



Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2024/25

Date created: 09/2017 Last amended: 23/04/2026 Version no. 3

1. Programme title(s) and code(s):

BA Journalism

BA Journalism with a Year Abroad ^

Notes

^ Students may only enter this programme by approved transfer at the end of Year 1

a) [HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
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b) UCAS Code

UCAS code: P500

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time and part-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

BA Journalism

The normal period of registration is 3 years

The maximum period of registration 5 years

BA Journalism with a year-abroad

The normal period of registration is 4 years

The maximum period of registration 6 years

Part-time

The normal period of registration is 4 years part-time

The maximum period of registration is 7 years part-time

5. Typical entry requirements

A/AS-levels: BBB in relevant subjects, e.g. Media, English, History, Politics etc.

GCSE: B in English Language

Access to HE Diploma: Pass relevant diploma with some credits at distinction.

European Baccalaureate: Pass with 77% overall.

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 30 points

Cambridge Pre-U: D3/M2/M2 in Principal Subjects.

Leicestershire Progression Accord: BBB plus full Accord Credits

BTEC Nationals: Full Diploma with DDM.

Other Qualifications: Other national and international qualifications welcomed. Mature students welcomed. Alternative qualifications considered.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

Access course considered as equivalent to traditional routes.

7. Programme aims

The **programme** aims to:

- equip students with a demonstrable, critical understanding of the key concepts, theories and debates around Journalism
- help students develop the key professional skills utilised by journalists
- enable students to develop and demonstrate a range of transferable skills necessary for successful career development and a lifetime of effective independent learning
- facilitate student enquiry and development of knowledge of the global context in which journalism operates.

For those on the Year Abroad:

Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA)

For the aims, learning outcomes and application criteria for the Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA) please see <https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad>

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications, <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/qualifications-frameworks>
- [QAA Benchmarking statement](#) for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Education Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#) [Login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data
- Broad aims of industry accreditation bodies, especially the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) www.nctj.com and the Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BJTC) www.bjtc.org.uk
- Aims, objectives and standards laid down by various professional regulatory bodies, especially the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) <https://www.ipso.co.uk/editors-code-of-practice/>
- And the Professional Code of the Office of the Communications Regulator Ofcom <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/broadcast-codes/broadcast-code>

9. Programme Outcomes

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essays (1000)
Develop and demonstrate the acquisition of the professional skills and attributes needed to produce original journalistic material to a standard acceptable for publication	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (1000)
Demonstrate knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future 	Lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essays (2010)
[Year abroad] Acquire knowledge of different debates and schools of thought in Europe, USA, Australia and New Zealand		

ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (1003)
Critically reflect on the place of digital and social media in the 21st century media ecosystem, and apply this knowledge to a professional standard in practice	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, Essays (1001, 2000)
Investigate and demonstrate the core concepts and skills involved in publication design	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (3001, 3002)
Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, group presentation (1002)
Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (2000)
[Year Abroad] Understand and explain the complex role of media and communication within more specific social contexts in Europe, USA, Australia and New Zealand		

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essays (1000, 1001)
Demonstrate knowledge of: - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (2010)
Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism	Workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning.	Essays, portfolio, group (1002) presentation
[Year abroad] Demonstrate the ability to analyse media and communication processes and sociological approaches through different cultural contexts, political and social structures.		

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Recognise, describe, produce and write a variety of news formats to professional standard	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (1000, 1003, 2001)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and demonstrate the acquisition of the professional skills and attributes needed to produce original journalistic material to a standard acceptable for publication	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essay (1000, 1003, 2001)
Demonstrate knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future 	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (1XXX, 2XXX, 2010)
Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (1002)
Plan, conduct and report on an independent research project; conduct a review of literature relevant to their project; demonstrate the use of appropriate theory, method and empirical analysis; show evidence of critical analysis and reflection in their investigation	Tutorials, independent study, lectures.	Dissertation (3000)

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essays (1000, 10001, 1002)
Critically reflect on the place of digital and social media in the 21st century media ecosystem, and apply this knowledge to a professional standard in practice	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essays (1001, 2000)
Describe and evaluate recent research on news and journalism	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (1001, 2010, 2XXX)

vi) Other discipline specific competencies

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Investigate and demonstrate the core concepts and skills involved in publication design	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolios, essays, group presentations. (3001, 3002)
Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism	Workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning.	Portfolio (1002, 3002)
Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise	Workshops tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning.	Portfolio (2000)
[Year Abroad] Demonstrate inter-cultural awareness and understanding		

b) Transferable skills

i) Oral communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism	Workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning	Portfolios, essays, group presentations. (1002)
Develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to assume significant responsibility within organisations	Workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning.	Group presentations, portfolios (3001)

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Recognise, describe, produce and write a variety of news formats to professional standard	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (1000, 1003)
Demonstrate knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future 	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (1001, 2010)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate skills in: - communication (formulating, articulating arguments through writing) - word processing and presentation - analysis and critical evaluation - time management (attending lectures and seminars; meeting assessment deadlines)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (1001, 2010)
Plan, conduct and report on an independent research project; conduct a review of literature relevant to their project; demonstrate the use of appropriate theory, method and empirical analysis; show evidence of critical analysis and reflection in their investigation.	Tutorials, independent study, lectures.	Dissertation. (3000)

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically reflect on the place of digital and social media in the 21st century media ecosystem, and apply this knowledge to a professional standard in practice	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (1001, 2000)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate skills in: - communication (formulating, articulating arguments through writing) - word processing and presentation - analysis and critical evaluation - time management (attending lectures and seminars; meeting assessment deadlines)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (1001, 2010)

iv) Numeracy

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate skills in: - communication (formulating, articulating arguments through writing) - word processing and presentation - analysis and critical evaluation - time management (attending lectures and seminars; meeting assessment deadlines)	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (2010)
Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise	Workshops tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning.	Portfolio (2000)

v) Team working

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Investigate and demonstrate the core concepts and skills involved in publication design	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (3001, 3002)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism	Workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning.	Portfolios, essays, group presentations. (1002)
Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise	Workshops tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning.	Portfolio (2000)
Develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to assume significant responsibility within organisations	Workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning	Group presentations, portfolios (3001. 3002)

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Investigate and demonstrate the core concepts and skills involved in publication design	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (3001)
Describe and evaluate recent research on news and journalism	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (1001, 2010, 2XXX)
Demonstrate knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories and approaches to the study of journalism - the history and development of the news media - the development of journalism as an occupation - contemporary debates about the news industry and its future 	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (1XXX, 1001, 2010, 2XXX)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically evaluate different approaches to concepts around the ethics and regulation of journalism	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Essays (1002)
Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise	Workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, independent study, peer learning.	Portfolio (2000)
Plan, conduct and report on an independent research project; conduct a review of literature relevant to their project; demonstrate the use of appropriate theory, method and empirical analysis; show evidence of critical analysis and reflection in their investigation	Tutorials, independent study, lectures.	Dissertation (3000)

vii) Information handling

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Recognise, describe, produce and write a variety of news formats to professional standard	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (1000)
Develop and demonstrate the acquisition of the professional skills and attributes needed to produce original journalistic material to a standard acceptable for publication	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (1000)
Apply the principles of entrepreneurial journalism and deploy the key techniques in order to propose an entrepreneurial journalism enterprise	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essays (2000)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to assume significant responsibility within organisations	Workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio (3001)
Plan, conduct and report on an independent research project; conduct a review of literature relevant to their project; demonstrate the use of appropriate theory, method and empirical analysis; show evidence of critical analysis and reflection in their investigation	Tutorials, independent study, lectures.	Dissertation (3000)

viii) Skills for lifelong learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Critically reflect on news and journalism as a concept, its professional production and application, and key concepts in contemporary academic debates about journalistic practice	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essays (1000)
Demonstrate skills in: - communication (formulating, articulating arguments through writing) - word processing and presentation - analysis and critical evaluation - time management (attending lectures and seminars; meeting assessment deadlines)	Lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, tutorials, independent study, group work, peer learning	Portfolio, essays (2010)

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
[Year Abroad] Demonstrate strategies for self-monitoring and continued maintenance and development of skills in a different culture and institutions		

10. Progression points

This programme follows the standard Scheme of Progression set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes relevant to the year of entry.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course. There is no requirement to pass the non-credit bearing modules for the purposes of progression.

a) Course transfers

Transfers from BA Journalism to other subjects will be permitted, subject to the agreement of the receiving subjects. Transfers into the BA Journalism will only be permitted into the first year, due to the incremental and skills-building nature of the programme. To permit transfers into the second and third years would be detrimental to the academic success of students wishing to transfer.

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of undergraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes* relevant to the year of entry.

12. Special features

Employability is embedded into the programmes to encourage and facilitate the development of student skills and attributes which will help the student make themselves more employable on graduation. There is an optional placement module in Year 3.

Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA)

For the aims, learning outcomes and application criteria for the Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA) please see <https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad>

13. Indications of programme quality

Student achievement, NSS scores, external examiner reports, periodic review reports, graduate employment and destinations.

14. External Examiner(s) reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at [exam-papers](#) [log-in required]

15. Summary of programme/pathway delivery and assessment

Single Honours BA Journalism students study key concepts, theories and research into journalism in JO1001 and develop their contextual knowledge of journalism in JO1002. They will acquire a full understanding of the wider field of Media and Communication in MS1001 and its history through MS1011 Media Origins.

In their second year, they will study and acquire skills in Broadcast Journalism (JO2001) and develop techniques for researching journalism in MS2016.

In their third year, students will study to conduct a Journalism Dissertation (JO3000) and select optional modules to make up their credit level. See below for details of optional modules.

Journalism students will also develop their employability in JO1004 and will be able to choose to carry out an industrial/professional credit-bearing placement (JO2004).

Third year students will choose an area of Journalism to study and research for their Journalism Dissertation and make up their credits with a choice of two optional modules (see below for details).

As well as new Journalism modules, within the School a number of very relevant third year optional modules, reflecting academics' research interests, already existed and a selection of these will also be offered to Journalism students.

The separate academic years do not stand alone. Each academic year builds on the skills and understanding built up at the previous level, appropriate to the number of modules and variant of degree format being studied by the student.

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

BA Journalism

Updates to the programme

Academic year	Module	Change
2024/25	JS1005 Introduction to Academic Skills	0 credit module deleted
2026/27	JO3011 TV News Production	Option module renamed
2026/27	JO3009 Freelance and Entrepreneurial Journalism	Option module removed
2026/27	JO3007 Political Journalism	Move from S2 to S1

Level 4/Year 1 2024/25

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	60 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	MS1001	Introduction to Media and Communication	30 credits
Sem 1	JO1000	News Basics	15 credits
Sem 1	MS1011	Media Origins	15 credits
Sem 2	JO1001	Key Concepts in Journalism	30 credits
Sem 2	JO1003	Features Journalism	15 credits
Sem 2	JO1002	Journalism Ethics and Regulation	15 credits
Sem 2	JO1004	Journalism Employability	0 credits

Notes

n/a

Level 5/Year 2 2025/26

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	45 credits	45 credits
Optional	n/a	15 credits	15 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	JO2006	Digital and Social Media Journalism- Context and Practice	30 credits
Sem 1	JO2001	Podcasting and Radio Journalism	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	MS2013	Professionalism and Employment in the Media	0 credits
Sem 2	MS2016	Media and Communication Research in Practice	30 credits
Sem 2	MS2010	Journalism Studies	15 credits

Notes

[n/a]

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	MS2001	Political Communication	15 credits
Semester 1	JO2004	Magazine Journalism	15 credits
Semester 2	JO2003	Introduction to TV and Video Journalism	15 credits
Semester 2	JO2007	Journalism Perspectives	15 credits

Notes

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

Level 6/Year 3 2026/27

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	30 credits	15 credits	15 credits
Optional	n/a	30 credits	30 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Year long	JO3000	Journalism Dissertation	30 credits
Sem 1	JO3001	Multi-Media Journalism Project 1	15 credits
Sem 2	JO3002	Multi-Media Journalism Project 2	15 credits

Notes

n/a

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	JO3006	Journalism Placement	15 credits
Semester 1	MS3024	Reporting Panics	15 credits
Semester 1	MS3041	Media, Right and Responsibilities	15 credits
Semester 1	JO3003	Sports Journalism	15 credits
Semester 1	JO3008	Investigative journalism	15 credits
Semester 1	JO3007	Political Journalism	15 credits
Semester 2	JO3004	Data Journalism	15 credits
Semester 2	MS3027	Writing for PR	15 credits
Semester 2	JO3011	TV News Production	15 credits

Notes

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See undergraduate [module specification database](#) [Login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery)