

# MA Television Journalism

## Programme Specification

**Awarding Institution:**

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

**Teaching Institution:** Goldsmiths, University of London

**Final Award:** MA Television Journalism

**Programme Name:** MA Television Journalism

**Total credit value for programme:** 180 credits

**Name of Interim Exit Award(s):** Postgraduate Certificate in Television Journalism

**Duration of Programme:** 1 year full-time

**UCAS Code(s):** Not applicable

**HECoS Code(s):** (100442) Journalism

**QAA Benchmark Group:** Not applicable

**FHEQ Level of Award:** Level 7

**Programme accredited by:** Broadcast Journalism Training Council

**Date Programme Specification last updated/approved:** July 2023

**Home Department:** Media, Communications and Cultural Studies (MCCS)

**Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:**

Not applicable

## 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. 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.

## **What you will learn**

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 journalism. All teaching is workshop-based. You will undertake a placement or placements totaling at least 15 working days in a news or current affairs or video production company. Winner of BJTC national award 2016 and 2017 for Best TV Newsday. Winner of BJTC national award 2017 Best TV Documentary and Best Original Story. Winner of BJTC national award 2022 Best Feature

## **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 aptitude for journalism and ability to write at this level. If English is not your first language you should hold an IELTS score of 7.0 (including 7.0 for writing.)

## **Programme learning outcomes**

### **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 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, making a weekly TV newsday. You will also be encouraged to develop a critique of those conventions. In the second and third terms you will develop these skills initially with multimedia working, producing cross-platform content, but then

moving on to 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 multimedia digital platforms 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 develop further 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 programme 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 unpredictable 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.

## **Programme learning outcomes**

Students who complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Television Journalism will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

## Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Systematically understand key aspects of the conceptual and practical knowledge of those journalistic techniques and practices required for researching, writing, producing and presenting news packages	TV Journalism Practice News

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Demonstrate ingenuity, originality and appropriateness in your approach to journalism	TV Journalism Practice News

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Deployed a high level of skill in the research and writing of news stories	TV Journalism Practice News

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Demonstrate skills in communication, independence and resourcefulness	TV Journalism Practice News, Media Law and Ethics

Students who successfully complete the MA in Television Journalism will demonstrate, in addition to the learning outcomes above, the following:

## Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Demonstrate sustained conceptual and practical knowledge of those journalistic techniques and practices required for researching, writing, producing and presenting news packages	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form, Media, Law and Ethics, Journalism in Context, Asking the Right Questions
A2	Apply a range of methodological techniques in the research and analysis of issues and information	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form, Media, Law and Ethics, Journalism in Context, Asking the Right Questions
A3	Systematically understand key aspects of debates concerned with audience and genre	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form, Media, Law and Ethics, Journalism in Context, Asking the Right Questions
A4	Critically evaluate the relationship between journalism and other organisational and social fields, and how this can be conceptualized theoretically	Journalism in Context
A5	Apply a comprehensive knowledge of appropriate legal and ethical issues to contemporary case studies	Media Law and Ethics
A6	Apply 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 News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form
A7	Deploy constructive interpersonal skills necessary for a successful shared production process in all sectors	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Demonstrate flexibility in use of media and application of technical skills	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form
B2	Assess situations quickly and act appropriately	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form
B3	Synthesise large volumes of information and rapidly summarise them	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form, Media, Law and Ethics, Journalism in Context, Asking the Right Questions

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Systematically and creatively manage a range of activities and processes while showing high level of organisational skills	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form
C2	Utilise understanding of film grammar and narrative story-telling in sound and pictures	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form
C3	Act autonomously to undertake a range of tasks in data management, editing and post-production	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form
C4	Acquire skills in people and location finding	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
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	TV Journalism Practice News, TV Journalism Practice Long Form, Media, Law and Ethics, Journalism in Context, Asking the Right Questions

## How you will learn

The acquisition of this knowledge and understanding will be via:

- 1) your practice modules
- 2) a series of lectures and seminars for Journalism Production Theory: Journalism in Context.
- 3) a series of lectures and individual study for Asking the Right Questions
- 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 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 tutor 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. Attendance at all taught sessions is compulsory.

## Grading Criteria (postgraduate)

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
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	<p>Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines</p> <p>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 application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the module. The outstanding work will show evidence of extensive relevant reading and an impressive grasp of current major issues in the field. This knowledge will have been reviewed critically with insight and independence of thought. Arguments and the MA Television Journalism - Programme Specification Goldsmiths, University of London 9 Mark Descriptor Specific Marking Criteria presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, with clear awareness of issues of methodology and evidence, and be particularly clear, well focused and cogent.</p>
60-69%	Merit	<p>Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines</p> <p>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</p>

		appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the module learning outcomes. The essay will show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating evidence and theories drawn from a wide range of sources. They will demonstrate an ability to relate this reading to their topic, and will clearly have understood and assimilated the relevant literature
50-59%	Pass	<p>Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines</p> <p>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.</p>
30-49%	Fail	<p>Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines</p> <p>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 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.</p>
10-29%	Bad fail	Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines

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

## Programme structure

The programme consists of the following modules. Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 60 credits (having passed TV Journalism Practice [News] and Media Law and Ethics) may exit the programme with the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Television Journalism.

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
TV Journalism Practice (News)	MC71226A	30	7	Compulsory	1&2
TV Journalism Practice (Long Form)	MC71228A	75	7	Compulsory	2&3
Asking the Right Questions: Research and Practice	MC71116B	15	7	Compulsory	1
Journalism Production Theory-Journalism in Context	MC71121A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Media Law and Ethics	MC71058A	30	7	Compulsory	1
TV Journalism Professional Practice	MC71227A	15	7	Compulsory	1,2,3

## Diversity and Personal Tutoring

The programme is embedded in the Department's ethos of diversity and interdisciplinarity. This is reflected in the combination of practice and theory which allows us to challenge norms and engage with real-world issues.

MCCS is committed to the college's 'Liberate My Degree' strategy and is determined to develop a diverse and inclusive curriculum that incorporates the interests and concerns of a

diverse student body. We want to learn from students themselves and, in our module evaluation forms, we invite students to identify examples of diversity and inclusivity in each module and suggest how our teaching and learning materials might be improved. This process is overseen by DLTC, a dedicated Anti-Racist Committee (ARC) and an ongoing process of curriculum review.

The Department is dedicated to providing personal tutoring for all our students in a way which is consistent, equitable, structured and proactively supportive of their academic progression. Personal tutoring in the Department is guided by the College's personal tutor policy and supported by a dedicated senior tutor for postgraduate students. Meetings with their personal tutor provide students with an opportunity to reflect on their learning progression, set goals and identify areas where they would like to improve. In addition, personal tutors make themselves available to students seeking advice with routine academic concerns and pastoral issues.

## **Academic support**

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least twice a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors. MA Television Journalism - Programme Specification Goldsmiths, University of London 12 Students are provided with information about learning resources, the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at

seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the Goldsmiths website and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The Disability and Wellbeing Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service provides central support for skills enhancement, running The Gold Award scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The Centre for Academic Language and Literacy works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year

## **Placement opportunities**

All students are required to do 15 days of work placements in line with the requirements of our accrediting body, the Broadcast Journalism Training Council, to obtain real-life experience in the industry and provide a journal and self-reflection on their career planning as part of the Professional Practice module.

## **Employability and potential career opportunities**

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/multimedia and online. A few choose to take up jobs in allied fields and a small minority choose to go directly into freelance work. The programme is accredited by the Broadcast Journalism Training Council.

## **Programme-specific requirements**

**General programme costs:** in addition to your tuition fees, you will be responsible for meeting standard costs associated with your study. Find out more information at [gold.ac.uk/programme-costs](http://gold.ac.uk/programme-costs).

## **Tuition Fee costs**

See website for current fees.

## **Specific programme costs**

Students are expected to film on location as part of the News module, primarily for TV Newsdays, and as part of the Long Form module and may incur travel costs but every effort is made to keep to these to a minimum. We encourage students to apply for student discount travel cards where applicable.