

**Part 1 Programme details**

<b>Programme title and code</b>	Master of Arts in Journalism DT542
<b>Mode and duration of programme</b>	Full-time; one year in duration
<b>ECTS</b>	90
<b>TU Dublin award(s) sought</b>	Master of Arts in Journalism
<b>Classifications of award(s)</b>	First Class Honours; Second Class Honours, First Division; Second Class Honours, Second Division; Pass
<b>School responsible</b>	School of Media
<b>Professional body accreditation (where applicable)</b>	NA
<b>External provider type (where applicable)</b>	NA
<b>Delivery location</b>	TU Dublin - City (Grangeegorman)

**Part 2 Programme approval information**

<b>Date of validation/review event</b>	26 April 2021
<b>Date of approval by Academic Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee</b>	
<b>Proposed date of commencement</b>	September 2021

**Part 3 Programme background/structure*****Background***

The programme is aimed at providing a foundation in both the practice and theory of journalism. It ranges from the basics of journalistic craft to consideration of the part that journalists play in society. Although it aims to train students in the essential skills of journalism, it is an MA programme in which students need to reflect critically on their journalistic work and on journalism in general. The programme includes tuition, practical experience, a wide range of assignments, seminars, tutorials, independent study and research.

The programme has been running since 1998. It is being reviewed in the light of the changing journalism industry. The Review Panel initially visited the School of Media in 2019 and recommended approval for one more intake while the programme team completed a root and branch review of the programme that involved consultation and engagement with industry and relevant other stakeholders to ensure the best outcomes for students and that graduates are future proofed for a career in journalism, i.e. that the programme should be more relevant for contemporary journalism practice

**Stated aim and learning outcomes of the programme**

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The aim of this programme is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, resilience, values and competences required to work as a journalist having undergone a conversion programme from their primary degree. It is a multi-purpose award type in which the expertise and skills acquired by graduates will contribute to their personal development, their employability, as well as their potential to contribute to society. Successful completion of this programme also offers a pathway for post-graduate students to advance to higher level training and education.</li> </ul>
Learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The programme aims to generate a range of learning outcomes in terms of knowledge, know-how, skill and competence. On successful completion of this programme students should be able to demonstrate the following:</li> </ul>
Knowledge – breadth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work as a professional journalist, able to produce high quality news and features, across all media and socio-cultural contexts, be able to edit for print, broadcast or internet, and tell stories for a variety of print and internet publications and outlets.</li> <li>▪ Show an awareness of the value of accurate and in-depth research, and the importance of communicating findings accurately in your work, respecting the importance of correct sourcing, fact checking and referencing.</li> <li>▪ Understand, evaluate and incorporate the legal framework surrounding journalism production and understand the ethical issues relating to media.</li> <li>▪ Have an in-depth understanding of the concepts, theories and models pertaining to the study and practice of journalism, its application, as well as the theoretical grounding of the discipline.</li> </ul>
Knowledge – kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have a good understanding of core journalism principles and practice - both older forms and emerging forms of journalism which are essential regardless of the medium.</li> <li>▪ Have critical awareness of the politics of information and informational technologies as both citizens and trustees of journalism practice.</li> <li>▪ Be able to compare the development, present and future of Journalism on a transnational and cross-cultural basis.</li> </ul>
Know how & skill - range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research and assess facts, concepts, underlying values, and theories from a wide variety of sources and be able to use this</li> </ul>

	<p>research to produce journalism and well researched knowledge in various formats, as well as multi-media work while employing professional judgement, rigour and discipline when doing so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research and analyse all the potential sources available to journalists.</li> <li>▪ Work constructively individually and collaboratively with fellow members of a team when producing joint projects for coursework and student publications, such as newspapers, magazines, online news platforms and broadcasts, of professional quality and to a deadline.</li> <li>▪ Produce responsible solutions to ethical problems that arise in media and journalism practice.</li> <li>▪ Take responsibility for work, individually and in team settings.</li> <li>▪ Write engaging, concise, well-constructed copy for publications, both print and internet, and produce professional standard broadcast or multi-media packages for target audiences.</li> <li>▪ Edit journalistic material and design print and internet publications to a high professional standard.</li> <li>▪ Manage time and information constructively and solve practical problems quickly and effectively.</li> <li>▪ Research topics relating to ethical and historical journalistic issues, analyse data, draw conclusions and present them in essays, as well as orally.</li> <li>▪ Be aware of the legal environments and constraints on media and journalism</li> <li>▪ Be able to confidently engage in discussions of and critiques of journalism practice.</li> <li>▪ Analyse and critique the evolving media environment from a political and social perspective to understand the constant negotiation and tension between private and public value in Journalism</li> <li>▪ Display an ability to identify, communicate and engage effectively with the breadth of roles involved in producing journalism.</li> </ul>
<p>Know how &amp; skill – selectivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An ability to plan and implement journalistic projects in a manner that is time efficient.</li> <li>▪ An ability to apply journalistic techniques to solving real world problems.</li> <li>▪ Identify development opportunities regarding journalism.</li> <li>▪ Ability to combine practical and theoretical knowledge and practical skills to innovate in Journalism across media and platforms.</li> <li>▪ Understand the institutional evolutional of Journalism which now stretches beyond the newsroom and across the digital media eco-system.</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<p>Values, Attitudes, Competences and Contexts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Display an understanding of the responsibilities and roles of a journalist in society; with an awareness of the importance of accuracy and fairness and the right to personal privacy; showing respect for the opinions and view of others, be it colleagues in journalism or others.</li> <li>▪ Show the societal benefits of good journalism in your journalism practice.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be able to innovate, respond and lead in the unpredictable, varied and ill-defined contexts of contemporary journalism.</li> <li>▪ Have an appreciation of the cultural, social and historical contexts of journalism principles and practice as well as the need for diverse voices and sources.</li> <li>▪ Understand the collective, collaborative and social nature of Journalism and the importance of having a politics of media in the contexts of globalisation and digital transformation.</li> </ul>
Competence – role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be able to apply concepts and skills learnt in a variety of contexts.</li> <li>▪ Be able to conduct research into applied journalism and provide solutions to issues that arise.</li> <li>▪ Be able to work independently and in a team.</li> <li>▪ Be able to take responsibility for his/her own learning and be able to learn from experiences gained in different contexts.</li> </ul>
Competence – learning to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Display an alertness to the need to constantly reflect and monitor one’s own professional practice and engagement in the field of journalism.</li> <li>▪ Utilise knowledge of how to maintain currency with emerging developments and trends in journalism, news and related technologies and industries.</li> <li>▪ To be able to evaluate, synthesise and create knowledge relative to any social domain under reflection.</li> <li>▪ Developing new ways of thinking about and doing journalism that have market, societal and communicative value.</li> </ul>
Competence – insight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have an ability to critically evaluate, monitor and determine appropriate approaches and strategies to managing responses to developments in journalism and demonstrate the ability to comprehend multiple perspectives.</li> </ul>

**Programme structure**

The programme is offered as a full-time programme, lasting from late September to September of the following year. Commencing in the second semester and continuing over the summer, students complete a dissertation or landmark journalism project of 15 ECTS. The programme is divided into three strands: Practical Journalism, Journalism Studies and Professional Journalism. Students undertake a placement in semester two or over the summer months.

**Entry Requirements (**

Minimum entry requirements for this programme is an honours 2.2 degree or its equivalent in any relevant discipline. Selection may be made by interview and evidence of the following is sought:

Academic achievement in relevant disciplines; relevant professional experience; evidence of specific aptitude, ability and potential in journalism; evidence of commitment to a career in journalism; interest in and critical awareness of the role of media in society; evidence of interest in postgraduate media research.

Candidates with significant work experience but without the requisite qualifications may be considered under Recognition of Prior Learning.

The School of Media welcomes applications from international applicants. The IELTS requirement for the MAJ is 7.5.

### ***Student assessment***

In accordance with TU Dublin's General Assessment Regulations (City).

### ***Derogations from the General Assessment Regulations***

None sought.

## **Part 4 Review Details and Panel Membership**

### **Schedule of meetings**

#### ***Monday 26 April 2021(via Microsoft Teams)***

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|---------|---|
| 2.00 pm | Introductory meeting between Panel, Head of School of Media, Assistant Head of School and Programme Chair. Presentation to Panel. |
| 2.30 pm | Private meeting of the Panel, to identify matters for discussion with the School.   |
| 3.00 pm | Meeting of the Panel with the Head of School, Assistant Head of School, Programme Chair and other staff as appropriate.           |
| 3.45 pm | Meeting of the Panel with teaching staff.   |
| 4.15 pm | Private meeting of the Panel.   |
| 5.00 pm | Panel reports back to School on its findings.   |

### **Panel Membership**

#### ***External Members***

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|----------------------|--|
| Professor Diane Kemp | Professor of Broadcast Journalism,<br>Birmingham City University |
| Christine Bohan      | Deputy Editor, The Journal.ie, Journal Media, Dublin             |

#### ***Internal Members***

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|----------------------|--|
| Declan Allen (Chair) | Assistant Head of School of Management,<br>TU Dublin - City    |
| Dr Siobhán Ní Laoire | School of Languages, Law & Social Sciences<br>TU Dublin - City |

(Dr David O'Connor was unable to participate in this the second visit of this review panel to the School.)

### ***Officer***

**Documentation submitted**

A Self study including annual monitoring reports (Q5s) and external examiner reports and Student Handbook including Work Placement handbook were made available to Panel members.

**Part 5 Summary of Panel findings against key questions**

Is the market demand and need for the programme clear and articulated?	Yes
Are the aims, objectives and learning outcomes of the programme well-founded and clearly formulated?	Yes
Are the entry requirements clear and appropriate?	Yes
Are the arrangements for access, transfer and progression in accordance with University policy and NFQ?	Yes
Are the programme learning outcomes at the appropriate level as set out by the NFQ requirements?	Yes
Do the individual modules 'add up' to a coherent programme?	Yes
Are Graduate Attributes embedded within the programme?	Yes
Will the accumulation of the module learning outcomes result in the attainment of the programme learning outcomes?	Yes
Is there appropriate use of student-centred learning, teaching and assessment strategies, including the First Year Framework for Success checklist, which recognise the needs of diverse student groups?	Yes as appropriate to a Masters level programme.
Do the curricula and teaching schemes in each module descriptor give realisable substance to the module's aims, objectives and learning outcomes?	See Recommendations of the Panel in relation to reading lists and the inclusion of public affairs/institutions.
Are the assessment methods and criteria aligned to the learning outcomes in each module?	Yes
Are facilities and resources, including staff, in place to support the delivery of the programme at the standard proposed?	See Recommendations of the Panel in respect of dissertation/project supervision.
Is there parity between off-campus/on-campus delivery (if applicable)?	NA
Are the roles and responsibilities of each partner clearly specified (if applicable)?	NA

## **Part 6 Recommendations of the Panel**

The Panel is pleased to recommend continuing approval of the Master of Arts in Journalism, at Level Nine on the National Framework of Qualifications, subject to two conditions and with three recommendations.

The Panel is impressed with the work undertaken by the Programme Team since the last meeting of the Panel in 2019. It is evident that a significant review has taken place, both in the revised programme documentation and during the Panel's meeting with staff. The involvement of industry in this redesign is commended. The Panel considers that this revised programme, which will from September 2021 be delivered in the new space and facilities available in Grangegorm, will be very attractive to potential journalism students.

### **Conditions**

- Students' access to dissertation/project supervision up to the point of final submission should be clarified, and the School should consider how this will be supported.
- Reading lists should be updated to make sure that they include the most current texts. In relevant modules the Programme Team should consider some additional material relevant to diversity matters, reflective of diversity in all its aspects.

### **Recommendations**

- The Programme Team should consider holding additional news days in semester one, recommending that they should be introduced in semester one at an early stage and they should replicate as much as possible the authentic news day experience.
- Relevant handbooks and other programme materials should reflect more accurately how the Programme Team supports students in finding appropriate placements, while encouraging students to explore their own placement options. The Panel considered this a particular strength of the programme that should be highlighted.
- The Programme Team ensure that there is adequate coverage of public affairs/institutions within appropriate modules and that this should be made explicit within relevant module descriptors in the indicative syllabus and reading lists.