

MAIJ BROADCAST NEWS PATHWAY INP1 MODULE HANDBOOK

2024-2025



International News Production 1 (Module Code: MCT458)

Broadcast News Pathway Handbook 2024-2025

Introduction

The aim in this first module is to lay the foundations for successful, intelligent reporting in the broadcast field – which includes online and social media.

There will be a strong practical emphasis on the basic skills you need – in writing, audio, video and online. These are the tools of the trade.

But it's thinking, not technical skills, which make a good journalist. So you will be encouraged to engage with people and events and to develop the critical skills that will enable you to communicate in a meaningful way with your audience.

You need to listen to a range of radio news and watch television news programmes. You must keep up to date with news sources online and on platforms like Twitter.

Every week we will discuss the stories that are making the headlines and the way they are being reported. How would we cover them for our audience – and engage the audience in our coverage?

Journalism is about people, so you need to make contacts and get to know the city (and country) where you are studying. Develop a curiosity and an interest in the world around you. Come to class with ideas and questions. The more you bring, the more you will take away.

We will start with audio/radio and move onto video/TV later in the semester – but online and social media will always be in the picture.

There will be two assessments during this module – one focussing on radio, and one on TV. The radio assessment will be in Week 6, the TV assessment in Week 11. Full details of the assessments and deadlines will be available in due course on Learning Central.

Please refer to the relevant section on Learning Central for this module: Learning Materials/Broadcast News. Make sure you read your university emails daily. You will also find useful material on the blog **tonyonthephone.com**

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AIMS

The aims of International News Production 1 & 2 are:

- to give students an understanding of good journalism and its processes;
- to develop in them the practical ability to produce good journalism in their chosen medium and, so, to perform creditably in any quality news environment;
- to help students develop the critical independence and journalistic skills to report on, and engage with, the events and issues of the day to the highest professional and ethical standards; and,
- to imbue in students a critical approach to news outputs, including their own, and an interest in debates within the media industry.

Learning Outcomes of the Module:

By the end of the two modules (INP1 & INP2), students should be able to:

- describe the principles, theory and practice of good journalism in their chosen medium;
- exercise professional "news sense" and the ability to examine the assumptions underlying it;
- adapt content to the requirements of different audiences and markets;
- understand the need to achieve clarity and precision in the use of language and images, and the techniques by which this can be achieved;

- understand how to use standard software packages and hardware in their chosen medium, and be confident about their ability to learn how to use variants;
- display a critical awareness of issues and debates within the media industry.
- communicate facts, figures, opinions and judgments, using words and/or images, in a way that is clear, precise, readily accessible and attractive to a specific audience; and
- examine journalistic practice critically.

Discipline specific (including practical) skills:
in the **Broadcast pathway** (across both INP1 & INP2) include:

- originate, research and develop story ideas suitable for specific TV, radio and online/social audiences
- write and report for radio, television, online and social media
- interview effectively for radio and television
- participate effectively in various roles within news bulletin production
- record and edit audio for use in bulletins
- record and edit video for use in bulletins
- operate a radio studio and playout system, both as part of a team and solo
- shoot TV footage
- edit TV footage
- operate the TV gallery
- present TV bulletins using Autocue

Skills that will be practised and developed

Across all pathways students will develop audience awareness; rapport building with contacts; multi-platform communication skills; and wide-ranging IT skills for information gathering and journalistic output.

Assessment

Summative assessment for this pathway is by way of a portfolio of radio and television assignments. **The following deadlines are provisional and to be confirmed**, but full details will be provided in good time.

The first assessment (RADIO LINK AND CLIP) will be due on
Friday 8 November 2024.

The second assessment (SHORT TV PACKAGE) will be due on
Friday 17 January 2025

Assessments one and two are worth 50% each of the INP1 mark.

Opportunity for resubmission:

Students who fail the module overall will have the opportunity to re-sit any failed module components or qualifying elements of the module in the August re-sit period. Please note that where students have failed a module at first attempt and in the absence of approved Extenuating Circumstances students are only able to achieve a capped mark of 50% at re-submission.

Feedback:

We are aware that the quality and quantity of feedback is at the forefront of students' concerns. We ask you to understand that feedback is something you receive *throughout* your degree and that in individual modules feedback is not limited to the comments written in assessments.

We want you to engage with every module, to ask questions when you have the opportunity. The key is that you benefit from our expertise to maximise your potential.

We **guarantee** that for assessed work:

- the criteria for marking will be clearly displayed;
- you will receive detailed type-written comments on your text;
- you will receive **prompt** feedback (all assessed pieces of coursework will be returned within **20 working days** and
- that the feedback you get will be explanatory and worded, with reference to marking criteria, to help you improve and achieve higher marks in future.

**WEEK BY WEEK... SEE THE SEPARATE DOCUMENT FOR A WEEK-BY-WEEK
BREAKDOWN OF THE FIRST SEMESTER.**

READING LIST

This is the 'indicative' reading list from the Module Descriptor. Please see additional suggestions below.

Bull, Andy (2015) *Multimedia Journalism - a practical guide*, Routledge

Stewart, Peter and Alexander, Ray (2021) *Broadcast Journalism* (8th edition), Focal Press

Chantler, Paul and Stewart, Peter (2016) *Basic Radio Journalism*, Focal Press

Evans, Russell (2015) *Practical DV Film Making*, Focal Press

Filak, Vincent (2019) *Convergent Journalism*, Routledge

Kovach, Bill & Rosenstiel, Tom (2021) *The Elements of Journalism*, Guardian

Quinn, Stephen (2016) *Digital Sub-editing and Design*, Focal Press

Randall, David and Crew, Jemma (2021) *The Universal Journalist*, Pluto Press

In addition to the above, the following books are recommended for the Broadcast News Pathway:

Figgis, Mike (2007) *Digital Film-Making*, Faber

Freedman, Wayne (2011) *It Takes More Than Good Looks to Succeed at Television News Reporting*, Wayne Freedman

Harcup, Tony (2021) *Journalism: Principles and Practices*, Sage

McLeish, Robert and Link, Jeff (2018) *Radio Production*, Routledge

Stockman, Steve (2011) *How to Shoot Video that Doesn't Suck*, Custom Productions

Thompson, Rick (2010), *Writing for Broadcast Journalists*, Routledge

BBC *Editorial Guidelines* and Producers' Guidelines www.broadcastnow.co.uk/ - The website for the TV and Radio industry. www.channel4.com/corporate/4producers/ - Channel 4 Television.

www.broadcastnow.com – Broadcast industry news and information. www.bbc.co.uk/commissioning – Insight into a Broadcasters requirements. www.bbc.co.uk/wales/info/commissioning/ - BBC Wales commissioning

Safe Working

No story is important enough to risk your safety. We have a duty to make sure you know how to work safely. You have a duty to abide by the rules we set.

You will be given a detailed briefing on the risk assessment process which is connected to the online system through which you book equipment for recording and filming on location.

If you are threatened or made to feel uncomfortable, let your lecturer know. If your reporting is likely to anger or disturb others – and there are plenty of valid instances where it can – alert your lecturer first. Never engage in subterfuge without first discussing it with your lecturer.

When using cameras, pay particular attention to trailing wires to mics etc. as these can pose a hazard. Also, if you’re looking through a viewfinder, be aware that you largely focus your senses down that lens and your awareness of the world around you will diminish. Try not to work alone, and if you do, look out for trip hazards, snarling dogs, angry people before you commit yourself to filming. And don’t ever track backwards on your own (ie walking backwards while filming forwards – if you want to do this, use the side screen and turn it around).

Also, spend too long at the screen writing or editing and you could get a bad back, twitching eye muscles or Repetitive Strain Injury. The latter is very serious indeed. Sit comfortably, look away from your screen frequently (it will release your gaze and let you blink), take breaks, learn shortcut alternatives to using the mouse, and get help if you start to hurt.

Law & ethics and your conduct

We aim for the highest standards of conduct, and abide by the ethical standards of ALL of the codes of conduct out there (BBC, NUJ, Ofcom etc). You will be able to find these codes online, including via links on Blackboard. You will be introduced briefly to these in year one, and learn about them in greater depth in year two. You must work within your limits.

You must declare any legal/ethical implications of your work in notes accompanying your coursework submissions, but make sure you discuss with your lecturer any that you anticipate – before proceeding with stories.

The **Ofcom** code of conduct for broadcasting is too long to include here (it’s 90 pages) but is very comprehensive and useful and can be found at:
https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/100103/broadcast-code-april-2017.pdf

The **BBC** Editorial Guidelines can be found here:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines/guidelines/>

National Union of Journalists Code of Conduct

The NUJ Code of Conduct has set out the main principles of British and Irish journalism since 1936, it was updated at ADM 2007.

Members of the National Union of Journalists are expected to abide by the following professional principles:

A journalist

1. At all times upholds and defends the principle of media freedom, the right of freedom of expression and the right of the public to be informed
2. Strives to ensure that information disseminated is honestly conveyed, accurate and fair
3. Does her/his utmost to correct harmful inaccuracies
4. Differentiates between fact and opinion
5. Obtains material by honest, straightforward and open means, with the exception of investigations that are both overwhelmingly in the public interest and which involve evidence that cannot be obtained by straightforward means
6. Does nothing to intrude into anybody's private life, grief or distress unless justified by overriding consideration of the public interest
7. Protects the identity of sources who supply information in confidence and material gathered in the course of her/his work
8. Resists threats or any other inducements to influence, distort or suppress information
9. Takes no unfair personal advantage of information gained in the course of her/his duties before the information is public knowledge
10. Produces no material likely to lead to hatred or discrimination on the grounds of a person's age, gender, race, colour, creed, legal status, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation
11. Does not by way of statement, voice or appearance endorse by advertisement any commercial product or service save for the promotion of her/his own work or of the medium by which she/he is employed
12. Avoids plagiarism.

Problems over media coverage often hinge on the "public interest". The Code of Conduct uses the concept as a yardstick to justify publication of sensitive material. This is the NUJ's definition, drawn up by the Ethics Council:

1. The public interest includes:

- a) Detecting or exposing crime or a serious misdemeanour
- b) Protecting public health and safety
- c) Preventing the public from being misled by some statement or action of an individual or organisation
- d) Exposing misuse of public funds or other forms of corruption by public bodies
- e) Revealing potential conflicts of interest by those in positions of power and influence
- f) Exposing corporate greed
- g) Exposing hypocritical behaviour by those holding high office

2. There is a public interest in the freedom of expression itself.

3. In cases involving children, journalists must demonstrate an exceptional public interest to over-ride the normally paramount interests of the child.

The union welcomes student journalists into a special class of membership, and it offers a reduced subscription for the first year to those upgrading to full membership as they begin their professional careers. Around 3,000 students join the NUJ every year.

Two kinds of students are eligible to join: those on vocational courses, and those on other courses who are working on student publications and intend to become journalists.

There are hundreds of journalism courses in universities and colleges, and hundreds more "media studies" courses. The union is in the process of validating as many courses as it can, and it offers advice to prospective students on the value of courses.

Student membership costs £30 for the duration of the course. For this, student members receive a student press card and free delivery of the Journalist magazine. You can also attend NUJ Wales Training courses for free or at a reduced rate.

Students can join online at <https://www.nuj.org.uk/work/students/>