# Journalism with Foundation Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final award</th>
<th>BA (Hons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate awards available</td>
<td>University Cert, Cert HE, Dip HE, BA (Ord)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of delivery</td>
<td>UEL on campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS code:</td>
<td>Journalism with Foundation Year (Four year programme of study) P501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Details of professional body accreditation</td>
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**Relevant QAA Benchmark statements**

Depending on programme and module studying the following Subject Benchmarks are used:

- Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
- English
- History

Full documents from Subject Benchmarks are available at:

[http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Honours-degree-benchmark-statements.aspx](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Honours-degree-benchmark-statements.aspx)

- **Creative and Professional Writing**
  
  Produced by the Higher Education Committee of the National Association of Writers in Education (Subject Association for Creative Writing).

**UEL Academic School**

School of Arts and Digital Industries

**Date specification last up-dated**

26 January 2016
The summary - UCAS programme profile-

BANNER BOX:

This four year programme opens up Higher Education study to those who have the dedication, motivation and commitment to study at this level but are unable to meet the entry requirements for direct entry to the traditional three year programme of study.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants without formal qualifications but with significant demonstrable life or work experience, or who can demonstrate a keen interest in the proposed area of study are encouraged to join the programme and will be considered on an individual basis through interview and entry assessment.

Applicants who are recent school leavers should normally have 140 UCAS points. These points must be gained from BTEC National or A-level study or equivalent. A-Level students are normally expected to have studied to A2 level though students with AS qualifications only will be considered through interview. Furthermore, all qualifications are considered in relation to any specific subject entry requirements at Level 4. All recent school leavers will need to have a GCSE in maths of Grade C or above and all applicants will need a good standard of English demonstrated by achieving an award in one of the following or undertaking a UEL Standard English Literacy test or entry assessment:

- English GSCE Grade C or above
- Level 2 Key Skills in Communication

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, the University’s English Language requirements as detailed on the website at time of application must be met – see http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/application/english-language-requirements/

Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes.

At UEL we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity - a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within a spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at UEL to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the Equality Act 2010.
ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is a Degree with Foundation Year?

A foundation year degree programme has an extra year, a Level 3 (sometimes called a Foundation year), therefore the length of studying is four years rather than a three year degree if undertaken full-time.

Studying at degree level can be difficult, especially at the start, an extra preparatory year provides a supportive and stimulating environment for students and is an opportunity for you to devote time and resources to developing the necessary personal and academic skills to be successful at degree level study. The programme for the first year offers a variety of modules that develop in students a range of key academic skills and subject knowledge in preparation for Levels 4-6. It also introduces you to the idea of independent study and self-directed learning, an important part of university study, and will help develop an understanding of the participative nature of higher education.

Foundation Year Degrees at UEL

The University of East London is pleased to be one of the main providers of Degrees with foundation year in the sector. The university offers Foundation Year Degrees as part of its mission statement commitment to opening up Higher Education to those without the required formal qualifications for direct entry and many students who have taken the Foundation Degree year successfully complete their studies

Programme structure

Each level of study (3-6) normally has four modules. Students studying on a part-time basis will take two modules each year of their study instead of four.

Learning environment

Creating a good learning environment is a key feature of the first year of study so that students feel comfortable and end the year confident in their academic, personal and subject skills. The programme has been carefully developed to provide a range of teaching and learning experiences, including lectures, seminars, workshops, personal tutorials, presentations, external visits and group discussions. The programme also uses a virtual learning environment to support learning and encourages students to make use of the individual tutorial system. For more details of the learning environment for levels 4 onwards please visit

Assessment

For the first year of your study a variety of assessments will be undertaken either individually or in groups. There are a range of assessments used in the programme depending on your programme of study. For example a Journalism or Sports Journalism student will undertake the writing of news reports whilst a Computer Games or Digital Media student will produce a creative media portfolio. An English Literature student will be expected to produce essays and a textual analysis whilst a Film or Advertising students will analyse visual images. All
students will also take part in group work and group production and/or presentations. There are no exams in the first year of study.

Each module is assessed and students are expected to demonstrate they are able to meet the learning outcomes in order to pass a module. Assessment takes places throughout the year but all modules taken will have final assessment components which take place at the end of the teaching period in May.

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Programme Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the programme.

For more details of the assessment in Levels 4-6 please visit http:

http://www.uel.ac.uk/study/courses/journalism.htm

Work experience/placement opportunities

If you pass Level 3 and progress onto Levels 4-6, your course may include the opportunity for a work placement or volunteering module for more details of any opportunities for work experience or placement opportunities please visit http://www.uel.ac.uk/study/courses/journalism.htm

Project work

Project work is undertaken in all programmes of study and it is where you have the opportunity to develop your own ideas and interests. Within the Level three programme year you will have a number of opportunities to work on individual and group small-scale projects, and most of these will form the basis of your assessment. In seminars you will be working in groups on weekly activities that you then present to fellow students and tutors. These activities are an opportunity to plan and manage your work, experience team working and enhance your inter-personal skills.

Added value

- If you do not have the necessary qualifications for direct entry to Level 4 successful completion of the programme guarantees access to degree level study at the University of East London.
- The Level 3 year is not an Access course and offers you and opportunity to experience academic culture before you enter level 4.
- The Level 3 year enables you to have an introduction to what your course is going to be about and the academic discipline[s] it comes from.
- The Level 3 programme provides a supportive and motivating environment for you to develop your personal and academic skills and confidence.
- It is run by committed and experienced staff who want to help you realise your aspirations.
- The Level 3 year provides study skills and personal development support.
- The Level 3 year introduces you to expectations and demands of independent study and learning.
• Utilises ultra-modern facilities at the University in computing, arts, digital and analogue media technology.
• Takes place within a vibrant and creative School.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in ........

• developing key personal and academic skills for successful undergraduate study
• developing your subject specific knowledge in relation to your chosen degree programme

If you enjoy....

• learning and studying
• a challenge
• working with others
• working creatively
• trying to find answers to challenging questions
• thinking about things in new ways
• reading and writing
• taking part in discussions

If you want....

• to study at university but do not have the qualifications to enter directly onto a three year programme of study
• to develop key skills essential for successful study at university
• spend time thinking about and preparing for a degree programme while developing your key skills

Your future career

There are a wide range of careers open to graduates and succeeding in Level 3 is your first step to getting a degree. This preparatory year starts to develop your confidence and the key skills employers are looking for in a graduate such as critical and analytical thinking as well as good communication skills.

How we support you

There is a small dedicated team who work within the Foundation Year Degree programme who develop good working relationships with their students. You will have a personal tutor responsible for providing guidance and support in relevant areas of academic study. In addition you will also have regular access to tutors through the tutorial system on each of your modules. Additional academic and personal support is providing by Learning and Achievement Advisors and the Writing Centre. There is also university support such as the School Student Enquiry Desk, Student Services and an excellent Library and Learning Service.
Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

• Develop the core academic skills necessary to succeed in Higher Education.
• Develop skills in your subject area.
• Develop the ability to work independently in preparation for Levels 4-6.
• Explore academic culture.
• Successfully transfer to Level 4.

What will you learn?

The overall Learning Outcomes for this programme are defined by the university and include:

• Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with their area(s) of study.
• Interpret underlying concepts and principles within the context of their area(s) of study.
• Develop basic lines of argument in accordance with the theories and concepts of their subject(s) of study.
• Apply given approaches to solving problems related to their area(s) of study and/or work.
• Demonstrate a basic ability to evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to problem solving.
• Develop core key skills within a structured and managed environment and with external evaluation.
• Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and crucial private (independent study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme

4 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

5 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
6 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

7 equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

**Credit rating**

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 480 credits.

**Typical duration**

The duration of this programme (including an honours degree) is four years full-time or eight years part-time. It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period. A student cannot normally continue study on a programme after 5 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a programme in part time mode is 8 years from first enrolment.

**How the teaching year is divided**

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to 90 credits in any academic year.

**What you will study when**

A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take 120 credits per year. Typically this will be comprised of four 30 credit modules. The exact number may differ if the programme is comprised of 15, 45 or 60 credits modules. A Foundation Year Degree honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at Level three, modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and modules totalling 120 credits at level six.

There are eight modules in the foundation year. Some are core and some are option depending on your chosen Programme of study as modules are shared with all students studying on a range of Foundation Year Degree programmes. A core module for a programme is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a programme is a module selected from a range of modules available on the programme.
Requirements for gaining an award

As you will be taking a four year programme in order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 480 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree will need to obtain a minimum of 420 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level four or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level five or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level six or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 360 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher, 120 credits at level four or higher and 120 credits at level five or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 240 credits at level three or higher and level four or higher
Further information

This programme specification relates to the first year of a four year programme of study, the Level 3 (foundation) year. It is important to also look at the relevant programme specification for Levels 4-6 so that a sense of your programme of study overall is clear. More details can be found here:

[http://www.uel.ac.uk/study/courses/journalism.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/study/courses/journalism.htm)

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions or the Programme Leader for an informal discussion.

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge, thinking skills, practical skills and skills for life and work are developed through:

- Formal and active lectures
- Guided reading
- Group discussions
- Interactive seminars
- Individual tutorials
- Independent study
- Supervised workshops (where applicable)
- Analysis of theoretical and practical issues in relation to chosen degree programme
- Online discussions and activities
- External visits
- Reflective activities with feedback
- Online discussions and activities
- Assessment

Assessment

We use a wide range of assessment task across the Level three programme to assess a student’s knowledge, skills and understanding:

Knowledge is assessed by

- Coursework
- Essays
- Critical reviews or textual analysis
- Presentations

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Coursework
- Project work
Practical skills are assessed by

- Practical reports
- Practical projects and reflections on production process
- Portfolio completion
- Competency in workshop exercises

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Project work
- Group work
- Reflexive personal and professional evaluation
- Quality of written work and formal oral presentations

**How we assure the quality of this programme**

**Before this programme started**

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

**How we monitor the quality of this programme**

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.
**The role of the programme committee**

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

**The role of external examiners**

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

The external examiner reports for this programme are located on the UEL virtual learning environment (Moodle) on the school notice board under the section entitled ‘External Examiner Reports & Responses’. You can also view a list of the external examiners for the UEL School by clicking on the link below.

http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminersystem/currentexaminers/

**Listening to the views of students**

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

List the methods that you use e.g.

- Module evaluations
- Programme evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting 2 times year)

Students are notified of the action taken through:

List the methods that you use e.g.

- Circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- Feedback from programme representatives and regular programme meetings
- Posting on our dedicated Facebook group
Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (http://www.uel.ac.uk)
- The programme handbook available at: http://www.uel.ac.uk/adi/students/programmehandbooks/
- Module study guides available in Moodle (UEL Virtual Learning Environment)
- UEL Quality Manual available at: (http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/qualitymanual/)
- School web pages available at: http://www.uel.ac.uk/adi/