Course Specification

BA (Hons) Journalism

Course Code: BAJLN

2019/20

leedsbeckett.ac.uk
BA (Hons) Journalism

Material Information Summary for 2019/20 Entrants

Confirmed at _______

General Information

Award
BA (Hons) Journalism

Contained awards
BA Journalism
Diploma of Higher Education Journalism
Certificate of Higher Education Journalism

Awarding Body
Leeds Beckett University

Level of Qualification & Credits
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)

Course Lengths & Standard Timescales

The standard start date for Leeds Beckett University induction week is reproduced below and relates to the majority of students starting a course in September 2019. A proportion of courses have alternate start dates which are displayed on the online prospectus and additionally will be notified to the students concerned via the offer letter. Non-September starters will also have their start dates confirmed in their offer letters.

- 3 years (full time, campus based)

Starts 16th September 2019/ Ends June 2022

Part Time Study
N/A

Location(s) of Delivery
City Campus, Leeds (plus location of work placement, if applicable)

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: http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning/

Course Fees
Course fees and additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter

Timetable Information

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

i) The Student Outlook Calendar
ii) The Student Portal

iii) The Leeds Beckett app

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

Policies, Standards and Regulations  http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information/

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director  Karl Hodge
Your Academic Advisor  Barbara Henderson (at L4)
Your Course Administrator  Mark Panter

Placement Information  N/A

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body  This course is accredited by the Broadcast Journalism Training (BJTC) council and the Professional Publisher’s Association (PPA). Both organisations accredit the course through visits that verify we are adhering to their guidelines for delivery. Further information may be found on our online prospectus.

Course Accreditation/ Recognition Period  

BJTC 01/06/14 – 30/11/19

PRCA 01/05/15 – 01/05/19

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 and Apple 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:

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. Have 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 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.

BA 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

(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 4 Core Modules (2019/20 for FT students)**

Introduction to Journalism

Journalism Practice and Principles

Digital Publishing

Introduction to Media Law

Reporting

Broadcast Journalism

Journalism Skills 1

**Level 5 Core Modules (2020/21 for FT students)**

Futures – the Evolution of Media

The Public Sphere
Digital Newsdays
Broadcast Newsdays
Writing Features
Media Law in Context
Government and Political Context in the UK
Journalism Skills 2

**Level 6 Core Modules (2021/22 for FT students)**

Magazine Production
Multiplatform Newsdays
Magazine Newsdays
Journalism Skills 3
Journalism Project OR Dissertation

**Level 6 Option Modules (delivery years as per Level 6 core modules above)**

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

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 a sample of option module choices undertaken by a typical student. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, placement activities and independent study. Sandwich placement years spent out of the University are not be included in the calculation unless they are credit bearing and attributed to a level of the course. Modules may have more than 1 component of assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Balance</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Level 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Workload</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching, Learning and Assessment</td>
<td>265 hours</td>
<td>252 hours</td>
<td>267 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>935 hours</td>
<td>948 hours</td>
<td>933 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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**Learning Support**

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators works 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 Hub on either campus to speak to our Student Experience Team. 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 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. The telephone number is 0113 812 3000, and the e-mail address is StudentHub@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.