



Newspaper Journalism Course

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 for job interviews.

Dozens of our graduates have found jobs on local and national newspaper, radio, TV and websites. You can join them!

How the course works

Journalism

We train you in every aspect of multi-platform journalism, one module at a time.

Teaching materials are sent to you online. Each module is accompanied by exercises and assignments.

You study the module, email us with any queries or problems and complete the exercises and assignments.

Exercises are paper-based - re-writes of handouts etc.

Assignments are practical - you find a certain type of stories (human interest, bread and butter news, reviews, features, emergency calls obtained from police tapes etc) and write them up.

We also teach you how to write for other news platforms. So you will get the chance to:

- Write your own blog
- Upload stories to our student website
- Write SMS text alerts - and send them
- Write news tickers
- Write e-mail bulletins
- Stimulate reader dialogue
- Record stories for podcasts or use on the radio
- Write news tickers

- Take news photos and upload them to our student website

Once you complete the exercises and assignments, you email them to us for marking.

We mark them and return them to you with a grade, comments etc.

Once you have completed the module to an acceptable standard, we send you the next one ... and so-on.

When you are up to standard, we send you mock NCTJ Multi-platform News Writing exam papers to complete.

We also give you specialist guidance to prepare for your exams - including vodcasts to watch online. And we help you build your NCTJ Portfolio.

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 is from approved textbooks.

Exercises are paper-based - mainly tackling old NCTJ Pt 1 and Pt 2 exam questions.

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

Once you have completed the module to an acceptable standard, we send you the next one ... and so-on.

We also give you specialist guidance to prepare for your exams - including vodcasts to watch online.

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 are paper-based, mainly tackling old Pt 1 and Pt 2 exam questions.

Assignments are practical - you cover council meetings if you have the time.

Once you have completed the module to an acceptable standard, we send you the next one ... and so-on.

We also give you specialist guidance to prepare for your exams - including vodcasts to watch online.

Shorthand

You study T-line from a recommended textbook.

We also provide you with websites where you can access shorthand theory lessons and dictation passages.

And we provide you with MP3 files for speed practice.

Study approach

You study journalism and shorthand for the duration of the course and 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 you do as many of them as you can.

Attachment

You are encouraged to find work attachment at appropriate media organisations, depending. We help you find work attachment if necessary.

Exams

We tell you to enter the six NCTJ preliminary exams when you are ready.

The exams are:

- Multi-platform News Writing
- Shorthand - speed exams to 100wpm
- 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 place you at the nearest college or centre hosting their exams to your home.

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.

Our course will prepare you to work in any sphere of journalism: print, broadcasting, magazine and web journalism.

It will also give you the skills to work in a converged newsroom - absolutely vital these days.

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 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

The course qualifies for a CDL. Applicants must be over 18 and can be employed, self employed, unemployed or students.

The loans can be between £300 and £8,000 and include up to 80 per cent of the course fees - more in some cases - plus any related course expenses.

Repayments begin after the learning period is completed, and are between 6 and 60 months.

The interest rate is fixed at the start of the loan.

The loans are available from Barclays, The Co-op Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Barclays accept telephone applications from customers who have had a current account for three years or more.

In some cases repayments may be postponed after the learning period.

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.