MA Television Journalism
Programme Specification

**Awarding Institution:**
University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths’ College)

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

**Name of Final Award and Programme Title:** MA Television Journalism

**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:** August 2017

**Home Department:** Media, Communications and Cultural Studies

**Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:**
Not applicable

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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.

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.

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).

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, making a weekly TV newsday 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 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 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:

**Knowledge and understanding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Taught by the following module(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Conceptual and practical knowledge of those journalistic techniques and practices required for researching, writing, producing and presenting news packages</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Learning outcome</td>
<td>Taught by the following module(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Knowledge of methodological techniques to be applied in the research and analysis of issues and information</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>An advanced understanding of issues concerned with audience and genre</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>An understanding of the media and media industries and how they may be conceptualised theoretically</td>
<td>Journalism in Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>A comprehensive knowledge of appropriate legal and ethical issues</td>
<td>Media Law and Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7</td>
<td>Understanding of the constructive interpersonal skills necessary for a successful shared production process in all sectors</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cognitive and thinking skills**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Learning outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Ingenuity, originality and appropriateness in your approach to journalism</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>Flexibility in use of media and application of technical skills</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>Ability to assess situations quickly and act appropriately</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4</td>
<td>Ability to synthesise large volumes of information and rapidly summarise them</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Taught by the following module(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>A high level of skill to the research and writing of news stories</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>A high level of organisational skills in the management of activities and processes</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Learning outcome</td>
<td>Taught by the following module(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Basic understanding of film grammar &amp; narrative story-telling in sound and pictures</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Basic abilities in data management, editing and post-production</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>Basic skills in people and location finding</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Transferable skills**

<table>
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<th>Learning outcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
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</table>

In addition to the above outcomes, students who successfully complete the MA Television Journalism should be able to apply the following outcomes:

**Knowledge and understanding**

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<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Your conceptual and practical knowledge of a wide range of journalistic techniques and practices (for newspapers, on-line and magazines) to the research and writing of a portfolio of journalistic work to a high standard</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>An understanding of the application of these techniques to work across media</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>All modules</td>
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### Cognitive and thinking skills

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<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>Conceptual knowledge and critical reasoning skills in complex problem solving</td>
<td>All modules</td>
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</table>

### Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

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<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>A high level of journalistic skills to research &amp; 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</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>The application of well-developed interpersonal skills to a shared production process</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Written and oral communication and management/team strategies appropriate to the needs of each situation</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Appropriate knowledge of broadcast news production including agency and archive picture sourcing as well as original footage and features</td>
<td>TV Journalism Practice</td>
</tr>
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## Transferable skills

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<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
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## 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 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 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 carried out using the following methods: practical production work including individual portfolios and group projects, research assignments, an exam, production of a career portfolio and essays.
## Marking criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Specific Marking Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</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 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 presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, with clear awareness of issues of methodology and evidence, and be particularly clear, well focused and cogent. |
| 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. |
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59%</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td><strong>Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines</strong>&lt;br&gt;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. <strong>Essay Marking Guidelines</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-49%</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td><strong>Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines</strong>&lt;br&gt;Work of an overall unsatisfactory standard. It will demonstrate the unsatisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Mark** | **Descriptor** | **Specific Marking Criteria**
--- | --- | ---
 |  | 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.

| 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.

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**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.

<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 (News)</td>
<td>MC71120A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV Journalism Practice (Longer Form)</td>
<td>MC71228A</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asking the Right Questions: Research and Practice</td>
<td>MC71116B</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Status | Term  
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---  
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  

**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.

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 Academic Skills Centre 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.

**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/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.

**The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree**

All taught postgraduate degrees have a minimum total value of 180 credits and involve one calendar year of full-time study. Some programmes may extend over more than one calendar year and, when this is the case, they have a higher total credit value. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Part-time students normally take modules to the value of 90 credits each year. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section “How the programme is structured” above. Normally, all modules are at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.
More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework.

Modules

Modules are defined as:

- “Optional” – which can be chosen from a group of modules
- “Compulsory” – which must be taken as part of the degree

Progression

Some programmes may require students to pass specific modules prior to completion of the dissertation/major project (or equivalent). Additionally, where a programme of study extends beyond one calendar year, students may be required to pass specific modules in their first year of study before progressing to the second year. Where this is the case, these requirements will be set out in this Programme Specification.

Award of the degree

In order to graduate, students must successfully complete all modules specified for the programme, as set out within the section “How the programme is structured” above.

Classification

Final degree classification is calculated on the basis of a student’s mean average mark (based on credit value) across all modules on the programme.

Masters degrees are awarded with the following classifications:

- Distinction – 70%+
- Merit – 60-69%
- Pass – 50-59%

More detail on the calculation of the final classification is on our website.

Interim exit awards

Some programmes incorporate interim exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and/or Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the minimum value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. The awards are made without classification.
When these awards are incorporated within the programme, the relevant learning outcomes and module requirements will be set out within the “What you will be expected to achieve” section above.

The above information is intended as a guide, with more detailed information available in the Goldsmiths Academic Manual.

Programme-specific rules and facts

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.

Specific programme costs

Not applicable.

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 are formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year, such as in departmental committees, a variety of student feedback mechanisms and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme has at least one External Examiner who reviews comments annually on the standards of awards and student achievement. External Examiner(s) attend Boards of Examiners meetings and submit an annual written report.

Modules, programmes and/or departments are also subject to annual and periodic review internally, as well as periodic external scrutiny.

Quality assurance processes aim to ensure Goldsmiths’ academic provision remains 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 these procedures are published on the Quality Office web pages.