

# International Journalism Course

## Syllabus and other details

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

## How the course works

### 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, reviews, features, profiles etc) and write them up.

If the assignments are difficult to complete in the country where you live, we will help you to do them in other ways.

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 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.

### Law

The course deals with every aspect of UK 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 2 (General 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 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 the UK's central government, one module at a time, in the same way as journalism (above).

Exercises will be paper-based, mainly tackling old Part 2 (Central Government) 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 module and exercises.

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

## **Study approach**

You will study journalism for the duration of the course and will study PA and Law one after the other.

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. We have contacts in many countries who will be able to help you.

## **Exams**

You will be told to enter the three NCTJ preliminary exams when you are ready. The exams are:

- News Writing
- Law 2 - general reporting
- Public Affairs 2 - Central Government

plus

- The NCTJ Portfolio of work

## **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.

Once you have completed the course and have passed your exams, you will be ready to begin looking for work, either in your country or another one.

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 magazines, websites and radio stations all over the UK and abroad.

### **If you want a chat**

If you would like to discuss the course or chat about your prospects in journalism, email us at [cleland.thom@tesco.net](mailto:cleland.thom@tesco.net) or call us on + 44 1243 381998 or + 44 7733 145 620.