



Broadcast Journalism Course, in Partnership with The Local Radio Company

Syllabus and other details

The course leads to the NCTJ's Preliminary Certificate - the most widely respected trainee journalism qualification in the UK. It gets you on short-lists when it comes to job interviews.

How the course works

Foundation Journalism

We will train you in every aspect of practical journalism, one module at a time. Teaching material will be sent to you online. Each subject unit is accompanied by appropriate exercises and assignments.

You will study the module, email back any queries, problems etc and then complete the exercises and assignments.

Exercises will be paper-based - re-writes of handouts etc.

Assignments will be practical - you will have to go out and find a certain type of story (human interest, bread and butter news, reviews, features, emergency calls obtained from police tapes etc) and write them up.

Once you have completed the exercises and assignments, you can email them for marking. They will be marked and returned to you with a Grade, comments etc.

Once you have completed the subject unit to an acceptable standard, you will be sent the next module, together with exercises and assignments.

Once you demonstrate an acceptable degree of competence, you will be sent old NCTJ News Writing papers to complete and return and will be given specialist guidance to prepare you for your exams. You will also be given help building your NCTJ Portfolio.

Spoken Journalism

Once you have completed the Foundation Journalism Modules, you will study the ones in Spoken Journalism.

These cover all aspects of radio news reporting. There are a number of practical exercises and assignments which you have to record and email to us as voice files for marking.

We provide you with free software to do your recordings.

Law

The course deals with every aspect of media law, one module at a time, in the same way as journalism (above). Some of the teaching will be from approved textbooks.

Exercises will be paper-based - mainly tackling old NCTJ Pt 1 and Pt 2 exam questions relevant to the subject.

Assignments will be practical - you will go out and cover courts if you have the time.

Once you have completed the exercises and assignments, you can email them for marking. They will be marked and returned to you with a Grade, comments etc.

Once you have completed the module to an acceptable standard, you will be sent the next module, together with exercises and assignments.

You will also be given specialist guidance to prepare you for your exams.

Public Affairs

The course deals with every aspect of central and local government, one module at a time, in the same way as journalism (above).

Exercises will be paper-based, mainly tackling old Pt 1 and Pt 2 exam questions relevant to the subject.

Assignments will be practical - you will go out and cover council meetings if you have the time.

Once you have completed the exercises and assignments, you can email them for marking. They will be marked and returned to you with a Grade, comments etc.

Once you have completed the module to an acceptable standard, you will be sent the next module, together with exercises and assignments.

You will also be given specialist guidance to prepare you for your exams.

Your guaranteed work attachment

Once you have completed most of your journalism Modules, you will be put in touch with The Local Radio Company.

They will arrange two weeks work attachment for you at one of their 28 stations across the UK.

They will try to place you at a station near your home. You will obviously need to be flexible about dates and fit in with the slots they offer you.

The attachment slots are usually one week each, but you may be able to make other arrangements with TLRC at the time.

If you do well during your periods of attachment, TLRC may offer you other placements - and your contact with them may eventually lead to regular work as a freelance or a member of their staff.

About TLRC

The Local Radio Company operates 30 radio stations in the UK.

TLRC employs a total of 60 staff journalists, supported by a number of freelance reporters.

TLRC's newsrooms deliver a total of over 12 hours of news and current affairs output every weekday through hourly bulletins, headline summaries, sports broadcasts and extended news programmes.

TLRC prides itself on the delivery of quality journalism, aimed specifically at its target audience, with emphasis on local content.

TLRC has won three top national industry awards for its news output.

Visit the TLRC website for more information:

www.thelocalradiocompany.com.

Study approach

You will study Journalism and Spoken Journalism for the duration of the course and will study PA and Law one after the other in this order: PA 2, PA 1, Law 2, and Law 1.

The assignments and exercises are NOT compulsory, although it is highly recommended that you do as many of them as you can.

You will need to fit in as many as you can, according to the time you have available to do the course.

Exams

You will be told to enter the five NCTJ preliminary exams when you are ready.

The exams are:

- News Writing
- Law 1 - Court Reporting
- Law 2 - General Reporting
- Public Affairs 1 - Local Government
- Public Affairs 2 - Central Government

plus

- The NCTJ Portfolio of work

The NCTJ will enter you at the nearest college or centre hosting their exams to your home, and arrangements will be made for you to sit the papers there.

Students living abroad may need to sit the exams with the help of the British Council.

You will need to give proof of identity before sitting the exams.

Your Career path

The NCTJ qualifications are an open door to a career in journalism. And the online course will prepare you to work in every sphere of journalism: print, broadcasting, magazine and web journalism.

Once you have completed the course and have passed your exams, you will be ready to begin looking for work. And we will give you help and advice on where to find jobs, how to apply for them and how to prepare for interviews.

Cleland Thom has wide-ranging contacts in all areas of broadcast journalism and is well placed to help you find work.

He has helped hundreds of young - and not so young - journalists into jobs over the years. Many of his former students are now working on national newspapers like the Daily Mail, the News of the World and the Sun, work on TV stations like Sky News, or are holding senior positions on local newspapers, magazines, websites and radio stations all over the UK and abroad.

Career Development Loans

For information on financial assistance to support your learning, please visit www.direct.gov.uk/adultlearning or contact 0800 100 900.

If you want a chat

If you would like to discuss the course or chat about your prospects in journalism, email us at e-courses@ctjt.biz or call us on 01243 381998 or 07733 145 620