

Course Specification

Course Summary Information			
1	Course Title		BA (Hons) Journalism with Foundation Year
2	Course Code	UCAS Code	US0892F P50F
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 a wide range of regional newspapers. Others have scooped prestigious awards at the Midlands Media Awards while still studying.</p> <p>About foundation courses</p> <p>This four year programme has been specifically designed to allow students who do not initially meet the entry requirements for a three year degree, to undertake additional level 3 study designed to ensure they are successful on their chosen degree programme. The foundation year helps students to develop skills such as academic writing, referencing and researching, as well as important transferable skills such as project management and team work. After successful completion of your foundation year, you will have the flexibility to switch (should you wish to change direction) onto a number of related undergraduate degree programmes within Birmingham School of Media.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>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>

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.

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.

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.

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Journalism	6	480
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Foundation Certificate Journalism	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education Journalism	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education Journalism	5	360
	Bachelor of Arts Journalism	6	420

8	Derogation from the University Regulations		
	Not applicable		

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location	Duration of Study
	Full Time	City Centre	4 years
			Code
			US0892F

10	Entry Requirements
<p>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.</p>	

11	Course Learning Outcomes		
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1	Knowledge and Understanding – graduates will develop:
1.1	Define journalism media forms and genres, and the way in which they organise understandings, meanings and affects
1.2	Apply a range of research approaches and methods.
1.3	Cite cultural, economic, political and regulatory contexts of the journalism industry
1.4	Analyse your own creative processes and practice through engagement in a variety of production practices
2	Cognitive and Intellectual Skills
2.1	Develop Independent Learning skills - become a self-motivated, and resourceful individual capable of developing a personal programme of study
2.2	Develop Analytical skills in order to draw sensible insights
2.3	Evaluate your own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions
2.4	Employ appropriate methods and resources to explore research, drawing on a range of sources, and frameworks
3	Practical and Professional Skills
3.1	Develop competency with appropriate equipment, software or other resources
3.2	Develop as a thinking creative journalist, aware of the structures and of how to operate within a journalism industries workplace
3.3	Develop as a creative thinker and practitioner, capable of experimenting and taking risks, and shaping concepts based on secure research strategies
3.4	Produce work which demonstrates an understanding of journalism forms, structures and audiences
4	Key Transferable Skills
4.1	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
4.2	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
4.3	Communicate effectively in interpersonal settings, in writing and in a variety of media
4.4	Specify ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively

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12a	<p>Level 3:</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>MED3000</td><td>Cross Media Production 1</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED3001</td><td>Cross Media Production 2</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED3002</td><td>Media Context and Production</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED3003</td><td>Professional and Academic Skills</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED3004</td><td>Practice Project</td><td>40</td></tr></table> <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>MED5185</td><td>Radio Documentary</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5202</td><td>Creating Compelling Content</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5178</td><td>Music Industry Promotional Practices</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5217</td><td>Digital Storytelling</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>ADM5006</td><td>Collaborative Practice</td><td>20</td></tr></table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED3000	Cross Media Production 1	20	MED3001	Cross Media Production 2	20	MED3002	Media Context and Production	20	MED3003	Professional and Academic Skills	20	MED3004	Practice Project	40	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	MED5185	Radio Documentary	20	MED5202	Creating Compelling Content	20	MED5178	Music Industry Promotional Practices	20	MED5217	Digital Storytelling	20	ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20
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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
ADM6006	Major Project	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	
SEMESTER ONE			SEMESTER TWO	
MED3003 Professional and Academic Skills (20 credits – core)				
MED3000 Cross-media Production 1 (20 credits – core)			MED3002 Media Context and Production (20 credits – core)	
MED3001 Cross-media Production 2 (20 credits – core)			MED3004 Practice Project (40 credits – core)	
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 (60)		
	Global and Community Impact 3 (20)		Journalism Innovation and Entrepreneurship (20)	

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 3

Workload

XX% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	480
Directed Learning	480
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	72%
Exam	0
In-Person	28%

Level 4

Workload

XX% 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	0
In-Person	20%

Level 5

Workload

XX% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	220
Directed Learning	740
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	80%
Exam	0
In-Person	20%

Level 6

Workload

XX% 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	0
In-Person	25%