Programme Specification
Postgraduate Programmes

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<tr>
<th>Awarding Body/Institution</th>
<th>University of London</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>Goldsmiths, University of London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Final Award and Programme Title</td>
<td>MA Television Journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Interim Award(s)</td>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate in Television Journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of Study/Period of Registration</td>
<td>1 year full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS Code(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QAA Benchmark Group</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHEQ Level of Award</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Accredited by</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Programme Specification last updated/approved</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Department/Institute</td>
<td>Media &amp; Communications</td>
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Programme overview

This MA is a practical introduction to TV journalism which aims to teach you the professional conventions of UK news and current affairs broadcast journalism and relevant production skills.

It encourages a critical understanding of television journalistic practice, and an informed knowledge of the overall political and industrial contexts in which journalists are now working, including an introduction to multimedia journalism; it locates this understanding and creative development within a wider enquiry into the relationship between media practice and culture.

At the end of the programme you should be familiar with the techniques and practices of television journalism, and conversant with the wider ethical, legal and technological contexts of broadcast journalistic practice.

You will be able to describe the qualities of your own work and of its cultural significance, and have a professional standard portfolio of original television news, current affairs and online reports.

What you study
Modules are practical and skills-based, but are taught within a theoretical framework which is only possible in an institution renowned for its research work.

You'll cover:
- television journalism practice
- practice theory
- research methodologies
- key media law and ethical issues in relation to UK and US media law

Hands-on experience
You'll be involved in all aspects of studio work, filmmaking and multimedia web journalism, including editorial experience on eastlondonlines.co.uk. All teaching is workshop-based.

Where practicable and possible, you may undertake a placement of three to four weeks in a news or
current affairs production company.

Winner of BJTC Award for Excellence in Teaching Broadcast Journalism 2007-8.

Programme entry requirements

Applicants will normally hold an appropriate first degree (2:1 or above) and have some experience in journalism (student publications, freelance work or work experience is usually acceptable).

If you do not have sufficient experience you may be asked to demonstrate your ability to write at this level. If English is not your first language you must hold an IELTS score of 7.0 (including 7.0 for writing).

Aims of the programme

This full time, one-year programme emphasises a critical approach to the practice of television journalism. During the first term you will be introduced to the major theoretical approaches to the study of journalism, to media law and ethics, and to debates about questions of journalism and power, situating them firmly in a practical context. You will learn about the conventions of news reporting by writing news stories and working in a team to produce weekly video packages and contributing to the website. You will also be encouraged to develop a critique of those conventions. In the second and third terms you will develop these skills but concentrate on longer form current affairs features and developing an understanding of genre, audience and style. You will at all times be encouraged to relate the work you are doing to the industrial context in which you will be working in television and often in multi-media, and will be encouraged to make links with people working in the industry.

As well as subject specific knowledge and skills, the practical and theoretical studies will help you to further develop a wide variety of transferable intellectual, organisational and communications skills that can be applied in a wide range of employment contexts.

Students graduating from this module work throughout the broadcast industry, both in the UK and around the world. The flexibility and cross media nature of the module means that students are well equipped to move between media as their careers develop. Some choose to freelance whilst others go straight into full time jobs in the industry.

What you will be expected to achieve

The programme’s learning outcomes are the result of continuing consultation with professional journalists, visiting tutors, professional colleagues in the Broadcast Journalism Training Council, external examiners and ex-students. The module is up-dated annually to ensure that it is in line with (or ahead of) current practice in the industry. You will also develop a wide range of transferable qualities and skills necessary for employment in a variety of contexts. The Quality Assurance Agency describes these qualities as: effective communication skills, the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision making in complex and un-predictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development. Such skills are inherent in most of what you will learn on this programme.

Students who leave the programme with the award of Postgraduate Certificate should be able to apply the following outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Understanding</th>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td></td>
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applied in the research and analysis of issues and information | All modules
---|---
A3 | An advanced understanding of issues concerned with audience and genre | All modules
A4 | An understanding of the media and media industries and how they may be conceptualised theoretically | Journalism in Context
A5 | A comprehensive knowledge of appropriate legal and ethical issues | Media Law and Ethics
A6 | Knowledge and understanding of techniques appropriate to the constructive evaluation of your own original research of stories and their backgrounds and to the critique of your own completed work and that of others | TV Journalism Practice
A7 | Understanding of the constructive interpersonal skills necessary for a successful shared production process in all sectors | TV Journalism Practice

### Cognitive and Thinking Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B4</strong></td>
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### Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>C1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C5</strong></td>
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### Transferable Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>D1</strong></td>
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In addition to the above outcomes, students who successfully complete the MA Television Journalism should be able to:

### Knowledge and Understanding

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A1</strong></td>
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</table>
newspapers, on-line and magazines) to the research and writing of a portfolio of journalistic work to a high standard

A2  An understanding of the application of these techniques to work across media

A3  Knowledge of how you may develop a personal approach to your own practice including an understanding of the development of style and clarity in your work

Cognitive and Thinking Skills

B1  A high level of critical evaluation skills that enable you to make informed and reasoned creative decisions and to critique your own completed work and that of others

B2  Conceptual knowledge and critical reasoning skills in complex problem solving

Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes

C1  A high level of journalistic skills to research & writing of work to a high standard. These include the application of methodological and evaluation skills in your original research of stories and their backgrounds; the use of relevant critical, analytical and empathetic skills in interviewing; the development of a personal approach to your practice; the ability to apply a high level of presentational skills and to communicate clearly and with style

C2  The application of well developed interpersonal skills to a shared production process

C3  Written and oral communication and management/team strategies appropriate to the needs of each situation

C4  Appropriate knowledge of broadcast news production including agency and archive picture sourcing as well as original footage and features.

Transferable Skills

D1  All the skills learned in B and C above are transferable across a wide range of media and can be utilised in a wide range of employment. All are also transferable life skills which will enhance the ability of students to operate as fully engaged citizens of a democracy.

How you will learn

The acquisition of this knowledge and understanding will be via, 1) your practice modules (see below) 2) a series of lectures and seminars for Journalism in Context, 3) a series of lectures and individual study for Asking the Right Questions and 4) a series of lectures (as well as the application in practical work) on Media Law and Ethics. In addition there will be specific lectures on other known and emerging issues
related to the field from members of staff and invited speakers from the industry.

The acquisition of these outcomes is through seminars with lecturers and industry professionals, workshops in which you will be supported by members of technical staff, and also in your individual work produced and discussed via tutorials and individual feedback. Students are encouraged constructively to critique each other’s work as well as re-structuring through the skill of sub-editing.

The acquisition of these skills is achieved through both practical and theoretical studies and you will receive constant feedback on your performance via tutorials and individual feedback. All camera, sound, editing and computer based skills are demonstrated by a technical adviser but you are expected to learn by the application of these skills to your own work. Team productions also aid the acquisition of these outcomes.

How you will be assessed

Assessment will be via practical portfolios, research projects, exam and essay (see below for more detail).

The Assessment of learning outcomes will be by examination of a portfolio of practical work. Outcomes B4 and B6 will also be tested in addition via a research project an essay.

All will be evaluated via group work in the first two terms and individual portfolios delivered in the third term.

Marking criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Specific Marking Criteria</th>
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</table>
| 80-100% | Distinction (Outstanding/Exceptional) | Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines  
Exceptional work of broadcastable quality showing originality and based on extensive research and independent thought. Represents the achievement of the learning outcomes to an outstanding level.  

Essay Marking Guidelines  
Awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction, but to an outstanding degree. Such work may be of publishable quality, and will be a significant contribution to debate within the field. |
| 70-79%  | Distinction                 | Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines  
It will demonstrate the very effective application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The portfolio will demonstrate an understanding of the target audiences, grasp of the subjects, critical awareness of the historical and cultural background of your subjects, evidence of originality and individual research, evidence of interviewing ability, investigation, ingenuity, originality, scope or appropriateness in your approach to the subject, writing style and ability to communicate with clarity, and presentation. It will be work that the Department would normally regard as appropriate to exhibit or broadcast externally.  

Essay Marking Guidelines  
Awarded when the essay demonstrates the very effective... |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 60-69%     | Merit | Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines  
Work that overall achieves a high standard. It will demonstrate the effective application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The work will have achieved the majority of its goals and will demonstrate a significant degree of originality and ambition with a good level of technical competence. It will be based on an original idea and will be well structured. It will show significant evidence of research/planning and demonstrate a critical awareness of the medium and understanding of the audience. It will be work that the Department would normally regard as appropriate to exhibit or publish or broadcast externally.  
Essay Marking Guidelines  
Awarded when candidates demonstrate the effective application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the module learning outcomes. There is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas, critical comment or methodology. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field. |
| 50-59%     | Pass  | Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines  
Work of an overall satisfactory standard. It will demonstrate the satisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The work achieves its primary goal(s). Technically it will be competent in quality with a recognisable overall structure. It will be based on a degree of research/planning and exhibit some critical awareness of the medium.  
Essay Marking Guidelines  
Awarded when the essay demonstrates the satisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the module. There is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas, critical comment or methodology. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field. |
| 30-49%     | Fail  | Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines  
Work of an overall unsatisfactory standard. It will demonstrate the unsatisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The work will not have achieved the majority of its goals and will demonstrate a limited degree of originality and ambition with a good level of technical competence. It will be based on a superficial idea and will be poorly structured. It will show limited evidence of research/planning and demonstrate a critical awareness of the medium and understanding of the audience. It will be work that the Department would not normally regard as appropriate to exhibit or publish or broadcast externally.  
Essay Marking Guidelines  
Awarded when the candidate demonstrates the unsatisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the module. There is little evidence of knowledge and understanding, but there may be some development of ideas, critical comment or methodology. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has not grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field. |
knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The work will demonstrate little originality or ambition. It is likely that its goals will not have been achieved to a satisfactory extent and its level of technical competence will range from adequate to poor with a weak structure. It will show evidence of a lack of research/planning and indicate little critical understanding of the medium and generally ineffective ability to sustain the involvement of the audience. It will be work that the Department would not regard as appropriate for any exhibition or publication.

Essay Marking Guidelines
Indicates that a candidate has demonstrated an unsatisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the production modules learning outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines</th>
<th>Essay Marking Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-29%</td>
<td>Bad fail</td>
<td>Work where there is no discernible learning applied and/or no significant effort made to meet the criteria.</td>
<td>Work which is unsatisfactory and indicates that the student failed to understand or apply appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-9%</td>
<td>Very bad fail</td>
<td>A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Non submission or plagiarised</td>
<td>A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How the programme is structured

The programme consists of the following modules. Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 60 credits may exit the programme with the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Television Journalism.

Academic Year of Study 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Status</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV Journalism Practice (Coursework and Final Projects)</td>
<td>MC71120A</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asking the Right Questions: Research and Practice</td>
<td>MC71116A</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journalism in Context</td>
<td>MC71121A</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media, Law and Ethics</td>
<td>MC71058B</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic support

Goldsmiths is committed to making any reasonable adjustment that allows, as far as possible, for equality of opportunity and access, and to ensuring that students are not substantially disadvantaged because of specific learning difficulties or disability.

Students will be encouraged to disclose information about any impairment or health condition that may affect their studies. This information will enable the university to arrange any support or advice that may
be useful, and will not be used to judge students in any way. Further information about disability support at Goldsmiths can be found at http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/disability/disability-team.php.

The Media and Communications department recognises the importance of high-quality teaching and tutorial support. Non-native speakers of English will be encouraged to take classes at the English Language Centre (ELC) which provides both general language skills and specific support for Media modules. Native English speakers will also be encouraged to supplement their formal education with support from the Academic Skills Centre (ASC) to help them improve the quality and style of their written work. Information about the ELC, ASC and Learning Resources and the subject librarian will be incorporated into the first compulsory module in the autumn term.

All students will be allocated a personal tutor and will be encouraged to make use of them throughout the programme to discuss any personal or academic matters that may affect their work in the department. The programme convenor, module convenors and module tutors all have weekly office hours, and will be available to discuss any issues arising throughout the module of study. Students may arrange an appointment with any member of staff via email or telephone. Programme information, a student handbook, and timetable details are sent to students in advance of the beginning of term. Specific information will be available on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), at both a departmental level and through the VLE resources dedicated to this programme.

In addition, Goldsmiths provides a wide range of support services for all students, including assistance with financial matters, disability support, counselling services and careers advice. Full details can be found on the College website (www.gold.ac.uk), and personal tutors will also be able to direct students to relevant contacts and support services.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects

Employment prospects for those leaving with an MA in Television Journalism are excellent. The majority of students go directly into jobs in the industry, mainly in television journalism although we also have students in radio, print and online. A few choose to take up jobs in allied fields and a small minority choose to go directly into freelance work. In 2008 the module won the Broadcast Journalism Training Council’s Award for Excellence.

The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree

Master’s Degrees
All Master’s degrees at Goldsmiths have a minimum value of 180 credits. Programmes are comprised of modules which have individual credit values. In order to be eligible for the award of a Master’s degree students must have passed all modules on the programme.

Intermediate Exit Points
Some programmes incorporate intermediate exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. Individual programmes may specify which, if any, combination of modules are required in order to be eligible for the award of these qualifications. The awards are made without classification.

Final Classification
There are four possible categories of final classification for Master's degrees: Distinction, Merit, Pass and Fail.

In order to be awarded an overall classification of Distinction, students should have obtained:

- a mark of at least 70% (or A grade) for the dissertation/project (or equivalent)
- AND
- EITHER a mark of 70% (or A grade) in at least half of the remaining credits.
- OR an overall weighted average mark (based on credit value) of at least 70%

In order to be awarded an overall classification of Merit, students should have obtained:

- a mark of at least 60% (or B grade) for the dissertation/project (or equivalent)
- AND
- EITHER a mark of 60% (or B grade) in at least half of the remaining credits.
- OR an overall weighted average mark (based on credit value) of at least 60%

Pass: In order to be awarded an overall classification of Pass must have passed all the modules on a programme but not have met the criteria for the award of an overall classification of Merit or Distinction

Fail: If any module on a programme has been failed on more than one occasion the programme will be failed

For further information, please refer to the Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Students, which may be found here: http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/studentregulations/

Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

How teaching quality will be monitored

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes.

Programmes and modules must be formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year in departmental staff / student forums and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme also has at least one External Examiner who produces an annual report which comments on the standards of awards and student achievement.

This output is considered with other relevant data in the process of Annual Programme Review, to which all programmes are subject, and which aims to identify both good practice and issues which require resolution.

Every six years all programmes within a department are also subject to a broader periodic review. This aims to ensure that they remain current, that the procedures to maintain the standards of the awards are working effectively and the quality of the learning opportunities and information provided to students and applicants is appropriate.

Detailed information on all of these procedures are published on the webpages of the Quality Office (http://www.gold.ac.uk/quality/).