Template C4

Programme Specification

Title of Course: *MA Journalism*

Date first produced	31/08/2012
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Version number	10
Faculty	Kingston School of Art
Cross-disciplinary	
School	School of Creative and Cultural Industries
Department	Department of Journalism, Publishing and Media
Delivery Institution	Kingston University

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Award(s) and Title(s):	MA Journalism
Exit Award(s) and Title(s):	PgCert PgDip
Course Code *For each pathway and mode of delivery*	
UCAS code *For each pathway*	

Award(s) and Title(s):	MA Journalism with Professional Placement
Exit Award(s) and Title(s):	PGCert PGDip
Course Code *For each pathway and mode of delivery*	
UCAS code *For each pathway*	

Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Penrhyn Road campus, Kingston University
Language of Delivery:	English
Delivery mode:	Primarily campus based (up to 20% of scheduled L&T hours delivered online)
Learning mode(s):	Part-time Full-time With Professional Placement
Minimum period of registration:	Part-time - 2 Full-time - 1 With Professional Placement - 2
Maximum period of registration:	Part-time - 4 Full-time - 2 With Professional Placement - 3
Entry requirements	Kingston University typically uses a range of entry requirements to assess an applicant's suitability for

	our courses. Most postgraduate taught course requirements are based on having been awarded a relevant undergraduate degree and are normally coupled with minimum grades expectation of 2:2, specific courses in certain areas may have a stricter grade requirement. We may also use interview, portfolio and performance pieces to assess a person's suitability for some courses. We recognise that every person's journey to a postgraduate taught education is different and unique and in some cases we may take into account work experience and other non-standard pathways onto University level study. Additionally, all non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. Please see our course pages on the Kingston University website for the most up to date entry requirements.
Regulated by	The University and its courses are regulated by the Office for Students
Programme Accredited by:	National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ)
Approved Variants:	N/A
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	No

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

- To equip students with the necessary skills to compete successfully for employment in the journalism industry
- To develop professional journalism skills in researching, interviewing, writing and editing and in working across print and digital media.
- To build up team working and other skills necessary to working effectively in an editorial role
- To create an informed and critical awareness of the forces and dynamics (social, cultural, political, economic and technological) shaping the industry and the working environment of journalists today
- To enable students to develop an ethically informed and critical awareness of the roles and responsibilities of journalists in contemporary society
- To foster a creative and self-reflective approach to students' own individual and collective practice as journalists
- The two-year programme with integrated placement(s) also provides students with an opportunity to enhance their professional skills, preparing them for higher levels of employment, further study and lifelong learning

The additional aims of the MA:

- To develop to an advanced level students' ability to carry out independent academic research
- To develop to an advanced level students' ability to reflect critically on their own journalistic practice through work-based learning

B. Programme Learning Outcomes

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They have been aligned to the levels set out in 'Sector Recognised Standards in England' (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes

	Knowledge and Understanding On completion of the course students will be able to:		Intellectual Skills On completion of the course students will be able to		Subject Practical Skills On completion of the course students will be able to
A4	the legal, ethical, political and cultural framework within which journalists operate.	B5	[MA additional learning outcome]: identify a topic worthy of sustained research, carrying out research and completing a dissertation to an advanced academic and professional standard	C4	negotiate with employers and network with contacts to identify journalism job opportunities.
A3	strategic developments (technological, economic) in print and digital markets and how these are shaping the nature of the industry.	B4	recognise the strengths and weakness in their own writing and in that of others and use this recognition to inform their professional practice.	C3	work with others in an editorial team to choose appropriate content, commission writers and photographers and produce finished print or web pages for public consumption.
A1	key features of professional practice in a variety of settings and contexts.	B2	analyse current and future developments in the production and consumption of journalism and the ability to apply that knowledge to their own practice.	C2	tackle in-depth investigative stories and analyse documentation to probe beneath the surface of a story.
A2	the different individual roles in journalism e g: reporters, writers, editors and the impact of the changing shape of the industry on these roles.	B1	think strategically to develop new publications websites and digital for identifiable markets	C1	research, interview and use a variety of sources of information to produce original, clear, accurate copy
		B3	engage critically with wider debates about legal, political	C5	[MA additional learning outcome]: apply the significant

			and ethical issues and changing relationships between, for example, the media, parliament and the judiciary.		critical and organisational skills necessary for devising and managing a substantial piece of critical writing
		B6	[MA additional learning outcome]: reflect critically on their own journalistic practice and the current state of the print and online journalism industries in order to complete a work-based learning project .	C6	[MA additional learning outcome]: organise and undertake a substantial work placement in the journalism industry and reflect on their experience in a purposeful and meaningful way.)
				C7	[MA additional learning outcome]: demonstrate professional skills (including self-presentation, communication, interpersonal/teamwork, research and information literacy, numeracy, time-management and project-planning, management and leadership skills, and ethical practice).

C. Future Skills Graduate Attributes

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will engage students in developing their Future Skills Graduate Attributes:
1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

D. Outline Programme Structure

Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and in the module canvas pages.

MA Journalism

Level 6							
MA Journalism							
Core modules	**Module code**	**Credit Value**	**Level**	**Teaching Block**	**Pre-requisites**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Optional Modules							
Media Specialism	JO6021	30	6	Year Long		1	1

Exit Awards at Level 6

Level 7							
MA Journalism							
Core modules	**Module code**	**Credit Value**	**Level**	**Teaching Block**	**Pre-requisites**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Journalism in Context: Law,	JO7002	30	7	Year long			

Ethics and the Industry							
Practical Journalism Now: Multimedia Skills and Employability	JO7016	60	7	Year long			
Optional Modules							
Broadcast Journalism	JO7015	30	7	Year long			
MA Journalism Dissertation	JO7010	60	7	May to September		2	2
Practical Journalism Project	JO7009	60	7	May to September		2	2
Professional Placement	HU7100	120	7	TB3 (YR 1) and TB1 & TB2 (Yr 2)			
Shorthand (Postgraduate)	JO7004	0	7				

Exit Awards at Level 7

Students exiting the programme with 60 credits are eligible for the award of PgCert in Journalism.
Students exiting the programme with 120 credits are eligible for the award of PgDip in Journalism.

MA Journalism with Professional Placement

E. Teaching, Learning and Assessment

This field has been designed to take account of the KU Curriculum Design Principles. Teaching and learning strategies and methods have been designed to introduce students to a range of skills, issues and debates in the journalism industry detailed in the learning outcomes of each module. Typically, early sessions in some modules will use lectures to provide an overview of the material, with seminars allowing students to explore and discuss the elements introduced in the lecture in more detail. Practical workshops in other modules provide hands-on experience of producing work to industry standard, supported with formative feedback by module tutors. Later sessions allow students to build on the foundations of the earlier

sessions and develop their own personal interests and strengths. Students are given formative feed-forward on their practical and academic work at regular intervals so that they can improve their writing, wider journalistic practice and understanding of the material in all modules.

Assessments are designed to allow students to demonstrate both the practical skills required by employers in the journalism industry and the critical engagement necessary to reflect intellectually on their practice and that of the profession as a whole, and to operate as an effective, adaptable journalist in a fast-changing sector. A range of assessment methods is adopted, including: portfolios of journalistic work; case studies; essays; group and individual presentations; group blogs and reflective writing. This last encourages students to reflect on their overall development and contribution to team work throughout the year. Assessments are set at regular intervals throughout the year and students have plenty of opportunity to receive formative feedback on their written work and oral presentations as the work is produced in class.

At the end of the year, students are able to develop their own research and professional interests through a substantial project, supported by their personal supervisor. They can choose to produce either a dissertation or a practical work-based project, which can be completed as they start their first journalism jobs. They are helped by their supervisor to devise an appropriate programme of research, in conjunction with the student's personal tutor who has an overall understanding of all students' strengths and interests.

F. Support for Students and their Learning

Students are supported through a range of services that provide academic and wider support. These include:

- A Module Leader for each module
- A Course Leader to help students understand the course structure
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and personal support
- Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
- Student Voice Committee – to ensure the views of students are heard
- Canvas – Kingston University's Virtual Learning Environment
- Student support facilities that can provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support
- Disabled student support
- The Kingston Students' Union
- Student Development and Graduate Success

G. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

The University has policies and procedures for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:
- Continuous Monitoring of courses through the Kingston Course Enhancement Programme (KCEP)

- Student evaluation including Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQs), the National Student Survey (NSS)
- Internal and external moderation of graded assignments

H. External Reference Points

External reference points which have informed the design of the course. These include:
- PSRB standards
- QAA Subject benchmarks
- Other subject or industry standards

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where programme learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the **core** modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code		Level 6	Level 7						
		JO6021	JO7002	JO7004	JO7015	JO7009	JO7010	HU7100	JO7016
Knowledge & Understanding	A4		S		S				S
	A3		S						S
	A1		S		S	S			S
	A2				S				S
Intellectual Skills	B5						S		
	B4		S		S	S	S		S
	B2				S				S
	B1				S				
	B3		S						S
	B6					S			
Practical Skills	C4				S				S
	C3		S		S				S

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C2							S
C1	S		S				S
C5					S	S	
C6			S				
C7						S	

Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.

Additional Information