



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## BA (Hons) Journalism

Course Code: BAJLN

2021/22

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# ***BA (Hons) Journalism (BAJLN)***

## **Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2021/22 Undergraduate Entrants**

Confirmed at 05/21

### **General Information**

<b>Award</b>	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Journalism
<b>Contained Awards</b>	BA Journalism Diploma of Higher Education Journalism Certificate of Higher Education Journalism
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification &amp; Credits</b>	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
<b>Course Lengths &amp; Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length of the course is confirmed below and modes of delivery will be confirmed prior to the start date in line with Government guidance:  The format is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 years (full time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	N/A
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	City Campus, Leeds
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning">www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning</a> .  Admissions enquiries may be directed to: <a href="mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .
<b>Course Fees</b>	Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to <a href="mailto:fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

### **Timetable Information**

Timetables will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Outlook Calendar
- ii) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- iii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

## **Policies, Standards and Regulations** ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course/ or add details of approved regulatory exemptions which apply.

## **Key Contacts**

<b>Your Course Director</b>	Karl Hodge
<b>Your Academic Advisor</b>	Les Rowley (Level 4) Chain Gatewood (Level 5) Karl Hodge (Level 6)
<b>Your Course Administrator</b>	Mark Panter (JournalismAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## **Sandwich or Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information**

### **Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information**

#### **Summary**

Students must complete work experience in a setting appropriate to their studies in journalism.

This is so that students:

- Have an opportunity to see how media workplaces function in practice
- Can be mentored by colleagues with experience of the media industry
- Are able to see how the skills and workflows they've learned on the course fit into real world practices.

#### **Length**

15 or more days

#### **Location**

Various locations. The work experience must take place within an established workplace, studio or office where the professional creation of media content is a primary goal.

## **Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

### **Professional Body**

Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC)

Professional Publisher's Association (PPA)

### **Accreditation/ Recognition Summary**

The BJTC is the largest journalism training accreditation body in the UK, recognised by the BBC, ITN, Reuters, Associated Press, Channel 4, the National Union of Journalists and others. BJTC accredited courses enjoy enhanced industry contact, access to prestigious awards and guaranteed work experience placements. Students on a BJTC accredited course follow a rigorous programme that includes industry simulated newsdays, work experience in the media industries, study of media law and local governance and hands, practical and vocational training.

The PPA represents over 250 publishing brands in the UK. Courses with PPA membership have access to networking events, forums and working groups that help to support the progression of their courses and the prospects of their students.

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

BA (Hons) Journalism at Leeds Beckett University helps students develop a comprehensive understanding of traditional and contemporary journalism practice. Students also develop the academic skills and critical awareness associated with degree level study.

The programme enables students to develop as critically active and reflexive individuals through practical and professional tasks.

The course has four strands that run vertically through the programme; key techniques, theory, practice and journalism skills. Horizontally, each level represents a different stage in student learning; foundation or "boot camp", consolidation and independence. These stages also incorporate appropriate extra-curricular delivery; core skills at level 4, presentation skills at level 5 and employability at level 6.

Our dedicated newsroom has PC computers EditShare connectivity to the TV studio and Avid Media Composer for video editing. The newsroom also has iNews for TV bulletin scripting and Burli for radio.

The current course is aware of journalism's rich history, but it is future-focused. With full-time jobs in traditional media in decline, but work in online, digital and freelance markets expanding, we deliver traditional training alongside mobile, online and social media production skills.

Our journalism graduates may have the core competencies, but they also have the multi-media production skills and entrepreneurial spirit that make them desirable employees and potential employers in the marketplace.

What's more, they will emerge with a strong sense of what makes journalism, journalism. They will learn how to critically challenge and rationalise the attacks that journalism faces from social media sub-cultures and established institutions. In short, they will learn to create real journalism, not fake news.

As a course team we have worked to bring greater creativity, cohesion and focus to an already successful course. As a multiplatform degree, the course reflects the dynamic and changing nature of contemporary journalism and it is highly responsive to that change.

### Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Have undertaken an intellectually challenging study of the practice and principles of contemporary journalism, including fairness, accuracy and key ethical, regulatory and legal concerns.
2	Be prepared for a career in the dynamic and challenging world of journalism across multiple platforms of news gathering, dissemination and production, to tight deadlines.
3	Undertaken an intellectually challenging and stimulating study of journalism and its methods, contexts and concepts from a theoretical perspective.
4	Have produced real journalism from the start, on a course that ensures they are introduced to a range of core skills that they will have the opportunity to improve. These will include the ability to use primary and secondary sources correctly, digital literacy, presentation skills, problems solving, story spotting and an awareness of news values.
5	Have developed the ability to work on more than one project at a time and to manage those projects effectively whether in groups or as individuals.
6	Have been encouraged students to apply critical thinking and reflection to their own practice as aspiring journalists and to their own learning and personal development.

### Teaching and Learning Activities

#### Summary

The course incorporates a variety of learning and teaching strategies that put the student at the centre of the experience. They are encouraged to learn in action, applying critical thinking and evaluation to practical and academic.

BA (Hons) Journalism has been developed to incorporate self-managed learning and prepare students for complex, dynamic, globally-relevant news communication environments. It is a powerful approach dealing with problem solving in a realistic way, empowering students with skills that will help them in industry.

The design of BA (Hons) Journalism integrates learning vertically and horizontally – with themes feeding across modules and forwards to future learning. We emphasise to students that modules are part of a whole course and that learning is holistic. There is a clear progression of learning outcomes through all three levels can be clearly traced in our level outcomes and module specifications.

Students will be encouraged to value the contributions of their peers, for example during tutorial discussions and student presentations to the group.

BAH Journalism is a community of people as well as a course. We support this in several ways. We have our public facing website Leeds Hacks, which also has a social media presence. We keep in touch with students through social media pages too.

A newsletter is published each semester where we highlight student activities and try to build cohesion across the course.

In addition, induction at all levels prepares students for a new level of study. At level 4, students are set a writing task that not only works as an icebreaker, but also allows tutors to assess writing skills and identify areas where students need support. At levels 5 and 6, emphasis at induction will be on consolidation of skills both academic and practical, and the development of a professional portfolio.

### Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable. The structures below are indicative and the order in which modules are studied may be adapted.

Level 4			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Introduction to Journalism (20 credits)	Y	Journalism Practice and Principles (20 credits)	Y
Digital Publishing (20 credits)	Y	Introduction to Media Law (20 credits)	Y
Reporting (15 credits)	Y	Broadcast Journalism (15 credits)	Y
Journalism Skills 1 (10 credits) – both semesters	Y	Journalism Skills 1 (10 credits) – both semesters	Y

Level 5			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
The Public Sphere (20 credits)	Y	Futures – the Evolution of Media (20 credits)	
Digital Newsdays (15 credits)	Y	Broadcast Newsdays (15 credits)	
Writing Features (20 credits)	Y	Media Law in Context (10 credits)	

		Government and Political Context in the UK (10 credits)	
Journalism Skills 2 (10 credits) – both semesters	Y	Journalism Skills 2 (10 credits) – both semesters	Y

Level 6			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Magazine Production (20 credits)	Y	[Elective – choose from list below] (20 credits)	N
Multiplatform Newsdays (15 credits)	Y	Magazine Newsdays (15 credits)	Y
Journalism Skills 3 (10 credits) – both semesters	Y	Journalism Skills 3 (10 credits) – both semesters	Y
Must choose one from: Journalism Project (40 credits) <b>OR</b> Dissertation (40 credits)			N

### Indicative option modules

The options for the course will be selected from the structure below. There is no academic rationale why these modules could not be offered to other courses should the resources be in place.

Students can choose EITHER Journalism Project OR Dissertation

Students choose ONE 20-credit elective module in Semester 2. The availability of electives will be dependent on student numbers.

Semester 1	Semester 2
	Photojournalism Celebrity and Media Fashion Journalism Sports Journalism Political Communication & Public Affairs

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some practical assessments.

### Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	262 hours	324 hours	297 hours
Independent Study	938 hours	876 hours	827 hours
Placement			76 hours

### Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, call into or contact the Student Advice Hub on either campus. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. There is a Student Advice Hub on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl at City Campus and one in Campus Central at Headingley. You can also find the team in the Gateway in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus. Email enquiries may be directed to [studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability

advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.