



Photojournalism Course

Syllabus and other details

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

How the course works

General Photographic Knowledge

We will train you in every aspect of practical photojournalism, 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.

Once you demonstrate an acceptable degree of competence, you will be sent old NCTJ General Photographic Knowledge papers to complete and return and will be given specialist guidance to prepare you for your exams.

Law

The course deals with every aspect of law that affects photojournalists, one Module at a time. Some of the teaching will be from approved textbooks.

Exercises will be paper-based - mainly tackling old NCTJ law exam questions relevant to the subject.

Once you have completed the exercises, 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 one, together with the exercises and assignments.

Newspaper Practice

The course deals with every aspect of everyday working practice, the Press Complaints Commission and some aspects of Central Government, one Module at a time.

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

Once you have completed the exercises, 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 one, together with exercises and assignments.

Once you demonstrate an acceptable degree of competence, you will be sent old exam papers to complete and return and will be given specialist guidance to prepare you for your exams.

News and Caption writing

The course trains you to write stories and captions to a professional standard, one Module at a time. You will also be encouraged to take photographs and send them in for marking - you will need a digital camera, or a conventional camera and a scanner.

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

Once you have completed the exercises, 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 one, together with exercises and assignments.

Once you demonstrate an acceptable degree of competence, you will be sent old exam papers to complete and return and will be given specialist guidance to prepare you for your exams.

Study approach

You will study Newspaper Practice and News and Caption Writing first, then Law, and then General Photographic Knowledge.

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.

Attachment

You will be encouraged to find work attachment at appropriate media organisations, depending on how much spare time you have available. Support will be given in helping you find work attachment.

Exams

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

The exams are:

- News and Caption Writing
- Newspaper Practice
- Law
- General Photographic knowledge

You can only sit the exams at Sheffield College, Norton, which is in the UK.

You should not enrol if you cannot get to Sheffield to do the exams - unless you want to do the course *without* the exams. Then you will just receive the CTJT Diploma.

Your Career path

The NCTJ qualifications are an open door to a career in photojournalism.

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

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.