You'll be armed with a mobile reporting kit to give you a chance to work as a real reporter from day one.</p> <p>We pride ourselves on teaching creative, contemporary journalism underpinned by traditional values and skills. That means learning the core media and communication skills that every working reporter needs before you specialise in an area that interests you.</p> <p>You'll be challenged academically – often by some of the industry's leading names – and you'll be expected to undertake meaningful work experience placements in media environments, and work on live stories, learning how to craft a story in a way that engages the audience.</p> <p>By the time you graduate, you'll be a thinking journalist with a specialism in news, broadcasting, features, or design. You'll also be adaptable to the changes that the industry faces. Our graduates have gone on to work for Sky, BBC, Trinity Mirror and the Express & Star. Others have scooped prestigious awards at the Midlands Media Awards while still studying.</p> <p>What's covered in the course? Based in Birmingham City University's £62 million Parkside Building - you can take the first steps to a career in journalism.</p> <p>Our BA (Hons) Journalism course is delivered by industry experts from broadcast, print and digital, providing a strong foundation for a professional career.</p> <p>The Live Newsroom modules offer an opportunity to apply practical mobile reporting skills in a real-world environment for platforms including TV, radio, print and digital platforms. Our strong links with key journalism organisations means you'll also get the chance to work on live briefs as well as producing content for our award-winning Birmingham Eastside website.</p> <p>Teaching is delivered in our industry-standard facilities, as well as on location thanks to our focus on mobile reporting. Our newsroom media hub also allows for collaborative work as part of the wider Birmingham City University journalism community.</p>		

	By tackling real stories, you will quickly develop a sense of the impact reporting can have. Through our Global and Community Impact modules there will be a chance to undertake placements as well as embed yourself within communities to tackle key issues in real depth. The focus on innovation and entrepreneurship will also encourage students to think critically about the journalism landscape, creating products and real brands to identify new opportunities.
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Journalism	6	360
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Certificate of Higher Education Journalism	4	120
	Diploma of Higher Education Journalism	5	240
	Bachelor of Arts Journalism	6	300

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	N/A

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	3 years	US0892
	Professional Placement Year	Placement	4 years	US1334

10	Entry Requirements
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/ , or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding – graduates will develop:
1	Define journalism media forms and genres, and the way in which they organise understandings, meanings and affects
2	Apply a range of research approaches and methods
3	Cite cultural, economic, political and regulatory contexts of the journalism industry
4	Analyse your own creative processes and practice through engagement in a variety of production practices
	Cognitive and Intellectual Skills
5	Develop Independent Learning skills become a self-motivated, and resourceful individual capable of developing a personal programme of study
6	Develop Analytical skills in order to draw sensible insights
7	Evaluate your own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions
8	Employ appropriate methods and resources to explore research, drawing on a range of sources, and frameworks

	Practical and Professional Skills
9	Develop competency with appropriate equipment, software or other resources
10	Develop as a thinking creative journalist, aware of the structures and of how to operate within a journalism industries workplace
11	Develop as a creative thinker and practitioner, capable of experimenting and taking risks, and shaping concepts based on secure research strategies
12	Produce work which demonstrates an understanding of journalism forms, structures and audiences
	Key Transferable Skills
13	Perform productively and creatively in a group or team, as well as individually, showing abilities at different times to listen, contribute and lead, as well as act effectively by oneself
14	Deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate of a problem-solving, and entrepreneurial approach
15	Communicate effectively in interpersonal settings, in writing and in a variety of media
16	Specify ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively

12	Course Requirements																																																												
12a	<p>Level 4:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>MED4158</td><td>Live Newsroom 1</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>MED4163</td><td>Introduction to Journalism Landscapes</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED4162</td><td>Journalism Law and Ethics</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED4164</td><td>Journalism in Society</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED4165</td><td>Global and Community Impact 1</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p>Level 5:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>MED5211</td><td>Live Newsroom 2</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>MED5209</td><td>Disruptive Publishing</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5210</td><td>Journalism Futures</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5208</td><td>Global and Community Impact 2</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>MED5169</td><td>Fashion Photography</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5123</td><td>Photojournalism</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5219</td><td>Radio Documentary and Podcast Production</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5178</td><td>Music Industry Promotional Practices</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5202</td><td>Creating Compelling Content</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>ADM5006</td><td>Collaborative Practice</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p>Professional Placement Year (optional)</p> <p><i>In order to qualify for the Professional Placement Year, a student must successfully complete the following Level 5 module:</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>PPY5003</td><td>Professional Placement</td><td>120</td></tr></table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED4158	Live Newsroom 1	40	MED4163	Introduction to Journalism Landscapes	20	MED4162	Journalism Law and Ethics	20	MED4164	Journalism in Society	20	MED4165	Global and Community Impact 1	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED5211	Live Newsroom 2	40	MED5209	Disruptive Publishing	20	MED5210	Journalism Futures	20	MED5208	Global and Community Impact 2	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED5169	Fashion Photography	20	MED5123	Photojournalism	20	MED5219	Radio Documentary and Podcast Production	20	MED5178	Music Industry Promotional Practices	20	MED5202	Creating Compelling Content	20	ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PPY5003	Professional Placement	120
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Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MED6218	Major Project: Media	60
MED6206	Live Newsroom 3	20
MED6205	Global and Community Impact 3	20
MED6208	Journalism Innovation and Entrepreneurship	20

12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only as modules will only run if selected by 15 or more students. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

	Semester 1	Semester 2		
Year 1	Live Newsroom 1 (40)			
	Journalism Law & Ethics (20)	Introduction to Journalism Landscapes (20)	Journalism in Society (20)	Global and Community Impact 1 (20)
Year 2	Live Newsroom 2 (40)			
	Journalism Futures (20)	Disruptive Publishing (20)	Optional Module (20)	Global and Community Impact 2 (20)
Year 3	Live Newsroom 3 (20)	Major Project: Media (60)		
	Global and Community Impact 3 (20)		Journalism Innovation and Entrepreneurship (20)	

Professional Placement Year (Optional)

Students on the Professional Placement Year version of this course will undertake their placement after their second year of study. They will then return to complete their third year as indicated above.

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 4

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	230
Directed Learning	730
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	80%
Exam	
In-Person	20%

Level 5

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	240
Directed Learning	720
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
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Coursework	80%
Exam	
In-Person	20%

Level 6

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	129
Directed Learning	831
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	75%
Exam	
In-Person	25%