



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MSc Journalism

### Course Code: MSJOU

### 2021/22

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

# MSc Journalism (MSJOU)

## Material Information Summary for 2021/22 Postgraduate Applicants

Confirmed at 07/2021

### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Master of Science Journalism
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Postgraduate Certificate in Journalism
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification &amp; Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England
<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full Time - 1 year (Sept start) or 16-months (Jan start)</li><li>• Part Time - 2 years (Sept start) or 28-months (Jan start)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	City Campus, Leeds  Students are required to undertake a minimum of three working weeks (15 days) of work experience in an editorial office (or similar).
<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.

### **Key Contacts**

<b>Your Course Director</b>	Sean Dodson
<b>Your Academic Advisor</b>	Sean Dodson
<b>Your Course Administrator</b>	Mark Panter ( <a href="mailto:JournalismAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">JournalismAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> )

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

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

#### **Summary**

Students are recommended to undertake a minimum of three working weeks (15 days) of work experience in and editorial office (or similar). The course team will offer a lot of help with sourcing and arranging relevant work experience and an entire module, Professional Journalism Development, is geared towards helping students gain a foothold in the media industry. Students can take the option of working entire weeks (Monday to Friday) or to work a single day a week for 15 weeks or a bespoke mix. Each student will develop a personal experience plan with their tutor and help will be given with finding opportunities through a series of "industry masterclasses".

#### **Length**

3 weeks

#### **Location**

Embedded in a media organisation (such as a newspaper, news website, magazine, press office etc.).

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

N/A

## **Course Overview**

## Aims

The master's in journalism at Leeds Beckett offers the essential training to become an accomplished, professionally skilled journalist. Our programme, moreover, prepares our postgraduate students to be proficient, critically reflective practitioners who have the capacity to tell important stories.

We have a wealth of industry experts with years of experience at titles such as The Guardian, Cosmopolitan, Elle and The Yorkshire Post and a fraternity of visiting lecturers who bring in the latest news and ideas from the cutting-edge of media-practice.

We are favourably placed to deliver a distinctive programme. Leeds is a well-known, bustling city and the centre of a strong, regional and national media. Channel 4, the BBC, ITV and Johnson Press all have a presence here and over 20,000 people are employed within the expanding creative sector. This enables us to keep abreast of industry practices and involve contemporary practitioners in the design and delivery of the course.

While rooted in Leeds, our course attracts students from across the world and the course has a strong international perspective. The course is ideal for a range of careers, in the UK and beyond, for those that succeed, our growing alumni now work for a range of print and online operations, regional and national news organisations, big content providers like the BBC, as well as local start-ups and other communication posts, such as PR or working in a press office. In summary, MSc Journalism is a flexible, forward-thinking and internationally relevant course.

The MSc is designed to be flexible. We teach all our workshops in weekly workshops taught in discreet blocks of time, making it easier to fit in other commitments, such as work or childcare, around the course.

## Course Learning Outcomes

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

<b>1</b>	Initiate and develop technically proficient, internationally-relevant editorial content
<b>2</b>	Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of multimedia production methods
<b>3</b>	Show advanced understanding of international legal, regulatory and ethical media issues
<b>4</b>	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive knowledge of a chosen field of international journalism that prepares candidates for the next stage in their careers
<b>5</b>	Work independently, exercise initiative, show personal responsibility and take appropriate decisions, while being able to analyse and evaluate your own work in relation to complex and/or specific journalistic practice
<b>6</b>	Learn and practice the latest academic and journalistic research techniques

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

We cultivate a deep understanding of real-world journalism practice rooted in the authority of academia. Students develop analytical skills; learn how to write well and tell compelling stories. Moreover, students undertake a weekly

Professional Journalism Development module designed to get them a career in the media industry. There are weekly industry masterclasses, help with work placements and sessions devoted to getting published.

Each face-to-face session is supported by written course materials and online learning resources, which can be accessed remotely via MyBeckett. For each module the face-to-face delivery will be a two-to-three-hour mix of lecture and seminar, with workshop activities almost every week.

All subjects use MyBeckett for the sharing of subject materials; the use of discussion forums; links to online learning materials including online formative assessment. There is an information page that includes course information and employability resources. We also operate a student website showcasing the best student journalism work.

### 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.

#### Level 7 September Start Full Time

Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Reporting (15)		Feature Writing (15)	Y
Journalism Theory (15)		International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation (15)	Y
Professional Journalism Development (15)		<i>Option from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Journalism (15)</li> <li>• Introduction to Broadcast Media (15)</li> <li>• PR Skills (15)</li> </ul>	N
Editorial Production (30)			Y
Dissertation (60)			Y

#### Level 7 September Start Part Time

##### Year 1

Year 1			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Reporting (15)	Y	Feature Writing (15)	Y
Journalism Theory (15)	Y	International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation (15)	Y

Editorial Production (30)			Y
<b>Year 2</b>			
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Professional Journalism Development (15)	Y	<i>Option from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Journalism (15)</li> <li>Introduction to Broadcast Media (15)</li> <li>PR Skills (15)</li> </ul>	N
Dissertation (60)			Y

### Level 7 January Start Full Time

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Feature Writing (15)	Y	Reporting (15)	Y
International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation (15)	Y	Journalism Theory (15)	Y
<i>Option from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Journalism (15)</li> <li>Introduction to Broadcast Media (15)</li> <li>PR Skills (15)</li> </ul>	N	Professional Journalism Development (15)	Y
Editorial Production (30)			Y
Dissertation (60)			Y

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Feature Writing (15)	Y	Reporting (15)	Y
International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation (15)	Y	Journalism Theory (15)	Y
Editorial Production (30)			Y
<b>Year 2</b>			
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
<i>Option from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Journalism (15)</li> </ul>	N	Professional Journalism Development (15)	Y

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Broadcast Media (15)</li> <li>• PR Skills (15)</li> </ul>			
Dissertation (60)			Y

*The option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.*

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

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

On this course students will be assessed predominantly by coursework with a small component of assessed practical activity. There is a major independent study module which will require the production of a dissertation.

### Workload

<b>Overall Workload for the Course</b>	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	306 hours
Independent Study	1434 hours
Placement	60 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.