

Student views

What our former students think of the International Journalism programme and what they have gained from the course:

Feyaza Abbasi

I really enjoyed my three years at Liverpool John Moores University, and am considering doing a post-grad there as well. Having majored in Radio broadcasting, I found it relatively simple to work for various international organisations. Despite being out of university for a year, I now work as a producer of local news in the UAE. Before this, I freelanced as a radio reporter for the BBC (during my final year of University) as well as a short stint in South Africa, where I was brought up. Because of the way the course is structured, I was able to successfully integrate into the news environment as I had been exposed to it while studying at LJMU.

The fact that all the lecturers had been in journalism and many were still pursuing that part of their careers made the course quite inspirational and really drove me in my passion of becoming a journalist and striving to be good at it. The International Journalism course has helped me in my work because of the experience it gave me both socially and academically. The fact that nothing in the work environment has really tried me is a true testament to the course I studied, because I am fully prepared for anything that comes my way, whichever country I have worked in so far.

J.B.

The BA International Journalism at Liverpool John Moores University did a lot to prepare me for the "real world". It places great emphasis on the practicalities of journalism and the fact that so many lecturers have a professional background in journalism means that they are in a position to pass on first-hand knowledge. The course equipped me with many of the skills needed in the world of journalism in terms of deadlines, writing, professional language, team working, etc. The course also provides the opportunity to make valuable industry contacts. I am now working as a broadcast journalist in Europe.

Ke Cao

The knowledge I have learnt from the International Journalism course is very practical and helpful for my MA study in media management. Although I don't have that much work experience as my classmates do, the practical experiences and overview of the global media industry provided by the International Journalism course make my current study much easier. More important, as an international journalism student from China, the international focus of the course gives me an advantage in preparing myself to work in different countries of the world in future.

Jessica Friedrici

Aiming for a career in international news reporting, the combination of journalism and international relations offered by Liverpool John Moores University was ideal for me. Hands-on modules in print journalism gave me the skills and confidence needed for my first "real life" assignments on international news desks. The international relations modules were a great introduction to the subject and I am sure I will build on the knowledge gained here with an MA degree in the field.

Finding a job in journalism isn't easy but the work placements and internships that are part of this course certainly help to get a foot in the door. The department helped me arrange work placements throughout my degree and after (Liverpool newspapers, National Geographic, German News Agency dpa, and others) and lecturers were always available for practical career advice and coaching.

Liverpool is a great place to study with a real international vibe to it - even before being the European Capital of Culture. With three universities in town plus the Liverpool Institute of Performing Art, it's a real student town. Coming from abroad I can also say it's a welcoming town, open to people from all parts of the world.

Jenny Hammond

I left Liverpool John Moores University's International Journalism course just over three years ago, and went straight to Moscow, Russia to start a job as a news anchor for a 24 hour global news channel called Russia Today. Going straight into the industry at quite a high level was daunting; however, I found that the simulated news days from the Broadcast journalism semester had prepared me well. Through this course I had already experienced the pressure of having to make my own news reports quickly and was able to practice presenting and watch myself back to see where I could improve.

Now, I work for Bright Shadow Films in Shanghai, China as the head of documentaries and news. I produce news reports and features for Press TV (acting as their China correspondent) and footage and scripts for Reuters. With the documentaries I make anything from a look at the "world's largest studios" (distributed worldwide by the National Film Board of Canada) to "the future of China's one child policy" and "the social cost of China's rapid development". The International Journalism course at LJMU was very hands on and I still draw on those experiences every day throughout my work. It gave me the opportunity of gaining important experience in a supportive environment. My tutor Hazel was there every step of the way, has given me invaluable guidance throughout my career so far and we are still very good friends.

Malene Holst-Pedersen

The international journalism course at Liverpool John Moores University was an amazing experience and a great stepping stone to the career I am pursuing today.

After years of living abroad and realising my passion for the media and international affairs I chose to study away from my home country, Denmark. Having spent quite some time looking for the perfect course in the North West of England, I found that LJMU not only offered a journalism course but also a course in international journalism. This was very appealing to me because of my hopes for a future career in international news-making.

I very much enjoyed the three years at LJMU and feel that modules such as Contemporary International Relations, Conflict, Terrorism and the News Media have given me great knowledge and understanding of foreign affairs. In general the course offered a good mixture of practical and academic work. The final year was clearly the most rewarding as this is the year one chooses to specialise in either print, online, radio or TV.

With a degree in international journalism one's opportunities become very broad as the qualifications acquired during the three years appeal to employers in both national and international news organisations.

I am at the moment enjoying a career in free-lancing while waiting to start my Masters. Freelancing has given me the freedom to live in France but work for newspapers and magazines in Denmark.

Serafino Ingardia

I am Serafino Ingardia, from Italy, a third year International Journalism student at Liverpool John Moores University graduating in the summer of 2008.

Choosing the International Journalism course back in 2005 was the best step I could have possibly taken. This course, with such an electric background given by Liverpool, has put me in the right track for my journalism career.

I found it incredibly interesting - hard work but fun at the same time. However, I realised the importance of what I was studying by the end of the first year when I started my first work experience at a football magazine called 'Calcio Italia', which eventually turned into a freelance job. All the news writing work, and also the ethical studies, were incredibly helpful.

I went on to write for several websites and magazines such as Channel 4 and 5, but the best experience came last January when my tutor got me a placement at Liverpoolfc.tv. I had the opportunity to meet all the players and to interview Rafael Benitez plus I made myself useful in the news room and got plenty of work published.

After my graduation I am planning to go to South America, working as a free-lance journalist because I believe I am ready for it after the three years at LJMU. I will return to the UK in January 2009 since I have been offered a job

by a magazine here. If I didn't undertake this course I would have probably struggled to reach this stage, which is however just the start of what I hope will be a good career.

Heidi Pelander

The best part of my international journalism course at Liverpool John Moores University was studying international relations. It gave a comprehensive insight into the basic theories of international relations, terrorism, global security and the key players in world politics. Many issues were studied in the context of the media, which made studying it even more applicable to journalism students.

In today's journalism industry, employers put more and more emphasis on knowledge of subjects other than the mass media. I have no doubt that my background of studying international relations will give me an advantage when I go out to work in journalism. I am now doing a Masters course in journalism at the University of Tampere in Finland, and my knowledge of international relations has helped me greatly in developing my Masters thesis.

On the practical side LJMU provided exceptionally good teaching in the journalism final project, where I got to design a publication of my own from scratch. I did a magazine and learned a lot during the process.

Ben Romberg

During the three years I undertook International Journalism (BA) at Liverpool John Moores University I gained the skills required to develop a career in the international media. I began my career in Egypt working for the International Herald Tribune, operating out of their Egyptian office, primarily covering the 2006 Lebanon war and the Palestinian elections. Following this I returned to the UK to work for a financial magazine in London, covering the credit crisis and the effects this has had on world markets.

While studying International Journalism I developed an interest in international relations and foreign affairs. Although the course was primarily concerned with practical journalism, the modules analysing international relations provided a firm base for studying politics in more depth. I later expanded this interest by undertaking a Masters course - MSc in Global Politics - at the London School of Economics. Having gained a theoretical understanding of international relations and how this is practically applied encouraged me to pursue an academic study of politics, examining historical and contemporary issues ranging from analysis of the anarchic world system to the study of climate change as a security issue.

The BA in International Journalism was vital as an academic starting point that proved to be applicable to further education and employment within the news media.

Alexia Wodli

The International Journalism course really fulfilled my expectations!

I met lecturers from various backgrounds who were able to give me a real sense of the media industry and of journalism practice and other issues. I found lecturers whose main objectives were to lead their students to the best they could do (something I wasn't used to in France!).

I was able to build up my strength in all sorts of areas, from theoretical knowledge to practical skills.

The 3rd year gave me a chance to practise my skills and to get a deeper understanding of journalism work (through various assignments and a compulsory work placement). The workload and the schedule allowed me to spend time in the local media to gain work experiences.

The short documentary I made in my final year was nominated for the Student Journalism Press Gazette Award. Producing this short documentary on my own gave me a real insight of my abilities and above all which area I wanted to focus after graduating.

At the end of the degree, I felt ready to join the industry and get more field experiences.

In the first two years after my graduation, I got all my experiences in TV production, working as a production assistant on sports events for two American TV channels and on various TV programmes for the French MTV and Discovery Channel.

For the past 18 months I have worked for France 24, the new International News TV channel in Paris. As a journalist at an entry level, I am editing pictures for the news bulletins every hour and dealing with everything needed to make a bulletin work!!

On a personal note, I am about to develop a documentary project having just come back from abroad filming for a month.