

Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry

Note: This course is not currently taught in Foyle, but may be available at the Verbal Arts Centre.

A-level Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry could be your first step towards an exciting and demanding career. Your study will enable you to explore the dynamic and rapidly changing world of journalism, resulting in self-development and improved confidence. Learning about journalism is like working as a journalist. Both offer a varied, fast-paced and challenging experience. Students on this vocationally orientated course have the chance to learn about and practise the core journalism skills of interviewing, writing and reporting. Recent developments in technology have changed the way we receive news, and the ability to write or talk knowledgeably about events so that other people will want to read about them and listen is in great demand, now more than ever.

Students are taught all the industry skills needed to become journalists and get first hand advice from industry experts brought in from all over the UK and Ireland. They get the opportunity to develop their interview and writing skills as well as graphic design and IT skills, design magazines, delve into photography and learn radio and video editing skills at the Verbal Arts Centre's recording studios.

Students also learn first-hand how the UK media industry works and create their own media products - such as magazines, radio programmes and documentaries - and have their news stories and radio productions published and broadcast in the local media, an important goal and memorable moment in the careers of all young journalists.

Our A-Level students have interviewed everyone from pop stars to politicians, world renowned authors, directors and musicians and have had their work published in the local media.

In previous years they have networked with everyone from the top crime reporters in the Sunday Times to the editor of the Sun, television cameramen, top showbiz correspondents, war correspondents, news reporters from all over Northern Ireland as well as the newspaper and magazine editors and broadcasters from all local media outlets, film stars such as James Nesbitt, world-renowned authors such as Lee Child and music stars such as the Strypes and the Script. In the process they learned valuable, future proof skills that will take them onto an exciting career in journalism. It is a very lively, vibrant and fast-paced course, just like life in the media.

Module Content

- Development of Industry and Technology in Print Journalism
- Media Concepts and Contexts
- Language, Forms and Conventions
- Audience and News Value
- Institutions, Ownership, Law and Regulation
- Skills and Practice
- Professional Roles and Practices in Print Journalism
- Research and News Gathering Skills and Techniques
- Writing Skills and Techniques
- Technical and Presentational Skills and Formatting

Assessment weightings

Written Exam – 40% of overall mark

Coursework – 60% of overall mark

Educational pathways

Further education pathways are signposted throughout the course to BA Journalism in various universities in the UK and Ireland and NVQ4 Journalism and Media Law at NWRC.

Careers

Journalist, newspaper reporter, features reporter, sports reporter, broadcaster, radio presenter, TV presenter, researcher, graphic designer, public relations consultant, sub-editor, editor, magazine reporter, data journalist, marketing executive, sound engineer, documentary maker, videographer, photographer

Requirements for entry

You can apply for this course with GCSE English at grade C or above. You should also have an interest in news and current affairs.