

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

| Course Record Information | | Day | Time |
|---|---|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Name and level of final and intermediate Awards | BA Medical Journalism | BA Medical Journalism [BMJNPRM] | |
| Awarding Body | University of Westminster | | |
| Location of Delivery | Harrow | | |
| Mode of Study | Full time | | |
| UW Course Code | UG Medical Journalism [BMJNPRM] | | |
| JACS Code | P500 | | |
| QAA Subject Benchmarking Group | Communication, media and Cultural Studies | | |
| Date of initial course approval/last review | 2006 | | |
| Date of Programme Specification | February 2010 | | |
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| Admissions Requirements | | | |
| <p>This is a unique and special course, open to applicants who are currently studying for a degree in medicine, or have a qualification as a health professional, and are committed to pursuing a career or occasional employment in medical journalism.</p> <p>As a medical student planning to take an 'intercalated' degree, you will have successfully completed at least two years of a medical or dental degree; candidates with other qualifications as health professionals, and experience in their field may also be considered.</p> <p>The course requires strong verbal skills, so for those whose first language is not English, we will expect you to have achieved a recognised English qualification: the minimum would be an IELTS score of 7.0, which must include 7.0 for speaking and 7.0 for writing; or a TOEFL score of 627 / 263 or Internet-based TOEFL over 100. If you have had all, or a large part, of your education in English you will not normally be required to take an English test.</p> <p>As part of your application, you will be expected to show a strong commitment to pursuing journalism as part of your career goals, as well as demonstrate an interest in and understanding of the news media. You will be asked to submit two short written assignments, then suitable applicants will be interviewed (by telephone if abroad), before final selection for a place.</p> | | | |
| Aims of the course | | | |
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The course is designed to help you develop the practical, technical and intellectual skills required of a good journalist in any field; you will also acquire the specialist skills of written and broadcast journalism, together with the skills of on-line journalism which can form a foundation for future professional practice. You will apply these skills to the journalism assignments which form a large part of your assessed course-work. Alongside this you will also have the opportunity to study media law, public affairs and public health issues, and reflect critically on some of the ethical considerations facing professional journalists, both in general and with particular regard to medical and health issues.

We aim to educate you in the highest standards of British journalism practice; you will be taught by highly experienced professionals, including medical journalists, as well as have the opportunity to meet and network with guest speakers from the news media.

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e., employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

There is a short work experience 'slot' in January each year for the MA Journalism students, and the BA Medical Journalism students also are supported by their medical journalism tutor in the first Semester while making applications for a placement to a medical or health related publication during that time. Students are encouraged to make contacts so they can develop opportunities for internships, placements or workplace observation at other times too.

Most medical students return to their original studies after the course and continue to pursue a career in medicine, with the intention of continuing some freelance medical journalism alongside being a doctor. Many do this very successfully. It's envisaged that other health professionals are likely to do the same. However there are also a small number of graduates who have gone on to make successful full time careers as medical journalists.

All postgraduate journalism students are also encouraged to think about applying to study for a PhD at CAMRI, the University's Communications and Media Research Institute or to explore other opportunities for study at other universities.

Learning Outcomes

| <p>Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. They threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.</p> <p>Students are expected to achieve an in-depth understanding of the practical and intellectual skills and techniques of professional level multi-media journalism, plus, using the latest media technology. The students are also expected to develop an understanding of the concepts of journalism, and a critical appreciation of journalism practice in a wider context. These outcomes will be demonstrated in journalism assignments, and reflective essays, in order to lay the foundation for future professional practice, and to enhance and deepen the skills of those already experienced as professional journalists.</p> | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------|-------------|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Knowledge and Understanding BAMJ students are expected to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the practice of journalism, together with the social, economic and political context within which the media operate. You will also gain an appreciation of the key legal and ethical issues affecting journalism professionals, and medical journalists in particular.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>Specific Skills You will be expected to develop an ability to use in a professional manner the production software and technical equipment used by journalists; to effectively research and gather the source material necessary for journalistic assignments, using the internet, digital archives and other resources; to carry out your assignments with meticulous care; to be able to co-operate effectively in a team with their student colleagues on group assignments.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>Key Transferable skills The research skills, the process of gathering material, the communication and IT skills required of journalists, as well as team work skills, can also be applied to other professional roles.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods Teaching and learning takes place in lectures, seminars, 'hands-on' practical workshops and small group or individual tutorials; assessment is done through coursework – 'real' journalistic practical assignments, either carried out individually, or as part of a group project; essays are set to allow students to demonstrate their understanding of concepts, reflective reports on practical projects are also assessed and there is class test of your understanding of the legal and ethical considerations facing journalists.</p> <p>Much of the time you will be working alongside postgraduate journalism students, and following a similar syllabus, with specialist input.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>Course Structure Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Semester I</th> <th>Semester II</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Multi-Media Journalism Skills (Medical) (15 credits)</p> </td> <td> <p>Web Production: Westminster News Online(Medical) (15 credits)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Media Law and Current Affairs</p> </td> <td> <p>Magazine Project (Medical)</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Semester I | Semester II | <p>Multi-Media Journalism Skills (Medical) (15 credits)</p> | <p>Web Production: Westminster News Online(Medical) (15 credits)</p> | <p>Media Law and Current Affairs</p> | <p>Magazine Project (Medical)</p> |
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| <p>Media Law and Current Affairs</p> | <p>Magazine Project (Medical)</p> | | | | | | |

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|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| (Medical) (15 credits) Medical News and Feature Writing (30 credits) | | | |
| Indicative Timetable | | | |
| The timetables are the same as the MA in Journalism, which you will be following for most of the course; there will be variations, to be made by arrangement, for specialist seminars with John Illman, and for your broadcast course assignments. | | | |
| BA Medical Journalism Semester One | | | |
| Module title | | | |
| Short-hand | Mondays | | 1400-1700 |
| Multi –media Journalism Skills (medical) | Mondays (all term) Tuesdays & Wednesdays (until week 3) | | 1000-1300 1000-1700 |
| Medical News & Feature Writing | Mondays Tuesdays & Wednesdays (from Week 3) | | 1000-1300 1000-1700 |
| Short-hand | Fridays | | 0930-1300 |
| Media law and Current Affairs (Medical) | Fridays | | 1400-1630 |

BA Medical Journalism: Semester Two Timetable

| Module title | Day | Time |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Short-hand | Monday | 1400-1700 |
| Westminster News Online for 6 weeks, followed by Magazine Project (for Medical journalists) | Monday Tuesday &Wednesday | 1000-1300 1000-1700 |

| Module title | Day | Time |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| TV News for 6 weeks, | Monday Tuesday & Wednesday | 1000-1300 1000-1700 |
| Medical and Health Journalism | Wednesday | 1830-2100 |
| Short-hand | Friday | 0930-1300 |

Academic Regulations

The BA Medical Journalism operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they have and keep for reference a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called **Essential Westminster 2010/11**. This should be read in conjunction with the *Modular Framework for Undergraduate Courses* and relevant sections of the current *Handbook of Academic Regulations*.

Support for Students

On arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the School Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes the Library which, across its four sites, holds printed collections of 412,000 books, 1,600 journal subscriptions and substantial audio visual collections. Access to over 6,500 electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books, exam papers and links to recommended websites) is facilitated through infoLinX, the library portal.

There are over 3,500 computers spread over the four University campuses available for students use. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students can access course materials and communicate with staff and other students via message boards.

At University level, Services for Students provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The International Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Reference Points for the course

Internally

University of Westminster Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2008-11,
Media, Arts and Design School Plan,
University of Westminster Technology Enhanced Learning Strategy 2008-11 etc)

Externally

.SEEC guidance on level descriptors,
QAA Academic Infrastructure,

Quality Management and Enhancement**Course Management**

The course is managed by Course Leader, Deborah Vogel, who leads the teaching team and, as well as the BA in Medical Journalism, she manages all the post-graduate journalism courses in the Department. For much of the time, the medical journalism students work alongside the post-graduate print students and their personal tutor will be Dave Gilbert, who leads the Print and Online pathway for the MA in Journalism. The specialist medical journalism seminars are currently led by leading medical journalist, John Illman. The course is part of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Head of JMC is Geoffrey Davies. The Department is in the School of Media, Art and Design, led by the Dean, Sally Feldman.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was initially validated in 1997 and last reviewed by a University Validation Panel in 2006. The Panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other Universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic Course Review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by School to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from External Examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the School action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student comment is taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the course committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the committee to represent the views of their peer group in the discussions held at the committee. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the Course Committee.

Students are asked to complete a Module Feedback questionnaire at the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the Module Leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which provides valuable feedback about a range of University services. Final year undergraduates will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which is administered by an external company.

Students meet with Review Panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course Committees and the National Student Survey and the University's internal surveys are part of the Schools quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course go to: www.westminster.ac.uk/mad, or

contact the course leader, Deborah Vogel. You can apply electronically through UK Pass

Please note – This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

PART TWO – ABOUT YOUR COURSE

1 HOW TO CONTACT US

1.1 Contact details of the course leader/course management arrangements

Deborah Vogel is the Course Leader for the BA in Medical Journalism, the MA in Journalism and the MA in Journalism (International). Her office is J2.14, her extension is 4570 and her mobile is 07803 724292. You are not allowed to dial mobile numbers from Campus phones, but you can reach it by dialling the short code 1702, from any campus internal phone or you can email Deborah at D.Vogel@westminster.ac.uk.

Deborah Vogel has been a radio broadcaster and journalist for over 25 years producing international current affairs and topical programmes as well as making features and documentaries for BBC Radio and BBC World Service. She has also worked as a reporter and presenter for the BBC. She has also written on media affairs for "The Observer", Britain's oldest Sunday newspaper. She is a qualified higher education teacher and leads the Broadcast Journalism and Documentary Skills modules, and supervises Final Radio Documentary projects.

John Illman is the Medical Journalism specialist tutor. He was the founder editor of *New Psychiatry* and is a former editor of *General Practitioner*. He spent five years as medical correspondent on *The Daily Mail*; eight years as health editor on *The Guardian* and three years as medical correspondent on *The Observer*. He is the author of six books and has extensive broadcasting experience. He is chair of the UK Medical Journalists' Association.

The Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication is Geoffrey Davies.

Tel: 020 7911 5000 x4453 and email: G.Davies@westminster.ac.uk.

His secretary is Susie Farrell available by phone on extension 5949 or by email to S.Farrell@westminster.ac.uk. Susie is based in the Media, Arts and Design School Office, which is open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The Dean of the School of Media, Art and Design is **Sally Feldman**.

1.2 Personal Tutor arrangements

Each student has a personal tutor, who can help with advice on personal development and career goals. They can also be consulted about who to go and see in the University for help with any personal or financial problems.

1.3 Who to contact about module queries

Initially queries, issues should be taken up directly with the module leader, but if they cannot be resolved that way then take the problem up with the Course Leader. The lecturers teaching on BAMJ modules are listed below.

All staff email addresses follow the same formula of initial letter of firstname.dot.surname@westminster.ac.uk. Other staff contact details are available on Blackboard, and in the staff directory on the Westminster intranet.

Dave Gilbert was originally a newspaper journalist, working as a reporter, feature-writer and sub-editor; he was a pioneer of online journalism, working first as Assistant

Editor of the Daily Telegraph website, before going on to work as an international News Editor for the BBC website. He teaches written journalism for print and online.

Geoffrey Davies worked in local newspapers before becoming a television journalist for Thames News (now London News Network). He worked on the launch of the UK's first breakfast TV news service – TV-am – where he produced the service's Sunday morning current affairs show Frost on Sunday. As a freelance he has directed corporate video as well worked as a television journalist for ITN. He's Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

David Dunkley Gyimah is a senior lecturer and the editor of the School of Media, Arts and Design website. He's been involved with the net since 1994 and freelanced or worked for a range of BBC, Channel 4/ITN departments as a producer/journalist and editor of various dotcom outfits. You can find out more from his personal site www.unitedproductions.co.uk/media5 He teaches online journalism.

Petsa Kaffens came to London in the 1970's after a degree in Advertising Design & Illustration in Australia. She has worked in the art department of various magazines, and then began writing. She became Beauty Editor on several internationally known magazines; she was headhunted to work in New York before returning in the mid-90's, to freelance in beauty, fashion, travel and lifestyles as both writer and stylist. She leads Magazine production.

Malvin van Gelderen is a working newspaper and magazine designer with over 30 years experience in the industry. He teaches with Petsa on Magazine production, and teaches newspaper lay-out in the First Semester.

Dr. Richard Wright is a former TV reporter and producer, who has worked for ITV, Sky and the BBC. He began his career in newspapers, before moving into radio and then television. He has also produced and directed documentaries. He was one of the pioneers of digital video editing for journalists in the UK. His doctorate is in television reporting, and he has Multi-media Journalism Skills module. .

Jane Whyatt is an experienced radio broadcaster, mostly working at independent radio stations, and as an independent programme maker. She has taught previously at City University, Goldsmiths College and the London College of Communication. She leads radio journalism modules.

1.4 School Registry role, location and opening hours

The School Registry looks after the clerical administration of the course. It is where you submit your coursework assignments, where you register for your modules and where you apply for Mitigating Circumstances. If you need an official letter to confirm that you are a student at the University, the School Registry will provide it.

The Course Administrator for the MAJ is Michelle Payne: M.Payne@westminster.ac.uk or extension 4056.

School Registry opening hours are:

1230-1630 everyday

Mondays & Wednesdays till 1830 during term-time only

Technical support staff

In the J2 Newsroom area:

Robert Ojok, Senior Mac Technician. His office is Room J2.9 Ext. 4613

In the M Block radio area:

Tim Carter supports radio. His office is M2.13. Ext 4610

Denis Mathews supports TV. His office is the workshop on the Ground floor, M block: MG.02 Ext 5957

1.5 Information about where course information/news/events is posted

Course and module information can be found on Blackboard, the University's virtual learning environment website (*see 2.3 below*). It is important to keep looking at the site regularly for updates. It also has a discussion forum for each module.

There is also a notice-board on the wall next to Deborah's office and much information is also sent via email, so keep checking your email and make sure that if you change your email address that you enter it into the student record system.

1.6 Students with Disabilities

The term 'disability' can cover dyslexia, hearing impairments, some visual impairments, loss of limb, MS, ME, RSI, some back injuries, HIV/AIDS, arthritis, diabetes, epilepsy, mental health difficulties and a range of other long-term conditions. If you have a disability or long-term medical condition (including mental health) which is likely to affect your studies you should let the Disability Services know at the earliest possible moment.

Disability Services can advise you on obtaining funding, specialist support and arrange centrally-provided support as needed. A screening service for dyslexia is available for students in particular circumstances. In addition, dyslexia study skills tuition can be made available. Other types of support can include library loan extensions, provision of specialist equipment, note taking support and special examination arrangements. All information is treated confidentially.

Please ensure you have up to date medical evidence e.g. a GP letter or consultants report, or if you have dyslexia an up to date diagnostic report, and contact the Disability Services.

For more information about Disability Services please go to

<http://www.wmin.ac.uk/page-6927> or email

disabilities-westminster@wmin.ac.uk or telephone 020 7911 5163.

1.7 Support for international students

There is an International Student Adviser (ISA) at the University who is based in the Counselling and Advice Service (CANDA) at the Marylebone Campus throughout the week and at Harrow Campus on a Tuesday. The ISA provides support with non-academic issues such as immigration, working in the UK, finance, culture shock, homesickness and making friends. The ISA can see you for one appointment or for ongoing support. To make an appointment call 020 7911 5000 extension 3232 for Central London or 4023 for Harrow.

There is a welcome programme for international students starting in September which covers information such as your rights to healthcare in the UK, safety in London, working in the UK (during or after your studies), how to cut your costs in London and much more.

When you have successfully completed your course, the University holds a Valediction Ceremony at the end of Semester Two for international students who are unable to attend the Graduation Ceremony, which is held in London in November or December.

There are regular visa clinics if you need to extend your visa, the advice service can check your application and send it off for you. www.westminster.ac.uk/visas

There is also useful information for international students on the Counselling and Advice and the International Office websites

<http://www.wmin.ac.uk/page-2110>

1.8 Students' Union Contact Information

UWSU works to enable every student at the University of Westminster to achieve their potential by:

- promoting awareness of opportunities, initiatives and issues for students
- improving service accessibility
- offering new experiences to challenge and stretch students
- supporting the development of services

In response to the known priorities of students in 2009/10, UWSU will be delivering more for those with academic and financial worries and working to make sure students know what is going on at University. UWSU is also working to ensure all students can access health services, appropriate housing and recreational opportunities.

To find out more visit our website at www.uwsu.com or contact us by email uwsuadmin@westminster.ac.uk. UWSU is based at Marylebone in central London and at Harrow.