

Journalism

BA (Hons), BA

Expected Intake 43

Mode of Study

Three years full time

Introduction

If you enjoy searching out the news, finding the facts, analysing the data and presenting it all in a lively, engaging and interesting way then you have the makings of a journalist. Anyone who has worked in journalism will tell you what an exciting job it is and how you are constantly on the go, looking for new angles to stories, finding out who's doing what, unearthing the unusual and telling the stories people want to read, see or hear.

The Journalism programme provides students with the chance to develop an understanding of the practice of journalism through knowledge of critical theory as well as contemporary contexts. The course is also highly practical and students will learn how to construct news stories, features, reviews and other journalistic tools not only in the area of print, but also in the areas of broadcasting and on-line. As a result, students are encouraged to get involved with the various student media outlets in Liverpool as well as with mainstream publishers and broadcasters.

The Journalism programme builds on its close links with the media industry and many working journalists conduct workshops with students in our purpose-built newsrooms and studios. The department possesses a fully-equipped Electronic News Production System (ENPS) newsroom. The course has accreditation pending status with the Broadcast Journalism Training Council (BCTJ). The department is also a recognised National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) examination centre.

The course team, all of whom have extensive experience as working journalists, is committed to your career development and aims to prepare you for a number of different careers within the world of journalism. Many of the staff, as well as being experienced journalists, are also well-known researchers or authors in the field of journalism and are able to bring the fruits of that research and experience to their teaching.

The Journalism programme enables you to gain valuable graduate skills, such as self-awareness, reflection and planning, time management, team and group work and career planning as well as the core skills necessary to work as a successful journalist.

Students graduating from this course have gone on to work as television presenters and newspaper journalists, as well as in broadcasting and news agencies, in public relations departments and consultancies, in web-based media and in local authority press departments.

The Liverpool Screen School, based in the University's Faculty of Media, Arts and Social Science, embraces all forms of digital media, offering practice-based education as well as critical and historical perspectives on all aspects of the media. It was established in 2007, bringing together into a new environment a range of successful and established undergraduate and postgraduate courses in interactive media, computer games and animation, broadcast and print journalism, film and television. The courses work together in an exciting and dynamic way to embrace the potential of new technologies and to provide learning opportunities for students to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to work in the modern media industries and go on to do research and/or find employment in screen education.

The School has developed productive working relationships with media industries including the BBC, Sony, Trinity Mirror and Granada which, among other things, provide students with opportunities for work placements and research projects. There are also opportunities to work with the local media and/or community organisations. The courses are currently located in a modern and well-equipped building, Liverpool Innovation Park, near the city centre. Over the next three years LJMU is planning to develop a new building to house the Screen School.

The Liverpool Screen School has joined forces with Liverpool Community College to become the North West's first Skillset Media Academy. The national network, devised by Skillset - the UK Sector Skills Council for the Audio Visual Industries - is made up of just 22 Academies. Securing Skillset Media Academy status is recognition that the courses we offer are of exceptional quality and meet the demands of the media and creative industries for talented and highly skilled graduates.

Why should I study Journalism at LJMU?

The course provides students with all the necessary tools to become a competent journalist. You will learn to write effectively and you will become skilled at shorthand. You will understand the law as it relates to journalists and how major institutions such as the courts system, Parliament, local councils and public bodies work. You will also have the relevant skills in magazine and newspaper design and editing, in radio and TV production and you will be able to construct a news website and write its content. Throughout your time at university, you will have a number of opportunities to meet a wide range of working journalists, through guest lectures, workshops and visits to media organisations across Merseyside and beyond.

Practical courses are taught in one of the newsrooms, where the computers are equipped with latest software to enable page design and the creation of websites. One of the newsrooms is a fully-equipped Electronic News Production System (ENPS) facility. There is also a radio studio and a TV studio, as well as sound and vision editing booths. As a result, students will learn in a newsroom environment which mirrors industry standards.

All students have individual email accounts and all have Internet access. There are three Learning Resource Centres in the university, where books, journals, CD ROMs, videos and other resources are available.

Outside the university, Liverpool has a thriving journalism industry. The city has one of the country's largest and most successful evening newspapers (the Liverpool Echo) and a morning regional newspaper of national standing – the Liverpool Daily Post. Both are owned by Trinity Mirror and the headquarters of the company – the UK's largest newspaper publisher and the second largest in Europe – is in nearby Chester. Trinity Mirror owns more than 250 newspapers, more than 50 magazines and in excess of 50 websites. There is also a flourishing local newspaper and magazine industry on Merseyside.

There are several TV companies in Liverpool, and both the BBC and Granada TV are represented in the city. Lime Pictures (formerly Mersey TV), creators of Brookside and Hollyoaks as well as numerous other TV programmes, is located in the city. The region also has around 25 radio stations, including BBC local services which concentrate on news and current affairs (the department has a particularly close working relationship with BBC Radio Merseyside); a rolling news and sports digital radio service as well as a wide variety of music-led commercial stations, all of which employ journalists. At Level Three, students have the opportunity to work within some of the companies as part of their course and, in the past, some students have been offered jobs after completing their work placements.

The Journalism programme enables you to gain valuable journalistic skills, such as the ability to analyse news, to write reports, features and reviews and to be able to do that across the whole spectrum of journalism, whether in print, broadcast or on-line. The theoretical modules aid in analysis and interpretation, initiative and research, which are of lifelong value. Students gain from the experience of working within teams, which adds to their confidence – something which is valuable as a lifelong skill.

How will you spend your study time?

At each level you will be required to complete 120 credits, made up of a certain number of core modules, and a number of optional modules at Levels One, Two and Three.

At Level One you will be required to complete all of the following core modules:

- Introduction to News Writing
- Shorthand and Intermediate Shorthand
- Introduction to Law and Ethics for Journalists
- Approaches to Journalism
- Studying Journalism
- Introduction to Reporting
- Journalism History
- One elective module

At Level Two you will be required to complete all of the following core modules:

- Introduction to Print Production
- Writing Skills
- Introduction to TV Journalism
- Introduction to Radio Journalism
- Introduction to Online Journalism
- Academic Research
- Advanced Law and Ethics
- Reporting UK Politics

At Level Three you will be required to complete all of the following core modules:

- Dissertation
- Advanced Journalism Practice
- Contemporary Issues in Journalism
- Journalism Regulation
- Careers and Freelancing
- Journalism Final Project
- Introduction to Public Relations for Journalists or Photojournalism or Sports journalism

How will you be assessed?

There are several ways that you might be assessed in your degree. In addition to essays, reports, projects and case studies, some modules are assessed in the work place. Other modules require the production of a portfolio of written work or the production of an advanced piece of journalism, such as a complete magazine, a TV documentary or a radio package.

Graduate Employment and Careers

Senior business leaders in national and international companies are working closely with LJMU to identify the higher 'world of work' or WoW skills that will give our students a competitive edge when it comes to climbing the professional career ladder. No other university, either in the UK or internationally, offers you the chance to develop these WoW skills.

The course prepares students for employment in local, national and international media organisations. The degree is relevant

to a number of careers within the overall profession of journalism, whether as a reporter, writer, editor, specialist correspondent, broadcaster or a press and public relations officer. It also prepares for a career as a freelance journalist. Our graduates have a good record of employment, not only in newspapers and magazines, but also in radio, TV, online and in publicity organisations.

Why should you choose LJMU?

LJMU places work-related learning and graduate skills development at the heart of every undergraduate degree, without compromising academic quality. Senior business leaders in national and international companies are working closely with us to identify the higher 'world of work' (WoW) skills that give our students a competitive edge for rewarding careers.

No other university, either in the UK or internationally, offers you the chance to develop these WoW skills. LJMU is committed to raising the bar on all aspects of teaching, assessment, academic support and skills development. We offer excellent facilities, high quality degree programmes, supportive staff and a thriving student community drawn from 100 countries worldwide. LJMU is a vibrant university located in one of the most exciting, and affordable, student cities in the UK.

Why Liverpool?

Liverpool – an exceptional student city

Liverpool is a city that has something for everyone and is very supportive of the 50,000 students who live, work and study in its universities.

Rich in cultural heritage, the city has received World Heritage Site status and was the 2008 European Capital of Culture. According to Home Office statistics, Liverpool is one of the safest places in the UK too.

LJMU Bursaries and Scholarships

LJMU has an excellent and long-established record of reaching out to students with little experience or family tradition of attending university and helping them succeed in higher education.

LJMU offers a range of Special Support Bursaries and LJMU's scholarships reward both academic and personal achievement.

For more detailed information about funding, bursaries and scholarships, please visit:

<http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/study/ljmu/fees/85947.htm>

Course Fees

Fees p.a. 2010

LJMU's full time domestic tuition fees will be **£3,290** per year from 2010

What do current and past students say?

Application and Selection (what are we looking for?)

You know what the entry requirements are, what the course will cover and what it will be like to study at LJMU in Liverpool, but what skills do you need to secure a place?

We are keen to recruit students who will make the best use of the opportunity to study with us. So we are looking for students with a flair for writing factual material. They need an enthusiasm for seeking out what's new, then asking why it is new, what's different, what's special, why it will interest the viewer, reader or listener - why, in short, it will be a good piece of journalism.

You should be able to demonstrate an interest in news and current affairs and, ideally, have a specialist area which you might like to develop such as music, sport or fashion, for instance. Enthusiasm for news and current affairs needs to be supported by general knowledge, an awareness of what's going on in the world and a burning desire to know more.

You should be interested in and sympathetic to people and their activities. You may well have studied a humanities and/or social science subject at school or college (e.g. English Language, English Literature, History, Politics, Sociology, Media Studies).

In particular, you will need to possess the following qualities:

- Good communication skills, as you will be expected to contribute to tutorials and host presentations.
- Time management, as you will have to work to deadlines on a regular basis - essential for a journalist.
- Good IT skills, as you will be expected to submit work that has been word processed.
- Good analytical skills, so that you can critically assess news sources.
- Information retrieval techniques, as you will be expected to read around the subject and draw upon your findings for news and feature writing, essays, reports and projects.
- Teamwork, as you may have to work closely with others which is essential in journalism.

You should ensure that your UCAS application shows that you meet the following **essential criteria**:

- The ability to communicate ideas logically and in an easy-to-read, error-free style is vital and will be measured by your personal statement.
- Evidence of an interest in news-orientated media, including activities such as student newspapers/magazines, hospital radio or work placements.
- Evidence of an interest in the world around you: politics, science, history, finance, business, art, theatre, sports are among the areas for which we would expect you to have enthusiasm.
- Evidence of additional skills or knowledge in one of these areas: knowledge of current affairs, a foreign language

(GCSE level or above), knowledge of different countries and cultures, or relevant work experience.

It would also be helpful if you are able to show the following in your UCAS application:

- An enthusiasm for IT and the new communication tools available on the internet and on mobile communication.
- Evidence of personal development such as art, music, creative writing, sport, outdoor activities, D of E award scheme.
- Involvement in social, community, political or charitable activities.

Entry Requirements

UCAS Tariff Points Required: 280-320

GCE A Levels

Minimum Number Required: 3

GCE AS acceptability: Not acceptable

GCE AS Double Award: Not acceptable

Subject Specific Requirements: Taken from a range to include English; a modern language; history; politics; law

Excluded Subjects: General studies

Additional Information: Will consider other A levels in combination with the above

BTEC

National Awards (6 units) (not including Early Years) Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications

National Awards Grades required / subjects required Tariff points accepted from Media related subjects

National Certificate (12 units) (not including Early Years) Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications

National Certificate Grades required / subjects required Tariff points accepted from Media related subjects

National Diploma (18 units) (Not including Early Years) Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications

National Diploma Grades / Subjects required DMM-DDM Media related subjects

Welsh Baccalaureate

Advanced Diploma Acceptability Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications

Advanced Diploma Grades / Subjects reqd Core plus CC at A2

Irish Leaving Certificate

Acceptability Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications

Grades / Subjects reqd 3 at B, 2 at C/Subjects as above

Specialised Diplomas

Subject areas accepted Creative and Media, Information Technology, Business, Administration and Finance

Grades reqd Advanced Diploma - progression diploma grade C or above and B at A2 in a relevant subject as above

Additional Information None

Key Skills

Is achievement encouraged? Yes

Will Key Skills tariff points be counted towards an offer? No

What minimum Key Skill level is appropriate? 3

Subject areas considered Application of number, Communication, ICT, Improving own knowledge, Working with others, Problem solving

OCR National

Certificate (6 units)	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications
Certificate (12 units)	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications
Certificate (18 units)	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications

Scottish Awards

Higher	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications
Advanced Higher	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications
Advanced Higher - Additional Information	Grades BBC accepted

Access to HE

Acceptability	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications
Additional Information	QAA approved Access to HE Certificate with a pass of 60% or Pass in the

International Baccalaureate

Acceptability	Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications
Additional Information	Minimum 25 points required from the diploma award

Additional Qualifications considered

Advanced Extension Award Acceptability	Not acceptable
GCSE / Standard Grades	5 GCSEs (C or above) required including English and Mathematics Mature students (over 21) - Applicants will be considered on individual merit but will need to demonstrate that they have the relevant skills and/or qualifications for entry. They may be required to attend an interview and/or submit a piece of written work. We welcome overseas applicants who will be considered in line with normal entry requirements, although English Language capability of IELTS 6.5 (6.0 in each subtest) or equivalent is required.
Other qualifications considered	

How to apply

All applicants should apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) system.

If you need help or advice on your individual application, you should contact your careers adviser or call the UCAS Customer Service Unit on **+44 (0)871 468 0 468**, open Monday to Friday, 08:30-18:00 hrs(UK time)

If you are calling from outside the UK and are unable to use the number above, please contact them on **+44 (0)870 1122211**.

You can also write to them:

**UCAS
Customer Service Unit
PO Box 28
Cheltenham
GL52 3LZ.**

You may also apply online by using the 'Apply' application service which provides detailed screen and help text to assist you in making your application: <http://www.ucas.co.uk/students/apply/>

UCAS Code Name:

LJM

UCAS Institution Code Name

L51

UCAS Course Code

P500

UCAS Course Abbreviation

Will I be interviewed?

No interview required (UCAS application form only)

Can this course be deferred?

Yes, please contact us to discuss your options

What happens next?

If you are from the UK or EC, you will receive a letter and an open day invitation directly from the School's Admissions Unit. The offer will also be confirmed via UCAS. Open days include an opportunity to meet academic staff and current students, as well as a tour of LJMU facilities. International students will receive confirmation of their offer from the International Office, along with details about accommodation, fees and other important information. If you choose LJMU as your 'FIRM' choice, you will receive enrolment and induction information upon confirmation of your results.

Further information

Please contact the Faculty of Media, Arts and Social Science on:

tel: 0151 231 5175

fax: 0151 231 5099

email: massadmissions@ljmu.ac.uk

If you have any queries relating to LJMU or university life in general please contact:

Student Recruitment Team
Liverpool John Moores University
Roscoe Court
4 Rodney Street
Liverpool
L1 2TZ

Tel: +44(0)151 231 5090

Fax: +44(0)151 231 3462

Email: courses@ljmu.ac.uk

Web: www.ljmu.ac.uk

Further information: International Students

For further information please visit the website at: <http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/International/>