

COURSE SPECIFICATION

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| Course Aim and Title | MA Data Journalism |
| Intermediate Awards Available | PG Certificate Data Journalism, PG Diploma Data Journalism |
| Teaching Institution(s) | University of East London |
| Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification) | N/A |
| UEL Academic School | School of Arts and Creative Industries |
| UCAS Code | N/A |
| Professional Body Accreditation | N/A |
| Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements | UK Quality Code for Higher Education: 'Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7 on the FHEQ and SCQF level 11 on the FQHEIS: master's degree' (p.28) |
| Additional Versions of this Course | N/A |
| Date Specification Last Updated | June 2023 |

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Acquire and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding and critical awareness of current innovations and advanced scholarship concerning data journalism.
- Demonstrate knowledge of a range of communicative situations and cultural practices, along with the ability to produce detailed analyses of these, and to make comparisons and connections.
- Show originality and self-direction in the application of knowledge through a variety of analytical, research, writing and professional practice-based tasks.
- Deliver outcomes in written, visual and verbal form consistent with the standards expected at Masters level.

What you will learn:

Knowledge

- Research, analyse and evaluate data from multiple sources.
- The political, economic, social, cultural and technological forces that influence the media and communication industries.

Thinking skills

- Demonstrate an in-depth awareness of the dynamics, whether cultural, economic, ethical, legal, political, social or affective, which shape the interpretation of data.
- Critically analyse data, its context and potential application(s).

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of data journalism tools.
- Analyse, interpret and communicate data to produce journalistic content.

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- How to work to an advanced level as an individual or within a group
- How to organise and manage workload effectively to industry-aligned standards.
- How to create and present advanced data-related content

Learning and Teaching

Knowledge is developed through

- Guided reading
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback
- Seminars

Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Student-led presentations

Practical skills are developed through

- IT activities with feedback
- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Student-led presentations
- work with autonomy, discipline and professionalism

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- The demands of the study medium (e.g. distance learning)
- Planning activities with feedback
- Project work
- collaborating in a small group as a leader or participant to solve a specific problem
- Presentations of reports of seminar research and group presentations
- Defining the parameters of a problem, researching it autonomously and managing the research process
- Undertaking research within an organisation (optional but encouraged)

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Coursework
- Essays
- Research portfolio

Thinking skills are assessed by

- Coursework
- Project work
- Research portfolio

Practical skills are assessed by

- Portfolio completion
- Research portfolio

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Project work
- Group work
- Research for data projects

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

While there is not a compulsory placement element on MA Data Journalism course, students will be supported if they secure a study-work placement as part of their core module, Final Major Project or Professional Practice. The course is organised in conjunction with a variety of partner organisations who have agreed to support and assist in placements, and students will also be supported in seeking study-work placements with other media and communications organisations. All placements will be agreed at the discretion of external organisations and are not guaranteed, but provision will be made to support all students including through agreements made to pursue their own employment or project, where appropriate, and also by providing UEL-based work-study placement opportunities. In conjunction with partner organisations some events and activities will take place at offices and other venues in London. Students will have the opportunity to travel to other partner organisations for on-site talks and visits, and to other venues for events but there is no requirement for travel outside London.

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credit Weighting | Core/Option | Available by Distance Learning? Y/N |
|--------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 7 | MS7009 | Data in Context: Strategies for Effective Communication | 30 | Core | N |
| 7 | MS7004 | Data Visualisation Tools and Technologies | 30 | Core | N |
| 7 | MS7008 | Visual Analytics and Multimedia: Creating Insights | 30 | Core | N |
| 7 | MS7000 | Professional Practice and Research Methods | 30 | Core | N |
| 7 | MS7001 | Final Project | 30 | Core | N |
| 7 | MS7002 | Broadcast Journalism | 30 | Optional | N |
| 7 | MS7540 | Investigating Media and Communication Industries | 30 | Optional | N |

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| 7 | MS7542 | Global Communication and Development | 30 | Optional | N |
| 7 | MS7005 | Employment and Industry Engagement | 30 | Optional | N |
| 7 | CN7031 | Big Data Analysis | 30 | Optional | N |
| 7 | DS7006 | Quantitative Data Analysis | 30 | Optional | N |

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 180 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

N/A

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

The duration of this course is one calendar year full-time if enrolment is in September, and two calendar years part-time. The time limit for completion of a course is four years after first enrolment on the course.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

There are no fixed additional costs and production equipment and data analytical tools are provided free of charge. Students will be required to supply the following themselves:

Notepads, pens. Students are recommended to have their own laptops (Mac or PC), for which financial support might be provided.

Costs for trips and visits may be applied. As an example, travel to and from venue in London, up to £10/TfL maximum.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

N/A