



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MSc Journalism

Course Code: MSJOU

2024/25

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MSc Journalism (MSJOU)

Material Information Summary for 2024/25 Postgraduate Applicants

Confirmed 01/2024

General Information

Award	Master of Science Journalism
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Postgraduate Certificate in Journalism
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification & Credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England
Course Lengths & Standard Timescales	<p>Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:</p> <p>The format is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full Time – 12 months (Sept start) or 16 months (Jan start)• Part Time – 24 months (Sept start) or 28 months (Jan start)
Part Time Study	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.
Location(s) of Delivery	<p>City Campus, Leeds. Some sessions may be delivered online or at Headingley campus, as appropriate.</p> <p>Students are required to undertake a minimum of three working weeks (15 days) of work experience in an editorial office (or similar, e.g. freelance work).</p>
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit

transfer are located here:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/>

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) 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)

This course adheres to the Academic Principles and Regulations set out by the University. Awards of distinction and merit may also be made to students who meet the following criteria:

Distinction

The award of a distinction may be made to those students who have attained:

- an average of 70% or more in assessments contributing to the final award.

And/or

- at least half of all taught modules at the level of distinction in assessments contribute to the final award plus a 60-credit major project module at distinction.

Merit

The award of merit may be made to those students who have attained:

- an average of 60% or more in assessments contributing to the final award.

And/or

- at least half of all taught modules at the level of merit in assessments contribute to the final award plus a 60-credit major project module at merit or above.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Sean Dodson

Your Academic Advisor

Sean Dodson / Carmen Bruegmann

Your Course Administrator

Mark Panter (journalismadminPG@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

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 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 ability to tell important stories.

We have a wealth of industry experts with years of experience at titles such as The Guardian, BBC, News UK, Cosmopolitan, Elle and The Yorkshire Post (to name but a few) 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 adaptable. 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:

1	Initiate and develop technically proficient, internationally-relevant editorial content
2	Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of multimedia production methods
3	Show advanced understanding of international legal, regulatory and ethical media issues
4	Demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive knowledge of a chosen field of international journalism that prepares candidates for the next stage in their careers
5	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
6	Learn and practice the latest academic and journalistic research techniques

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

You will develop a deep understanding of real-world journalism practice rooted in the authority of academia. Our students learn how to write well and tell compelling stories across a variety of platforms, as well as developing a range of analytical skills. 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. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. 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 Full Time, September Start			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Reporting (15 credits)	Y	Feature Writing (15 credits)	Y
Journalism Theory (15 credits)	Y	International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation (15 credits)	Y
Professional Journalism Development (15 credits)	Y	Introduction to Broadcast Media (15 credits)	Y
Editorial Production (30 credits)			Y
Dissertation (60 credits)			Y

Level 7 September Start, Part Time			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Reporting (15 credits)	Y	Feature Writing (15 credits)	Y
Journalism Theory (15 credits)	Y	International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation (15 credits)	Y
Editorial Production (30 credits)			Y
Year 2			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)

Level 7 September Start, Part Time			
Professional Journalism Development (15 credits)	Y	Introduction to Broadcast Media (15 credits)	Y
Dissertation (60 credits)			Y

Level 7 Full Time, January Start			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Feature Writing (15 credits)	Y	Reporting (15 credits)	Y
International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation (15 credits)	Y	Journalism Theory (15 credits)	Y
Introduction to Broadcast Media (15 credits)	Y	Professional Journalism Development (15 credits)	Y
Editorial Production (30 credits)			Y
Dissertation (60 credits)			Y

Level 7 Part Time, January start			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Feature Writing (15 credits)	Y	Reporting (15 credits)	Y
International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation (15 credits)	Y	Journalism Theory (15 credits)	Y
Editorial Production (30 credits)			Y
Year 2			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Introduction to Broadcast Media (15 credits)	Y	Professional Journalism Development (15 credits)	Y

Level 7 Part Time, January start	
Dissertation (60 credits)	Y

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 some practical assessments. There is a major independent study module which will require the production of a dissertation.

Workload

Overall Workload	
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.

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers 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. They also work on a wide range of projects

throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and opportunities

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.

