



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

**BSc (Hons) Digital
Journalism**

Course Code: BSCDJ

2020/21

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

BSc (Hons) Digital Journalism

Material Information Summary for 2020/21 Entrants

Confirmed at 25th March 2019

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Science (with Honours) Digital Journalism
Contained Awards	Bachelor of Science Digital Journalism Diploma of Higher Education Digital Journalism Certificate of Higher Education Digital 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 2020. 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 21st September 2020/ Ends June 2023
- 4 years (full time, campus based with a one year work placement)
Starts 21st September 2020/ Ends June 2024

Part Time Study	N/A
Location(s) of Delivery	Headingley 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	Hugo Smith
Your Academic Advisor	Anthony Walker (Course Leader DJ)
Your Course Administrator	Adnan Khanzada

Placement Information

Summary Leeds Beckett is dedicated to improving the employability of our students and one of the ways in which we do this is to support our students to gain valuable work experience through work-based placements. Our placement teams have developed strong links with companies, many of whom repeatedly recruit our students into excellent placement roles and the teams are dedicated to supporting students through every stage of the placement process. More information about the many benefits of undertaking a work placement, along with details about how to contact our placement teams can be found here: <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/placement-information/>

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Length	30 weeks, undertaken between year 2 and year 3 (Level 5 and Level 6)
Location	Not specified

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body	There is no professional accreditation or recognition associated with this course
How is Accreditation/ Recognition Achieved?	N/A
Course Accreditation/ Recognition Period	N/A

Course Overview

Aims

This course prepares students interested in the rapidly changing creative industries for a career in Digital Journalism and related areas in the 21st Century.

With equal emphasis on the technical and aesthetic aspects of Digital journalism, the course takes you through the process of capturing, processing and publishing digital imagery and copy. We look at advanced digital manipulation techniques of moving and still images, the theory behind the meaning of images and the way that new technologies are changing and challenging journalism. Taught using practical workshops and theoretical lectures, you'll develop a large portfolio of visual imagery and writing including sound and video, showing a broad but targeted range of technical and creative skills.

We aim to:

- Provide industrial level simulation and training
- Critically engage you with contemporary issues in the production of Digital journalism
- Equip you with the experience and skills to make informed career choices
- Become independent in your working outlook
- Develop an entrepreneurial approach to working
- Learn to walk, then learn to run, with the encouragement to innovate

You will work on case studies and tackle real world design briefs to develop practical skills and a professional portfolio. Assessment is integrated with these activities and is mostly based on your coursework. As you progress, your tutors will provide you with feedback and coach you towards achieving your full potential.

You will have opportunities to gain recognition during your time at Leeds Beckett for the extra activities you do on top of your studies, including volunteering, student societies, playing in University sports teams and being a student academic representative.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1	The ability to demonstrate a critical knowledge of the academic contexts relevant to Digital journalism as a media artefact
2	To show and apply appropriate ethical standards to your work.
3	Demonstrate literacy in the manual use of digital capture and distribution techniques, lighting, post-production software and other techniques relevant to Digital journalism
4	Demonstrate technical skills in the creation and distribution of journalistic content using digital and traditional platforms
5	Evidence an understanding of the global opportunities presented by the dissemination of creative and journalistic content using digital platforms.
6	Display an entrepreneurial approach to promoting your work.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

While lectures and tutor-lead presentations continue to have a place in our curriculum, the BSc Digital Journalism award seeks to enable a student-centred approach to learning.

To this end, much of our provision is centred on guided workshops, tasks and challenges. Students are encouraged to acquire skills through practice, both in the supported environment of the workshop context and through independent development of assignment work.

One of the advantages of provision by practitioner tutors, and the award has a mix of academics and practitioners engaged in teaching activities, is that they can bring responsive teaching methods to workshop challenges and guide students in their problem solving in a context that simulates – and prepares well for – industrial practice.

This overall approach is supported by a number of technology based initiatives. We use tools like Google Docs to enable students to communicate and engage collaboratively. The team has developed a number of interactive training resources that are delivered electronically, including video and walkthrough guides. These are available to students centrally, via MyBeckett (VLE), throughout their module.

We also encourage students to chart their own learning through a blog that is created in week one, semester one of the first year. Though guidelines are offered at the beginning of delivery, students are expected to develop a creative approach to reflection as they progress.

Our main approach has been responsive, with formative feedback integral to delivery. The clearest implementation is in the provision of formative, ongoing feedback during workshops, adopting a Socratic approach.

We also use social media (at the time of writing, Skype, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to engage with students and to offer remote tutorials and advice where appropriate.

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 Visual Communication

Introduction to Digital Journalism

Impact of Journalism

Media and Culture

Editing Skills

Create the Concept

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

Writing for Multiplatforms

Ethics

Photography Matters

The Business of Journalism 1

The Business of Journalism 2

Editorial Power

Level 6 Core Modules (2021/22 for FT students and 2022/23 for sandwich placement students)

Production Project

Creative Media Practice

Showcase

Future of Journalism

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. Students take two of:

Technology of Cameras

Constructed Photography

Documentary Photography

Portraiture: Identity and Representation

Radio Production

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.

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominantly.

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominantly.

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominantly.

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	294 hours	265 hours	216 hours
Independent Study	906 hours	935 hours	984 hours
Placement	-	-	-

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 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.