

Welcome to Journalism at Brunel

Discover
Brunel

Congratulations on securing your place at Brunel

We're looking forward to meeting you - either in person or online - and introducing you to life at Brunel.

To help us get started, we've put together a short activity and some further information to help you prepare for your course - including a snapshot of the topics you'll cover and useful resources.

If you have any questions please email cbass-tpo-gask@brunel.ac.uk.

Pre-arrival activity

We'd like you to complete a short activity before you join us. We can discuss your answers in one of your first personal tutor sessions. Your work will not be officially assessed however it will allow your tutor to get to know you better.

Which journalist has inspired you?

Many aspiring journalists are inspired by those who have come before them. Their love of this vocation may have started with one journalist and further developed with the work of another.

Please give some thought to which journalist has inspired you and why. Their involvement in the world of journalism may have been short lived or a lifetime career. They may have only ever covered one major news story or handled a multitude of very difficult news stories over many years. Their area of journalism could be print, radio or broadcast, or indeed any other field.

What was it about the work of this journalist that has brought you here today?

We look forward to learning about what inspires you, who influences you and why you want to become a journalist.

Example: One of your lecturers Rachel Sharp chose the award-winning journalist Kate Adie OBE. She was recognised for her no nonsense approach and sheer determination at getting news stories from war zones when there were very few women working in the field. Despite her tragic start in life, Kate Adie went on to become a household name and was seen as a heroine by many. She found herself in the very midst of some of the most horrific stories and reported back to us at a time when there was no such thing as "breaking news" or "social media alerts". This is part of the reason that Rachel herself became an accomplished journalist.

Sample lecture topics

Preparing for first year is simple. All you need to do is to move out of your comfort zone and actively research other news mediums. Keep your eye on how the covid outbreak is represented differently on different platforms.

1. How is it being portrayed on Instagram as opposed to Facebook or Twitter?
2. Creating your own Instagram, Facebook, Twitter accounts solely for the purpose of broadcasting your journalism work. Create new accounts for this purpose.
3. Who is your political party for the area you live in and the area you are moving to for university?
4. Become familiar with local and central government.

Most of your first year at Brunel is practical and hands on so be prepared to work on material that would not be your initial choice.

Reading list

Some of the non-academic materials that will benefit you are – Keep Going by Austin Kleon, and Stick It Up Your Punter by Chris Horrie and Peter Chippendale. This is said to be a great eye opener. It has been updated recently but any volume will benefit and it can be purchased second-hand.

In terms of news media, it is beneficial to vary your selection from mainstream news, to celebrity, political, financial and covid related news. Understanding the different style guides is actively encouraged.

Introduction

- Webster, F. (2004). The Information society reader, London, UK: Routledge. Chapter 1
- Lindgren, S (2017). Digital media and society, London, UK: Sage. Digital media & society Chapter 1

Virtual Reality and Journalism

- António Baía Reis & António Fernando Vasconcelos Cunha Castro Coelho (2018) Virtual Reality and Journalism, Digital Journalism, 6:8, 1090-1100, DOI: 10.1080/21670811.2018.1502046

Journalism and Fake News

- Thordar, I., Oisetti, J. Nielsen RK., Hughes, T. Soma, B. (2018). Journalism Fake news and disinformation. Unesco series on journalism education

Surveillance

- Fuchs, C. (2012). Internet and Surveillance: The Challenges of Web 2.0 and social media. Oxon, UK: Routledge. Chapter 1 (Introduction)

Identity and technological culture

- Siapera E. (2017) Understanding new media. London, UK: Sage Publications. Chapter 9

Digital Divide

- Siapera E. (2017) Understanding new media. London, UK: Sage Publications. Chapter 4
- Ragnedda, M. and Muschert G. (2013). The Digital divide: the Internet and social inequality in international perspective. Routledge.

Digital media and the transformation of social interaction

- Lindgren, S (2017). Digital media and society, London, UK: Sage. Digital media & society chapter 11

Journalism in transition

- Siapera E. (2017) Understanding new media. London, UK: Sage Publications. chapter 7
- Tong J. (2017). Journalistic legitimacy revisited in digital journalism

Citizen journalists and their influence on journalism

- Abbott, J. (2017). Tensions in the scholarship on participatory journalism and citizen journalism. Annals of the International Communication Association. 41(3-4): 278-297.

We look forward to meeting you in Welcome Week (Monday 21 – Friday 25 September).

Journalism Team



Find out more about Welcome Week
brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week

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