# Programme Specification (Undergraduate)   **FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2025/26**

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

BA Media Society and Culture
BA Media Society and Culture 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 | % |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### b)    UCAS Code (where required)

UCAS code: PL33

## 2.    Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

## 3.    a)    Mode of study

Full-time

### b)    Type of study

Campus-based

## 4.    Registration periods:

**BA Media Society and Culture**

The normal period of registration is 3 years

The maximum period of registration 5 years

**BA Media Society and Culture with a year abroad**

The normal period of registration is 4 years

The maximum period of registration 6 years

## 5.    Typical entry requirements

**A/AS-levels**: Three A-levels usually required. The entry requirement is ABB for the BA Media, Society and Culture. All subjects accepted. Two AS-levels considered in place of one A-Level.
**GCSE**: No specific requirements.
**Access to HE Diploma:** Pass relevant diploma with some credits at distinction.
**European Baccalaureate**: Pass with 77% overall.
**International Baccalaureate**: Pass Diploma with 32 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.

**Global Citizen Study Abroad (GCSA)**

For the aims, learning outcomes and application criteria for the GCSA Year Abroad please see https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad

6. **Accreditation of Prior Learning**

   Second Year Entry: Possible for those with advanced qualifications compatible with our degree structure.

7. **Programme aims**

   The programme aims to:
   - Provide students with the core content of the BA Media and Communication and the BA Sociology and to develop a distinctive programme within which students are able to explore and develop their interests in media and sociology specialist areas relating to staff research interests.
   - Enable students to develop independent learning skills and autonomous thinking in conjunction with developing skills in critical analysis, communication, research methodologies, group work, leadership and employability.
   - Provide a supportive and stimulating learning environment in which there is a strong sense of cohort.

8. **Reference points used to inform the programme specification**

   - QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications
   - 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

### 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? |
|---|---|---|
| Summarise key debates within the fields of media and communication and sociology. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, resource-based learning. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises and reports, portfolios, online forums, online diaries, reflective commentaries. |
| [Year abroad]<br><br>Acquire knowledge of different debates and schools of thought in an academic context abroad. | | |

ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Explain the complex role of media and communication within societies and the processes of social change. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, practical classes, team problem solving exercises, media production exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, computer-based exercises, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |
| Analyse the various approaches to understanding mass communication processes and key theoretical issues in sociology. | Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, practical classes, team problem solving exercises, media production exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, computer-based exercises, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |
| [Year Abroad]<br><br>Understand and explain the complex role of media and communication within a specific social context abroad. | | |

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Analyse media and social processes and structures at national and international levels. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises, methods exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, computer-based exercises, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |
| Analyse the role of societal, cultural, economic and technological factors in the processes of mediated communication. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises, methods exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, computer-based exercises, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |
| Critically analyse issues relating to social justice. | Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, computer-based exercises, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |
| Critically evaluate the fields of media and sociology and how they relate to each other. | Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, computer-based exercises, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |
| [Year abroad]<br><br>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? |
|---|---|---|
| Present problems relating to media and sociology in a variety of written and oral formats. | Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises. | Writing tasks, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, portfolios, online forums. |
| Analyse and synthesise literature that addresses key debates within the fields of media and sociology. | Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises. | Writing tasks, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, portfolios, online forums. |

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Use social scientific and humanistic methodologies to address research questions within the fields of media and sociology. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises, practical classes, methods exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, independent research projects, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |
| Develop and sustain scholarly arguments, formulating appropriate questions and utilising evidence. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises, methods exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, independent research projects, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |
| Critically evaluate scholarly texts and source materials. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team problem solving exercises, practical classes, methods exercises. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, problem-based exercises, independent research projects, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries. |

vi) Other discipline specific competencies

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Design, research and present an Independently conceived research project. | Independent research, methods exercises. | Independent research projects, dissertations. |

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| [Year Abroad] Demonstrate inter-cultural awareness and understanding | | |

**b) Transferable skills**

   i)    Oral communication

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Present material using appropriate resources, including visual, written and aural material. | Seminars, tutorials, team problem solving exercises. | Seminar presentations, contributions to discussions. |

ii)   Written communication

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Articulate ideas, information and debates through the use of clear and competent English, including the use of grammar, spelling, sentence construction and clear structure. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research. | Essays, examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, portfolios, online forums, reflective commentaries, independent research projects. |

iii)   Information technology

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Demonstrate competency with Information Technology and theoretical knowledge of its development and uses. | Study skills workshops, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practical classes, methods exercises. | Essay, dissertations, independent research projects, online forums, computer-based exercises, methods exercise. |

iv)   Numeracy

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Demonstrate numeracy skills and use statistics in media and communication research. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practical classes, methods exercises. | Essays, dissertations, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, methods exercises. |

v) Team working

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Work in groups and develop skills in group management, leadership and peer responsibility.<br><br>Learning in group situations. | Tutorials, seminars, team problem solving exercises. | Essays, dissertations, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, methods exercises. |

vi) Problem solving

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Evaluate and address problems. Develop solutions and recognise further problems that might arise. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practical classes, team problem solving exercises, methods exercises. | Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises. |
| Stimulate interest in problem solving. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practical classes, team problem solving exercises, methods exercises. | Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises. |

vii) Information handling

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Find and analyse new information. | Lectures, seminars, directed reading, independent research, computer practical classes, team problem solving exercises, methods exercises. | Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises. |

viii) Skills for lifelong learning

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Manage time effectively. | Directed reading, independent research. | All of the above. |
| Work independently as well as in groups. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, practical classes, team problem solving exercises, methods exercises, media production exercises. | All of the above. |

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|---|---|
| Plan research and present results using oral and written communication. | Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, practical classes, team problem solving exercises, methods exercises, media production exercises. | All of the above. |
| [Year Abroad]<br><br>Demonstrate strategies for self- monitoring and continued maintenance and development of skills in a different culture and institution. | | |

## 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

### a) Course transfers

Course transfers are decided on the basis of our general entry criteria. Each individual case will be evaluated by our admissions tutor and the UG Programme Director, as appropriate.

## 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

The programme has strong profile in international and global media and communication, as well as in digital media and communication technologies.

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

## 12a. Research-inspired Education

**Students on this programme will advance through the four quadrants of the University of Leicester Research-inspired Education Framework as follows:**

| RiE Quadrant | Narrative |
|---|---|
| | **Overview:** The BA Media Society and Culture programme involves research inspired content.  Its modules - situated across the three years of the programme – are underpinned by staff interests and research groupings. Core and optional modules incorporate experiences for students to engage with media and sociological research, developing skills and assessing the appropriateness of research design and methodological choices.  Research experience is integrated, similarly. Scaffolding the programme is a pathway of research and skills training which helps students to produce related academic research and media product-based outputs and related reflections. |
| **Research-briefed** Bringing staff research content into the curriculum. | **Research Briefed:**  The programme reflects current scholarship in the field of media and communication alongside the present research interests and outputs of our internationally recognised staff.  Module content and related assessments introduce students to a variety of theories, concepts and forms of analysis.  This provides a conceptual foundation to the programme in years one, two and three and one that is developed across a range of research-focused optional modules from which students can select in years two and three. |
| **Research-based** Framed enquiry for exploring existing knowledge. | **Research based:**  The programme encourages critical analysis of academic ideas and studies. Modules, teaching and assessments reflect focused analyses of media trends, origins and developments,  established and new academic traditions and concepts in addition to the evaluation of the process by which research and research outputs are produced. As introduced in year one, this research-based content is then developed in both core and optional modules in years two and three. |
| **Research-oriented** Students critique published research content and process. | **Research orientated:**  The programme includes a pathway of dedicated modules which address research methods and skills and span years one, two and three. These modules introduce students to the process of research design alongside the established outlooks and analytical skills they require to assess the methodological choices and outcomes of published research.  In addition, the teaching and assessments of other modules in the programme demand that students show similar understanding and analysis of media products and their production. |
| **Research-apprenticed** Experiencing the research process and methods; building new knowledge. | **Research apprenticed:**  The programme includes research methods training. This aspect enhances students' understanding of the design and execution of research projects, including the selection and application of various research techniques and analyses. Equally, sets of general research skills based around locating, analysing and presenting information feature within the programme, beginning with the first introductory modules. |

**As part of studying at a research-intensive university, students on this programme have the following extra or co-curricular opportunities available to them to gain exposure to research culture:**

The programme as part of the wider School of Arts, Media and Communication hosts a number of events based around media production, writing and research throughout the academic year for which undergraduates are invited.

**Teaching on this programme will be research-informed (it draws consciously on systematic inquiry into the teaching and learning process itself) in the following way:**

The School supports all staff involved in teaching to gain an accredited Higher Education teaching qualification, in which they demonstrate their use of teaching theory to support their own practice and reflect on their current teaching and continuing professional development.

Staff attend the School of Arts, Media and Communication Pedagogy Forum, which explores educational best practice, innovations, and how they can be incorporated into curricula and programme delivery across the School.

The teaching team are involved in yearly processes of reflection on teaching and marking (i.e., peer observations) and programme content (through annual programme reviews).

13. **Indications of programme quality**

    The programme has consistently sustained a high level of student satisfaction with teaching and learning. Positive reports of the quality of the programme have been received from External Examiners who have noted, for example, the balance between core and elective subjects, the breadth of options, and the fact that "Teaching, learning and assessment are all of a very high standard."

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 exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

## 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 Media Society and Culture

### Updates to the programme

| Academic year affected | Module | Change |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2027/28 | SY3101 Real World Research | Either/Or 45 credit core module removed |
| 2027/28 | SY3102 Research Project | Either/Or 45 credit core module removed |
| 2027/28 | SY3103 Research, Reflection and Future Direction | New 30 credit core module (For students doing a research project in Sociology) |
| 2027/28 | SY3104 Doing Social Research | New 30 credit core module (For students doing a research project in Sociology) |

**Level 4/Year 1          2025/26**

Credit breakdown

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

Core modules

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sem 1 | MS1001 | Introduction to Media and Communication | 30 credits |
| Sem 1 | SY1005 | Sociology in Practice | 15 credits |
| Sem 1 | SY1021 | Power, Privilege and Diversity | 15 credits |
| Sem 2 | SY1002 | Society in Transformation | 30 credits |
| Sem 2 | MS1003 | Global Media | 15 credits |
| Sem 2 | MS1010 | Creative Audiences | 15 credits |

**Notes**
n/a

**Level 5/Year 2          2026/27**

Credit breakdown

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

120 credits in total

Core modules

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sem 1 | SY2091 | Live Sociology | 15 credits |
| Sem 1 | MS2013 | Professionalism and Employment in the Media | 0 credits |

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sem 2 | SY2078 | Sociological Theory Explored | 15 credits |
| Sem 2 | MS2016 | Media and Communication Research in Practice | 30 credits |

**Notes**
[n/a]

Media Option modules

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Semester 1 | MS2000 | The Production of News | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | MS2001 | Political Communication | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | MS2006 | Identity and Popular Culture | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | MS2012 | Global Film Culture | 15 credits |

Sociology Option modules

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Semester 1 | SY2094 | Gender and Society | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | SY2012 | Youth, Young adulthood and Society | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | SY2098 | Sociology through Literature and Film | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | SY2102 | Environmental Sociology | 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.

**In Semester 1 Students need to select TWO optional Media Modules and ONE optional Sociology Module.**
**In Semester 2 Students need to select ONE optional Sociology Module**


## Level 6/Year 3          2027/28

Credit breakdown

| Status | Year long | Semester 1 | Semester 2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Core | 60 credits OR | 30 credits AND | 30 credits |
| Optional | n/a | 30 credits | 30 credits |

120 credits in total

Core modules

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Year long | MS3030 | Dissertation *OR* | 60 credits |
| Semester 1 | SY3103 | Research, Reflection and Future Direction *AND* | 30 credits |
| Semester 2 | SY3104 | Doing Social Research | 30 credits |

**Notes**
Students can select to do their dissertation in Media OR Sociology

Media Option modules

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Semester 1 | MS3004 | Global Cultures | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | MS3013 | Media and the Body | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | MS3024 | Reporting Panics | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | MS3041 | Media, Rights and Responsibilities | 15 credits |

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Semester 2 | MS3000 | Media and Gender | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | MS3025 | Online Journalism: Theory and Practice | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | MS3026 | Community Radio in Practice | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | MS3027 | Writing for PR | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | MS3019 | Advertising and Consumer Culture | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | MS3009 | The Media, Celebrity and Fan Culture | 15 credits |

Sociology Option modules

| Delivery period | Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Semester 1 | SY3090 | Drugs & Society | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | SY3100 | Social Psychology | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | SY3094 | Autobiographical Society | 15 credits |
| Semester 1 | SY3091 | Education and Social Justice | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | SY3057 | Football and Society | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | SY3092 | Social Movements | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | SY3095 | Sociology of Health & Illness | 15 credits |
| Semester 2 | SY3097 | International Migration | 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.

Students opting for the Media dissertation:
In Semester 1 students need to select ONE optional Media module and ONE optional Sociology module.
In Semester 2 students need to select ONE optional Media module and ONE optional Sociology module.
Students opting for the Sociology dissertation:
In Semester 1 students need to select ONE optional Media module and ONE optional Sociology module.
In Semester 2 students need to select ONE optional Media module and ONE optional Sociology module.

## Appendix 2: Module specifications

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