

Journalism

Final award	BA (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	Cert HE, Dip HE
UCAS code	P500 - Level 1 entry (3 Year full time route)
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A * This Higher Education programme is not primarily concerned with the training of journalists, hence accreditation by the National Council for the Training of Journalists has not been sought.
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Communication, Media, Cultural Studies
Date specification last up-dated	September 2012

Profile

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

Products, processes and contexts of journalism and an introduction to and rehearsal in journalistic production practices

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirements for entry for Level 1 entry is 240 UCAS tariff points from: A/AS level (Including 2 A2 passes), GNVQ, AVCE, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate. European Baccalaureate, BTEC / SCOTEC Diploma, Relevant Access Course or successful completion of the Level 0. Other qualifications, including overseas, may be considered.

We also welcome applicants from mature students who do not have formal qualifications but may have relevant experience. Students applying to this programme will be expected to demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging with the subject. Applicants may be invited for interview.

If you have the potential, commitment and enthusiasm to study for a degree but are unable to meet the entry requirements for your chosen degree programme you can apply for the Extended Degree programme route. An Extended Degree includes a Level 0 year, making the period of study 4 years or 5 years if the Extended Degree programme is taken on a part-time basis. The programme provides a supportive learning space for students to experience academic studies at university and helps develop confidence and academic skills in preparation for Levels 1-3. The programme is also highly rated by students who successfully complete the programme. Successful completion of the programme guarantees entry to a

range of Single Honours programmes or a Combined Programme of study within the School of Arts and Digital Industries.

More details of the Extended Degree programme can be found [here](#)

Overseas Qualifications

The number of overseas qualifications which are accepted for entry are too numerous to list, but you can get advice from the British Council or our admissions unit on 020 8223 2835. You must be able to understand and express yourself in both written and spoken English and some evidence e.g. For level 1 entry a TOEFL score of 550 or an IELTS score of 6.0 (no skill level below 5).

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is Journalism?

As ‘the first draft of history’, journalism is a key source of understanding and misunderstanding about the world around us. To study journalism is to investigate both sides of this contradictory profession.

At UEL, students enrolled on an extended degree may register for Journalism (single honours degree) or Journalism Studies (combined honours route) on satisfactory completion of the foundation year in Media and Creative Industries.

Journalism at UEL

Students are expected to look critically at the practice of professional journalism and its relationship to society, while acquiring some key skills required by professional journalists. On completing their programme in Journalism, students will have gained:

- Critical knowledge of journalism and its relationship to society
- Skills relevant to journalism and other professional activities

Programme structure

Although part-time study is available, Journalism is typically a three-year programme. Level 1 may be preceded by a foundation year (Level 0) in Media and Creative Industries. Students who have taken appropriate options may also transfer into Journalism Studies (Levels 2 and 3) having completed Level 1 in the Media and Creative Industries programme. Throughout all levels, Journalism students are encouraged to submit work for publication either internally, e.g. on the campus radio station or Rising East e-journal, or externally, e.g. to titles recommended by staff who are practising journalists.

Learning environment

The Journalism programme employs teaching and learning methods which match its priorities: first, critical approaches to journalism are developed in a traditional academic setting mainly comprised of lectures and seminars with tutorial support; secondly, the acquisition of practical and professional skills occurs in workshops or ‘copy clinics’ where

students try out journalistic writing and other techniques in a demanding but supportive environment.

Assessment

At the end of their first semester students on the Journalism programme are examined in writing techniques. Subsequent learning is assessed largely through coursework. On practical modules, students are sometimes required to talk about their assignments in a meeting or viva with academic staff and media professionals.

Students are assessed throughout the academic year. Only Levels 2 and 3 count towards final degree classifications, i.e. not Level 1; the weightings for Levels 2 and 3 are 33% and 66% respectively, i.e. Level 3 performance counts for twice as much as Level 2.

Work experience/placement opportunities

The programme facilitates work experience opportunities in Level 2 at which point, students may work in an appropriate media organisation for at least three weeks, with the option to extend this experience over the summer. From Level 2 onwards there are opportunities for work-based learning, gaining university credit while developing a personal portfolio of journalistic work.

Project work

Practical modules are often based around production projects. In Level 3, Journalism students may take a double module, i.e. it lasts all year and carries twice as many credits as a single module, in which they devise a research project/dissertation and bring it to completion with the support and supervision of academic staff who are also practising journalists.

Added value

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IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in...

- Journalism in print, broadcasting or online
- The historical development of journalism
- The social contexts in which journalism is produced and consumed

If you enjoy...

- Thinking critically about the packages and formats used in professional journalism
- Working out how and why such packages and formats have come to be the norm
- Thinking creatively about new potential formats and their feasibility for the profession

If you want...

- To learn to think critically and act professionally

Your future career

Journalism is a new programme. The first cohort of Journalism students graduated in 2004. Some are working in national or local newspaper journalism, others in PR, while still others have gone into teaching or on to postgraduate study. This is an indicative range of career paths which the programme's graduates may follow.

How we support you

Study skills and journalistic writing skills development. Talks and master classes from visiting journalists and media professionals. Personal tutors who are academics with a background in journalism and extensive contacts in the field. Networking opportunities as well as traditional academic guidance.

Bonus factors

The Journalism Studies programme is taught by staff with extensive professional contacts in journalism.

Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- understand the role of journalism and its institutions, in print and electronic media.
- understand the leading theories and methodologies currently constituting the field of journalism studies.
- acquire some journalistic production skills.
- develop a critical approach to the practices of journalism.

What will you learn?

Knowledge

- Theories and concepts through which to understand journalism as a representation of the world around us
- Theories and concepts of the sociology and political economy of journalism in the 'information age'
- Theories and concepts of the relations between journalism and the public sphere

Thinking skills

- Evaluation of journalism and its professional contexts
- Analysis of journalism and its social contexts

- Expression, argument and synthesis in written and oral forms

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Journalistic writing
- Production for print and/or broadcasting and/or online
- Networking

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Time management
- Strategy for personal development
- Individual responsibility
- Team work
- Project management
- Networking

Structure

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The typical duration of this programme is three years full-time or five years part-time. It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any

external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June, but some programmes also allow students to join at the start of Semester B, in February. A second intake of students can start in February with teaching ending in December. A typical full-time student will study the equivalent of 120 credits over the year. A typical part-time student will study for one day and one evening per week and will complete 60-80 credits.

What you will study when

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A typical full-time student will take six 20 credit modules per year. An honours degree student will complete six modules at level one, six at level 2 and six at level 3.

It is possible to bring together modules from one subject with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

- Single - 120 credits at levels one, two and three
- Major - 80 credits at levels one, two and three
- Joint - 60 credits at levels one, two and three
- Minor - 40 credits at levels one, two and three

Modules are defined as:

- Core - Must be taken
- Option - Select from a range of identified modules within the field
- University wide option - Select from a wide range of modules across the University

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single and major pathways for this programme

Level 1 Entry

LEVEL	TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS SINGLE
1	CC1501 Introduction to Journalism	20	Core
1	CC1502 Radio Journalism	20	Core
1	CC1401 Patterns in Global History	20	Option
1	AI3102 Politics State and Society	20	Option
1	CC1503 Sports Journalism	20	Option
1	CC1504 Journalism Writing	20	Option
1	MS 1302 Introduction to Web page Production	20	Option
1	CC1704 MediaLab 1	20	Option
1	MS1407 Media and Gender	20	Option

1	CC1509 Olympics and Paralympics in Context	20	Option
1	University-wide option	20	Option
2	CC2501 Understanding Culture and the Culture Industries	20	Core
2	CC2508 Working in the Culture Industries	20	Core
2	CC2502 Journalism and Page Design	20	Option
2	CC2504 Online Journalism	20	Option
2	MS2105 Understanding News and the Newspaper Industry	20	Option
2	CC2503 The Television Audience	20	Option
2	CC2103 News Reporting and Creative Nonfiction	20	Option
2	CC2507 Journalism Portfolio 1	20	Option
2	CC2202 Realisms	20	Option
2	PA 2303 Sound Systems	20	Option
2	University-wide option	20	Option
3	CC3503 Media Law, Ethics and Regulation	20	Core
3	CC3001 Project (20 credit dissertation) OR CC3000 Double Project (40 credit dissertation)	20 40	Core Core
3	CC3501 Multimedia Newsroom Practices	20	Core
3	CC3104 Copywriting	20	Option
3	CC3502 Magazine Media	20	Option
3	MS3408 Television and Cultural Change	20	Option
3	MS3305 Information, Knowledge and Power	20	Option
3	CC3505 Journalism Portfolio 2	20	Option
3	University-wide option	20	Option
3	CC3206 Music, Sound and the Body	20	Option
3	MS3102 Public Relations and Promotion	20	Option
3	CC3702 Advertising in Context	20	Option

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher

- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher.

In order to gain a Foundation Degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 240 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher

(A foundation degree is linked to a named Honours degree onto which a student may progress after successful completion of the Foundation degree.)

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

$$\frac{\text{The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3}}{\times 2/3} + \frac{\text{The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3}}{\times 1/3}$$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

- 70% - 100% First Class Honours
- 60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division
- 50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division
- 40% - 49% Third Class Honours
- 0% - 39% Not passed

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Lectures in which ideas and information are presented coherently
- Student-centred seminars
- Tutorials
- Reading of specified texts

- Writing in journalistic and academic modes

Thinking skills are developed through

- Lectures and seminars in which assumptions are challenged
- Close analysis of specified texts
- Individual and small group exercises
- Writing in journalistic and academic modes

Practical skills are developed through

- Copy clinics
- Demonstration of media technologies
- Tutorial support and direction in journalistic activities and techniques
- Producing journalistic work for internal or external publication
- Independent study and activity
- Work-based learning (optional)

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Tutorial support and direction in time management
- Tutorial support and direction in project management
- Work-based learning (optional)

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Essays
- Presentations
- Journalistic production
- Exams
- Self-evaluation

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Essays
- Presentations
- Journalistic production
- Exams
- Self-evaluation

Practical skills are assessed by

- Tutor-observation
- Portfolios of work backed by critical reflection

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Demonstrable contribution to group presentations

- Demonstrable contribution to group projects
- Meeting deadlines

Quality

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before the programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the appropriateness of accreditation by professional/statutory bodies to the requirements of the programme;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the University's Quality Standing Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement

Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the University's quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committee

Students are notified of action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- providing details on the programme notice board

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- ad hoc staff discussion group chaired by work experience module leader
- consultation with media professionals

Further Information

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
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Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site
- The student handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of Regulations <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- Guide to Single & Combined Honours Programmes

- *ADI web pages* <http://www.uel.ac.uk/adi/>
- Visit our gallery of student work
here: <http://www.uel.ac.uk/adi/showcase/studentwork/>