



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MSc Journalism

Course Code: MSJOU

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MSc Journalism (MSJOU)

Material Information Summary for 2026/27 Applicants

Confirmed February 2026

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 and 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 and standard timescales	<p>Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (full time, campus based, September start)• 16 months (full time, campus based, January start)• 24 months (part time, campus based, September start)• 28 months (part time, campus based, January start)
Part time study	<p>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 from that defined within this information set, but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a work placement option is not generally available to PT students.</p>
Location(s) of delivery	<p>The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.</p>
Entry requirements	<p>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/</p>

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:
AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Course fees

Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course. 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.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

N/A

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

The course contains a modular placement. Students are recommended to undertake a minimum of two working weeks (10 days) of work experience in and editorial office (or similar).

Placement Delivery

Students can take the option of working entire weeks (Monday to Friday) or to work a single day a week for 10 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".

Location

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).

Approval

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.

Timetable

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.

Key Contacts

Your course director Sean Dodson

Your course administrator Mark Panter (journalismadminPG@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

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

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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.

Course Structure (Full time, September start)

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Reporting	15	1
Journalism Theory	15	1
Professional Journalism Development	15	1
Editing and Production	15	1
Feature Writing	15	2
International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation	15	2
Introduction to Broadcast Media	15	2
Investigative Storytelling	15	2
Dissertation	60	YL
<i>Number of credits of compulsory modules</i>	180	

Course Structure (Full time, January start)

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Feature Writing	15	1
International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation	15	1
Introduction to Broadcast Media	15	1
Investigative Storytelling	15	1
Reporting	15	2
Journalism Theory	15	2
Professional Journalism Development	15	2
Editing and Production	15	2
Dissertation	60	YL
<i>Number of credits of compulsory modules</i>	180	

Course Structure (Part time, September start)

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Reporting	15	Y1 S1
Journalism Theory	15	Y1 S1
Editing and Production	15	Y1 S1
Feature Writing	15	Y1 S2
International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation	15	Y1 S2
Professional Journalism Development	15	Y2 S1
Introduction to Broadcast Media	15	Y2 S2

Investigative Storytelling	15	Y2 S2
Dissertation	60	Y2 YL
<i>Number of credits of compulsory modules</i>	180	

Course Structure (Part time, January start)

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Feature Writing	15	Y1 S1
International Perspectives on Media Law, Ethics & Regulation	15	Y1 S1
Investigative Storytelling	15	Y1 S1
Reporting	15	Y1 S2
Journalism Theory	15	Y1 S2
Introduction to Broadcast Media	15	Y2 S1
Professional Journalism Development	15	Y2 S2
Editing and Production	15	Y2 S2
Dissertation	60	Y2 YL
<i>Number of credits of compulsory modules</i>	180	

Assessment 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

The number of hours of workload generally equates to 1800 for a Masters programme, corresponding to the national standard of 10 notional hours of learning for each UK HE credit point.

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	295 hours
Independent study	1445 hours
Placement	60 hours

