



What you'll study on the Political Journalism Course

Subjects will not necessarily be done in the order below.

JOURNALISM

- A journalist's job and qualities
- Copy presentation
- Notebook discipline
- Contacts book
- What is news?
- Sources of news
- Industry organisations
- House style
- Contacts and how to make them
- Interviewing - face to face and by phone
- Newspaper terminology
- How to write in newspaper style
- The intro
- Story construction
- Use of quotes
- Ethics and the PCC Code of Conduct
- Reference sources
- Covering the police
- Human interest stories
- Feature writing
- Covering local government
- Covering central government, Parliaments and national assemblies
- Working from press releases and handouts
- Covering meetings and speeches
- Opinion writing
- Identifying suitable markets for articles
- Analysing markets
- Coming up with original ideas
- Adapting your writing style for different markets
- Making a sale
- Getting paid

- Keeping records

PUBLIC AFFAIRS: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- The UK constitution
- The Monarchy
- Parliament at Westminster
- The legislative process at Westminster
- Devolution
- The UK Government
- The political process
- Elections
- The European Union
- The NHS
- Social welfare services
- Employment, training and economic development
- Industry and commerce
- The Utilities
- The Treasury
- The Home Office
- Culture, Media and Sport
- International relations and defence

PUBLIC AFFAIRS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- How different authorities are structured and what they do
- Councillors and officers
- Decision making, information and quality
- Propriety and ethics
- Elections
- External relations and controls
- Finance
- Housing
- Education
- Town and country planning
- Personal social services
- Emergency services
- Environmental health and consumer protection
- Highways, transport and leisure