Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme
Leading to:
MA International Journalism

Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2022

Version No.	Date	Notes – QA USE ONLY	QA
1	*March 2022*	*Programme specification created for 2022/23* *JR5618; CO5522; CO5515 removed from September 2022* *JR5624; JR5625; JR5626; CO5603 added from September 2022*	*BJR*
1.1	*June 2022*	*Added PP5617 as it was missed from the above list*	

Postgraduate Taught Programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home college/department/division	College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences/Dept. of Social and Political Sciences /Division of Social Science and Communication.
4. Contributing college/department/division/associated institution	None
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	MA International Journalism FHEQ Level 7
7. Programme title	MA International Journalism
8. Programme type (Single honours/joint)	N/A
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	FT: 1 year PT: 2 years
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	Normal plus two years
11. Variation(s) to September start	
12. Modes of study	Full Time or part time
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles and FHEQ Level of Award	Postgraduate Diploma International Journalism FHEQ Level 7 Postgraduate Certificate International Journalism FHEQ Level 7
15. UCAS Code	N/A
16. HECOS Code	100442
17. Route Code	4A2BPINTJOUR

18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	UK Quality Code for Higher Education which includes the English Framework for Higher Education Qualifications within Part A on Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards. Most Recent QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: there are currently no relevant subject benchmark statements. Brunel 2030

19. Admission Requirements	Details of entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website. Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages.
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	N/A
21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 3. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 3 must be stated here and approved by Senate.	N/A
22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website.	http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/international-journalism-ma

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To produce postgraduates with a comprehensive and sophisticated understanding of the advanced academic study of international journalism in its various forms;
- To enable the development of a critical and reflexive engagement with the academic, public and professional debates about a rapidly changing field of practice;
- To develop advanced expertise in the multi-platform practices of journalism in international contexts
- To develop the abilities to create, analyse and evaluate journalism practice and theory

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K) cognitive (thinking) skills (C) and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills andattributes)	**Learning Outcome**	**Masters Award Only**	**Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)**	**Associated Study Blocks Code(s)**	**Associated Modular BlocksCode(s)**
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	K	Demonstrate a critical knowledge of different academic approaches and ways of understanding mediaethics, journalistic platforms, processes and practices indivergent global contexts				**JR5626** **JR5624** **JR5619**
	K	Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of current debates and issues in unconventional forms of journalism or those that mimic it with the intent to deceive				**JR5623** **JR5622**
	K	Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the role of context in informing how leads are identified, sourced, investigated and translated into the production of text-based journalistic content				**JR5616** **JR5621** **JR5625**
	K	Demonstrate an advanced understanding of how different formats and platforms constrain and facilitate the creation and presentation of visual-based stories				**JR5617** **JR5620**
	K	Demonstrate advanced andcritical knowledge and understanding theoretical, methodological and ethicaldebates about their chosen topic				**JR5614** **JR5615**
		Demonstrate advanced and critical knowledge and understanding of professionalethics and governance pertinent to the topic chosen in the project				**JR5615**
	C	Critically assess ethical and professional dilemmas posedby the changing nature of media technologies for the practice of journalism				**JR5619**
	C	Critically evaluate and apply existing theories about unconventional or fake forms of journalism				**JR5623** **JR5622**

	C	Demonstrate the ability tocreate, edit and present content appropriate for different platforms				**JR5617**
	C	Demonstrate the ability to critically apply ethics, theory and methodology to a pieceof independent research				**JR5623** **JR5614**
	C	Produce a piece of advanced profession work which demonstrates the ability to create, analyse, synthesis andevaluate advanced journalism practice				**JR5615**
	S	Clearly and cogently communicate complex theoretical concepts, ideas and arguments				**JR5624** **JR5619** **JR5623** **JR5622** **JR5614**
	S	Identify, assess and appropriately use different types and sources of data/information				**JR5620** **JR5617** **JR5625**
	S	Ability to plan and time-manage a large project				**JR5614** **JR5615**

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

The main learning and teaching methods used to teach the practical, theoretical and research knowledge listed above are lectures, practical workshops and exercises, student-led seminars and individual tutorials. Students are provided with comprehensive outlines for each module which outline both the topics covered and the appropriate reading for the module but, as appropriate, for advanced study they are also expected to source their own readings. Seminars provide a learning environment encouraging independent thought, self-reflection and dialogue (for example, students will present their own work in progress for constructive class discussion) and interrogate at an advanced level the inter-relationship between theory and practice particularly at an international or global level. Practical workshops and exercises build student initiative and facilitate the development of advanced technical skills. Formative assessments on individual work are used in practice-orientated modules to provide feedback on student progress. In the second and third terms, students have the option of doing a research project or a traditional dissertation. They are prepared for the project through practical exercises in terms 1 and 2 and then the major project in the final term facilitates a progressive development of their practical, interpersonal, research, project management and technical skills. The dissertation module is a taught module and includes lectures and workshops on ethics, methods and governance to prepare students for independent research at an advanced level.

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated.

The range of assessments ensures that different areas and expressions of knowledge in both theoretical and professional terms, national and international contexts are developed and tested. Practical work is assessed by a range of activities throughout the programme, some individually and some collaboratively. Assessed practical exercises and projects require increasingly more complex knowledge of markets, parameters and techniques throughout the programme. In addition, and in keeping with the theory-practice interface focus of the programme, all practical modules assess students' theorisation and critical reflection on their work. Conventional essay formats used on the theory modules assess students understanding of the socio-cultural contexts and implications of journalism, as well as assessing students' understanding and evaluation of debates and methodological approaches current within the academic study of journalism. The successful completion of either the Extended Practical Project or Dissertation is required for the award of MA and demands sustained engagement, advanced knowledge and higher order cognitive skills.
Marking criteria for written work emphasises the importance of lucidity, well-researched arguments underpinned by evidence, and independent, evaluative thought. Marking criteria for practical components emphasise the importance of innovative, market-aware ideas and rigorous research and validation of facts. Practical projects require students to work develop and test project management and interpersonal skills. The combination of written and practical work and their different demands require excellent time and self-management skills.

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These are all the modules with the exception of the "elective" (see below)

- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an 'option range'. These are listed below under "elective" (see below)

- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade C- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

  Where students are expected to pass the block at C- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.
  e.g. AB5500 Project (40)
  Core: Block

  Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at C- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core
  e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)
  Core: 1 & 4

  Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:
  e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)
  Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade C- or better, but must D- or better in order to be eligible for the final award.
- The structure of the programme is as follows

Level 7	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit	**Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits**

Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume	**Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume**
Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits Modular blocks are 15 credits unless otherwise specified **JR5616 News, Features and Reviews (30 credits)** **JR5617 Multi-platform Storytelling (30 credits)** **JR5624 Journalism and Contemporary Politics** **JR5622 Fake news, images and websites** **JR5614 Dissertation (60 credits) core: block** **Or** **JR5616 Extended Practical Project (60 credits) core: block**	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits Modular blocks are 15 credits unless otherwise specified **Two of the following:** **JR5621 Reporting Social Justice** **JR5620 Data Journalism** **PP5622 Political Satire and Comedy** **JR5625 Reporting Climate Politics** **CO5603 Digital Audiences and Identities** **JR5626 News and Development in the Global South** **PP5617 Political Communication**
Level 7 Progression and Award Requirements **As per Senate Regulation 3** **PGDip may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation JR5600 for modular blocks in the taught part of the programme.**	

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.