

# MA Broadcast Journalism

## Programme Specification

<b>Awarding Institution:</b> University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)
<b>Teaching Institution:</b> Goldsmiths, University of London
<b>Final Award:</b> MA Broadcast Journalism
<b>Programme Name:</b> MA Broadcast Journalism
<b>Total credit value for programme:</b> 180 credits
<b>Name of Interim Exit Award(s):</b>
<b>Duration of Programme:</b> 1 year full-time
<b>UCAS Code(s):</b> Not applicable
<b>HECoS Code(s):</b>
<b>QAA Benchmark Group:</b>
<b>FHEQ Level of Award:</b> Level 7
<b>Programme accredited by:</b>
<b>Date Programme Specification last updated/approved:</b> 28/09/2022
<b>Home Department:</b> MCCA
<b>Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:</b> Not applicable

### Programme overview

This full time, one-year programme is a practical introduction to broadcast journalism which aims to teach you the professional conventions of news and current affairs broadcast journalism and relevant production skills in a multimedia, digitally focused environment. It encourages a globally-minded critical understanding of television and audio based journalistic practice, and an informed knowledge of the overall political and industrial contexts in which journalists are now working, both in the United Kingdom and around the world. At the end of the programme you should be familiar with the techniques and practices of broadcast journalism, and conversant with the wider ethical, legal and technological contexts..

You will be able to describe the qualities of your own work and of its cultural significance and have a professional standard portfolio of original broadcast news, current affairs and

multimedia reporting. Modules are practical and skills-based, but are taught within a theoretical framework which is only possible in an institution renowned for its research work.

This full time, one-year programme emphasises a critical approach to the practice of broadcast journalism. During the first term you will be introduced to the major approaches to the study of journalism, to media law and ethics, and the relationship between journalism and politics and the state, situating them firmly in a practical context and the knowledge needed by journalists. You will also be encouraged to develop a critique of those conventions.

You will learn how to research and write news for both online and broadcast use, and the importance of fairness, ethics, legal considerations, factual accuracy, and audience.

In the second and third terms you will develop these skills initially with multimedia working. All students work as a team on our live local multimedia news service – [www.eastlondonlines.co.uk](http://www.eastlondonlines.co.uk) – which covers a large area of east and south London. In this way, you learn the conventions and legal/ethical framework of newsgathering and reporting by creating cross platform broadcast journalism in real time for a real audience.

You will then move on to concentrate on current affairs and features and increase your understanding of genre, audience and style. At this point you will be able to choose whether you specialize in more advanced television or audio journalism. During the spring term you will also be able to select from options to study data journalism, open source investigative and verification journalism, podcasting and creative audio.

At all times you will be encouraged to relate the work you are doing to the industrial context in which you will be working, and to make links with people working in the industry. We are proud of our visiting speaker programme and our Media Forums, which features some of the industry's most innovative journalists and other experts in related fields.

The programme is embedded in the Department's ethos of diversity and interdisciplinarity. This is reflected in the combination of practice and theory which allows us to challenge norms and engage with real-world issues.

As well as subject specific knowledge and skills, the practical and theoretical studies will help you to develop further a wide variety of transferable intellectual, organisational and communications skills that can be applied in a wide range of employment contexts.

Students graduating from this programme work throughout the broadcast industry, both in the UK and around the world. The flexibility and cross media nature of the module means that students are well equipped to move between media as their careers develop. Some choose to freelance whilst others go straight into full time jobs in the industry.

MCCS is committed to the college's 'Liberate My Degree' strategy and is determined to develop a diverse and inclusive curriculum that incorporates the interests and concerns of a diverse student body. We want to learn from students themselves and, in our module evaluation forms, we invite students to identify examples of diversity and inclusivity in each module and suggest how our teaching and learning materials might be improved..

The Department is dedicated to providing personal tutoring for all our students in a way which is consistent, equitable, structured and proactively supportive of their academic progression. Personal tutoring in the Department is guided by the College's personal tutor policy and supported by a dedicated senior tutor for postgraduate students. Meetings with their personal tutor provide students with an opportunity to reflect on their learning progression, set goals and identify areas where they would like to improve. In addition, personal tutors make themselves available to students seeking advice with routine academic concerns and pastoral issues.

### **Programme entry requirements**

Applicants will normally hold an appropriate first degree (2:1 or above) and have some experience in journalism (student publications, freelance work or work experience is usually acceptable). If you do not have sufficient experience you may be asked to demonstrate your aptitude for journalism and ability to write at this level. If English is not your first language you should hold an IELTS score of 7.0 (including 7.0 for writing.)

### **What you will be expected to achieve**

The programme's learning outcomes are the result of continuing consultation with professional journalists, visiting tutors, professional colleagues in the Broadcast Journalism Training Council, external examiners and ex-students. The modules are up-dated annually to ensure that it is in line with (or ahead of) current practice in the industry. You will also develop a wide range of transferable qualities and skills necessary for employment in a variety of contexts. The Quality Assurance Agency describes these qualities as: effective communication skills, the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development. Such skills are inherent in most of what you will learn on this programme.

## Programme learning outcomes

### Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Conceptual and practical knowledge of those journalistic techniques and practices required for researching, writing, producing and presenting broadcast news packages	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Journalism Production Theory- Journalism in Context Media Law and Ethics Politics, Power and Public Affairs Introduction to News Reporting Final Project
A2	Knowledge of methodological techniques to be applied in the research and analysis of issues and information	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Journalism Production Theory- Journalism in Context Media Law and Ethics Politics, Power and Public Affairs Introduction to News Reporting Final Project
A3	An advanced understanding of issues concerned with audience and genre	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Journalism Production Theory- Journalism in Context Media Law and Ethics Politics, Power and Public Affairs Introduction to News Reporting Final Project
A4	An understanding of the media and media industries and how they may be conceptualised theoretically	Journalism in Context
A5	A comprehensive knowledge of appropriate legal and ethical issues	Media Law and Ethics
A6	Knowledge and understanding of techniques appropriate to the constructive	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	evaluation of your own original research of stories and their backgrounds and to the critique of your own completed work and that of others	Advanced Audio Journalism Introduction to News Reporting Final Project
A7	Understanding of the constructive interpersonal skills necessary for a successful shared production process in all sectors	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Introduction to News Reporting Final Project

### Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Ingenuity, originality and appropriateness in your approach to journalism	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Introduction to News Reporting Final Project
B2	Flexibility in use of media and application of technical skills	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Introduction to News Reporting Final Project
B3	Ability to assess situations quickly and act appropriately	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Introduction to News Reporting Final Project
B4	Ability to synthesise large volumes of information and rapidly summarise them	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Journalism Production Theory- Journalism in Context Media Law and Ethics Politics, Power and Public Affairs Introduction to News Reporting Final Project

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	A high level of skill to the research and writing of news stories for broadcast.	Intro to News Reporting Multimedia Broadcast Journalism
C2	A high level of organisational skills in the management of activities and processes	Multimedia Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism/Advanced Radio Journalism
C3	Basic understanding of grammar & narrative in story-telling in sound and pictures	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism, Advanced Television Journalism/Advanced Audio Journalism
C4	Basic abilities in data management, editing and post-production	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism, Advanced Television Journalism/Advanced Audio Journalism
C5	Basic skills in people and location finding	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism, Advanced Television Journalism/Advanced Audio Journalism

## Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	All the skills learned in B and C above are transferable across a wide range of media and can be utilised in a wide range of employment. All are also transferable life skills which will enhance the ability of students to operate as fully engaged citizens of a democracy	Introduction to Broadcast Journalism Advanced Television Journalism Advanced Audio Journalism Journalism Production Theory- Journalism in Context Media Law and Ethics Politics, Power and Public Affairs Introduction to News Reporting Final Project

## How you will learn

The acquisition of this knowledge and understanding will be via:

- 1) your practice modules
- 2) a series of lectures and seminars for Journalism Production Theory: Journalism in Context, Media Law and Ethics and Power Politics and Public Affairs..
- 3) . In addition, there will be specific lectures on other known and emerging issues related to the field from members of staff and invited speakers from the industry.

The acquisition of these skills is achieved through both practical and theoretical studies and you will receive constant feedback on your performance via tutorials and individual feedback. All camera, sound, editing and computer-based skills are demonstrated by technical tutors but you are expected to learn by the application of these skills to your own work. Team productions also aid the acquisition of these outcomes. Attendance at all taught sessions is compulsory.

### Grading Criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	<b>Practice Marking</b> Criteria Guidelines Exceptional work of broadcastable quality showing originality and based on extensive research and independent thought. Represents the achievement of the learning outcomes to an outstanding level. <b>Essay Marking</b> Awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction, but to an outstanding degree. Such work may be of publishable quality, and will be a significant contribution to debate within the field
70-79%	Distinction	<b>Practice Marking</b> It will demonstrate the very effective application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The portfolio will demonstrate an understanding of the target audiences, grasp of the subjects, critical awareness of the historical and cultural background of your subjects, evidence of originality and individual research, evidence of interviewing ability, investigation, ingenuity, originality, scope or appropriateness in your approach to the subject, writing style and ability to communicate with clarity, and presentation. It will be work that the Department would normally regard as appropriate to exhibit or broadcast externally. <b>Essay Marking</b> Awarded when the essay demonstrates the very effective application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the module. The



		outstanding work will show evidence of extensive relevant reading and an impressive grasp of current major issues in the field. This knowledge will have been reviewed critically with insight and independence of thought. presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, with clear awareness of issues of methodology and evidence, and be particularly clear, well focused and cogent.
60-69%	Merit	<b>Practice Marking</b> Work that overall achieves a high standard. It will demonstrate the effective application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The work will have achieved the majority of its goals and will demonstrate a significant degree of originality and ambition with a good level of technical competence. It will be based on an original idea and will be well structured. It will show significant evidence of research/planning and demonstrate a critical awareness of the medium and understanding of the audience. It will be work that the Department would normally regard as appropriate to exhibit or publish or broadcast externally. <b>Essay Marking</b> candidates must demonstrate the effective application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the module learning outcomes. The essay will show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating evidence and theories drawn from a wide range of sources. They will demonstrate an ability to relate this reading to their topic, and will clearly have understood and assimilated the relevant literature
50-59%	Pass	<b>Practice Marking</b> Work of an overall satisfactory standard. It will demonstrate the satisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The work achieves its primary goal(s). Technically it will be competent in quality with a recognisable overall structure. It will be based on a degree of research/planning and exhibit some critical awareness of the medium. <b>Essay Marking</b> Awarded when the essay demonstrates the satisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the module. There is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas, critical comment



		or methodology. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field.
30-49%	Fail	<b>Practice Marking</b> Work of an overall unsatisfactory standard. It will demonstrate the unsatisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The work will demonstrate little originality or ambition. It is likely that its goals will not have been achieved to a satisfactory extent and its level of technical competence will range from adequate to poor with a weak structure. It will show evidence of a lack of research/planning and indicate little critical understanding of the medium and generally ineffective ability to sustain the involvement of the audience. It will be work that the Department would not regard as appropriate for any exhibition or publication. <b>Essay Marking</b> Indicates that a candidate has demonstrated an unsatisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the production modules learning outcomes.
10-29%	Bad fail	<b>Practice Marking Criteria Guidelines</b> Work where there is no discernible learning applied and/or no significant effort made to meet the criteria. <b>Essay Marking Guidelines</b> Work which is unsatisfactory and indicates that the student failed to understand or apply appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

## Programme structure

The programme consists of the following modules. Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 60 credits may exit the programme with the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Television Journalism.

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
--------------	-------------	---------	-------	---------------	------

Introduction to Broadcast Journalism	MC71261A	15	7	Compulsory	1
<b>EITHER</b>					
Advanced Television Journalism	MC71258A	15	7	Compulsory	2
<b>OR</b>					
Advanced Audio Journalism	TBC	15	7	Compulsory	2
<b>AND</b>					
Journalism Production Theory-Journalism in Context	MC71121A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Media Law and Ethics	MC71159B	15	7	Compulsory	1
Politics, Power and Public Affairs	MC71160A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Introduction to News Reporting	MC71262A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Multimedia Broadcast Journalism	MC71265A	15	7	Compulsory	2
Final Project	MC71263A	60	7	Compulsory	1
A skills-based option modules equal to the value of 15 credits from an approved list published annually	Various	15	7	Optional	1 or 2

## Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least three a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline

and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the [Library](#) and information available on [Learn.gold \(VLE\)](#) so that they have access to department/programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the [Goldsmiths website](#) and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing](#) Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The [Careers Service](#) provides central support for skills enhancement, running [The Gold Award](#) scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report ([HEAR](#)).

The [Centre for Academic Language and Literacies](#) works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

## **Placement opportunities**

All students are required to do 15 days of work placements in line with the requirements of our accrediting body, the Broadcast Journalism Training Council, to obtain real-life experience in the industry and provide a journal and self-reflection on their career planning as part of the Professional Practice module.

## **Employability and potential career opportunities**

Employment prospects for those leaving with an MA in Television Journalism are excellent. The majority of students go directly into jobs in the industry, mainly in television journalism although we also have students in radio, print/multimedia and online. A few choose to take up jobs in allied fields and a small minority choose to go directly into freelance work. The programme is accredited by the Broadcast Journalism Training Council.

## **Programme-specific requirements**

N/A

## **Tuition Fee costs**

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/>

## **Specific programme costs**

**General programme costs** In addition to your tuition fees, you will be responsible for meeting standard costs associated with your study. Find out more information at [gold.ac.uk/programme-costs](https://www.gold.ac.uk/programme-costs).

Students are expected to film on location as part of the News module, primarily for TV Newsdays, and as part of the Long Form module and may incur travel costs but every effort is made to keep to these to a minimum. We encourage students to apply for student discount travel cards where applicable.