Journalism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final award</th>
<th>BA (Hons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate awards available</td>
<td>BA, Certificate HE, Diploma HE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of delivery</td>
<td>UEL on campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS code</td>
<td>P500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details of professional body accreditation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant QAA Benchmark statements</td>
<td>Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEL Academic School</td>
<td>Arts and Digital Industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date specification up-dated</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Summary: UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

Operate as a London-based reporter supported and directed by academic staff who are trained journalists.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirement for Level 4 entry is 240 UCAS tariff points from A/AS Level (two A2 passes required), or GNVQ, AVCE, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate, BTEC / SCOTEC Diploma, Relevant Access Course; or successful completion of a Foundation year (Level 3).

In addition, applicants for BA (Hons) Journalism are invited to attend one of a series of study days where they are screened for aptitude and potential. Academic staff recommend the offer of a place on BA Journalism only to those applicants who demonstrate sufficient curiosity, determination, use of English and other such qualities essential for working journalists.

Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes. In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, the University’s English Language requirements as detailed on the website at the time of application must be met – see [http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/application/english-language-requirements/](http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/application/english-language-requirements/).

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 Journalism?

Good question. Right now, journalism itself is under question. People are asking: what are professional journalists FOR, exactly? And who’s going to PAY for journalism now that news is so widely and freely available?

The Journalism programme develops the inquiring minds of its students so that they will be the ones to report tomorrow’s stories and find the answers to today’s questions.

Journalism at UEL

Offers students the opportunity to operate as journalists in a global city, working at increasing levels of independence and proficiency throughout their degree:

- Learn to produce journalism that is authoritative, argumentative and imaginative.
- See your work published in programme-based publications and external outlets.
- Join in debates about the future of journalism.
- Explore the riches of journalism’s past; and discard the dross.
- Develop an inquisitive mind and an entrepreneurial attitude.

Programme structure

Although part-time study is available, BA Journalism is typically a full-time, three-year programme. The module diet is highly structured, not least because employers are increasingly strict in their expectations of entry-level journalists; and the employability of the programme’s graduates is of primary concern to its staff.

Learning environment

Based in the campus Newsroom, the Journalism programme operates an editorial system in which student-journalists learn by working with staff-editors. After students have completed basic training, they go out to report on East London and the surrounding region, as directed by permanent staff and visiting consultants. Journalism Schools in the USA have dubbed this the ‘teaching hospital’ model. But almost before there was a name for it, UEL’s Journalism programme had already adopted this strategy.

Assessment

There are no formal exams but copywriting exercises and legal simulations are carried out against the clock – as in real life. The main item of assessment is the Portfolio – a collection of published stories or business ideas or contributions to debates about journalism; backed up by a Viva – this is when students appear before a panel of academic staff and visiting journalists, to answer questions about their work.
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.

**Work experience/placement opportunities**

Staff support students in finding work placements or other types of external commission.

**Project work**

All students work *either* on the development of a new publication – from initial brainstorming, all the way through the production process to the launch party; or they originate and complete a Dissertation (academic research project). In addition, students are required to formulate ideas with business potential.

**Added value**

UEL is currently the only UK university to offer students the opportunity to complement their Journalism degree by taking a course of assessments leading to the Professional Certificate in Journalism awarded by the Professional Publishers Association, the trade body for Britain’s magazine industry.

**IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?**

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

What’s happening *now*.

**If you enjoy....**

The challenge of trying to find out what’s really happening, and the further challenge of trying to capture this and communicate it to other people.

**If you want....**

- To become a journalist.
- To acquire industry skills and work to professional standards.
- To adopt an inquisitive attitude.
- To think like an entrepreneur.
- To carry out original research.
- To debate the future of journalism.
- To learn from the history of journalism.
- To understand the social role performed by journalists.
- To make a future for yourself in journalism; and to make a contribution to the future of journalism.

**Your future career**

One of the first students to graduate in Journalism at UEL is now Woman Editor at The Sun, Britain’s top-selling tabloid newspaper. Some of our graduates have gone into local...
journalism, online journalism, contract publishing or PR. Others went on to take an MA in Creative Writing or a PhD in Journalism.

How we support you

The programme is supported by an industry liaison group and the members of this group make frequent appearances on campus – giving guest lectures and master classes; advising students on their projects and helping them with their dissertations.

All students are allocated a personal tutor who is a permanent member of academic staff. All of our staff have worked as professional journalists; most of them still do!

Bonus factors

Our neighbourhood – East London – is also one of the world’s biggest stories. Being a Journalism student at UEL means you will never be stuck for something to report on.

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Operate as inquisitive journalists in the global city of London.
- Attain high levels of proficiency in the production and promotion of journalism.
- Become a knowledgeable participant in debates about the past, present and future of journalism.
- Internalise habits and attitudes essential to professional journalism.

What will you learn?

Knowledge

- The contested history of journalism
- Current controversies surrounding journalism
- Strategies for the future of journalism

Thinking skills

- Critical reflection and evaluation
- Contextualisation
- Argumentation

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Techniques for the production of journalism in a variety of formats across different platforms.
- Social media and other techniques for the promotion of journalism.

Skills for life and work (general skills)
• Working on brief and to deadline.
• Collaboration and professional competition.
• Inquisitive attitude
• Entrepreneurial approach

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 private 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 Master’s degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is three years full-time or six 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 4 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. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level four, modules totalling 120 credits at level five and modules totalling 120 credits at level six.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Distance learning</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CC4501</td>
<td>Writing and Reporting</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>CC4502</td>
<td>Photo, Audio &amp; Video</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Journalism Casebook</td>
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<td>Journalism in Question</td>
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<td>Law, Ethics and Business</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Rising East (Reporting)</td>
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<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CC5503</td>
<td>Journalism Portfolio</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Insight</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Option</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Please Note – 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**

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- 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 you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:
• 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 240 credits including a minimum of 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 120 credits at level four or higher

Degree Classification

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree by passing a valid combination of module to comprise an award and has gained the minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 5 or level 6 on the current enrolment for the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 6, the award classification is determined by calculating;

\[
\text{The arithmetic mean of the best 90 credits at level 6} \times 0.8 + \text{The arithmetic mean of the next 90 credits at levels 5 and/or 6} \times 0.2
\]

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimals points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70% - 100%</td>
<td>First Class Honours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>Second Class Honours, First Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% - 59%</td>
<td>Second Class Honours, Second Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% - 49%</td>
<td>Third Class Honours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% - 39%</td>
<td>Not passed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through:

• Guided reading
• Seminars
• Lectures
• Tutorial
• Editorial meetings
• Online discussion and activities

Thinking skills are developed through:

• Interactive lectures and seminars
• Tutorials
• Student presentations
• Student-staff editorial meetings

Practical skills are developed through:
Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Project work (individual and collaborative)
- External commissions/work placements
- Students operating as journalists

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Timed exercises
- Viva
- Presentation
- Report
- Essay
- Dissertation

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Critical reflection
- Essay
- Debate
- Viva

Practical skills are assessed by:

- Digital Journal
- Portfolios: journalistic; entrepreneurial; research.

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

- Project work

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:

- Module evaluations
- Programme evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting twice a year)
- Annual student satisfaction questionnaires

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Circulating the minutes of programme committee meetings
- Providing details on the programme noticeboard
- Individual responses to students as required
- Postings on our online discussion forums

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Q&A with former students
- Industrial liaison 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
- Module study guides
- UEL Quality Manual (http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/policies/qualitymanual/)
- Webpages for the School of Arts and Digital Industries www.uel.ac.uk/adi

Student-staff publications including: Rising East: London on the move www.risingeast.co.uk