Programme Specification

Middlesex University London

1. Programme title	MSc Digital Journalism
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	N/A
5. Final qualification	MSc Digital Journalism PGDip Digital Journalism PGCert Digital Journalism
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	2020 N/A
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Distance Learning

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Applicants must have obtained a qualification at Level 6. This may be any degree type and any subject, i.e. humanities, social science, science. And it may be any international UK Level 6 equivalent.

Applicants with other qualifications and/or substantial work experience in the creative industries will also be considered under the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) scheme. Applicants will be asked to submit a portfolio of relevant and recent work.

If English is not the student's native language, then a qualification must be achieved, as a minimum, one of the following standards: IELTS band 6.5; TOEFL score between 79-93.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Provide the student with specialised and in-depth knowledge about digital journalism and the wider digital communications landscape.
- Develop the advanced research skills needed to successfully identify and complete an independent project on the subject of digital journalism.
- Develop the critical thinking skills needed to be able to evaluate problems and construct structured and reasoned arguments.
- Develop specialised techniques and creative skills needed to be able to practice journalism in a global and digital context.
- Develop mastery of communication, teamwork, writing and presentation.

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding	Teaching/learning methods
On completion of this programme the successful student will have the following knowledge and understanding:	Students gain knowledge and understanding through:
1. In-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of digital journalism, informed by current practice, scholarship and research. 2. Critical awareness of current issues and technological developments in digital journalism. 3. Knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics.	• Online, real-time, classrooms. These will be facilitated through Adobe Connect software. Two class times available – UTC 9am and 6pm. • Online short lectures by experts. • Key readings, made accessible electronically. • Discussion forums that will be dominated by one key question per week. **Assessment methods** Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by: • Essays. • Pre-recorded presentations.
B. Cognitive (thinking) Skills	**Teaching/learning methods**
On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:	Students learn cognitive skills through:
1. Resourcefully identify stories and issues that require further investigation. 2. Critically reflect on their own progress as a learner.	• Practical work and peer-review. • A diverse range of case studies that describe the realities of the application of theory to practice.

3. Assess sources and stories with ethical rigor, learned especially through case studies from around the world about how globalization is affecting journalism standards, practice and ethics.	**Assessment methods** Students' cognitive skills are assessed by: • Reflective writing. • Pre-recorded presentations of work.
C. Practical Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Use journalistic skills and techniques in a digital context. 2. Retrieve and analyse data to find stories, develop them, and to illustrate them. 3. Manage a research and journalistic project and demonstrate a high level of research skills.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn practical skills through: • Formative assessments and tasks that require uploading of audio-visual work to MDX Play. • Online short tutorials on how to use equipment, software etc. by experts and on Linked In Learning. **Assessment methods** Students' practical skills are assessed by: • Individual journalistic projects that require research. • Practical assessments.
D. Professional Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: 1. Work effectively as part of a team. 2. Communicate using well-honed verbal, audio-visual and written communications skills. 3. Demonstrate numeracy and problem solving skills at a high level.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn professional skills through: • Formative assessments and tasks that require uploading of audio-visual work to MDX Play. • Group tasks. • Use of excel and other software to clean, manage and analyse data. **Assessment methods** Students' professional skills are assessed by: • Data journalism stories. • Essays. • Presentations.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

Full Time: 1 Year

MSc Digital Journalism				
TERM 1 JCM4000 Multimedia and Digital Journalism Skills (30 credits).	TERM 1 JCM4001 Reporting and Accountability: Power and Ethics (30 credits)	TERM 2 JCM4002 Big Data and Coding for Journalism (30 credits)	TERM 2 JCM4003 Technological Advance, Trends, and Innovation in an age of Digital Disruption. (30 credits)	TERM 3 JCM4004 Major Project (60 credits)

Part Time: 2 Years

Year 1 TERM 1 JCM4000 Multimedia and Digital Journalism Skills (30 credits)	Year 1 TERM 2 JCM4003 Technological Advance, Trends, and Innovation in an age of Digital Disruption. (30 credits)	Year 2 TERM 1 JCM4001 Reporting and Accountability: Power and Ethics (30 credits)	Year 2 TERM 2 JCM4002 Big Data and Coding for Journalism (30 credits)	Year 2 TERM 3 JCM4004 Major Project (60 credits)

4

12.2 Levels and modules
Starting in academic year 2010/11 the University is changing the way it references modules to state the level of study in which these are delivered. This is to comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. This implementation will be a gradual process whilst records are updated. Therefore the old coding is bracketed below.

Level 7

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: JCM4000 Multimedia and Digital Journalism Skills. JCM4001 Reporting and Accountability: Power and Ethics. JCM4002 Big Data and Coding for Journalism. JCM4003 Technological Advance, Trends, and Innovation in an age of Digital Disruption. JCM4004 Major Project.	N/A.	

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	**Module code**

13. Curriculum map
See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations
https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/assessment/regulations

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support

There is support from tutors and encouragement to seek work experience.

We have facilitated a number of work experience opportunities from our London campus, i.e. at the *Observer*, *Huffington Post*, BBC London and London Live. Students will have tutorials and sessions on securing work placements, and put in touch with MDX Works' services in their first term.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Graduates of all types of Master's degrees are equipped to enter a variety of types of employment (either subject-specific or generalist) or to continue academic study at a higher level, for example a doctorate. Prospective students could find themselves in the following jobs:

- Journalists, news writers, editors and reporters – specifically as data journalists or as international correspondents.
- Working for international organisations, charities, NGOs.
- Online platforms have expanded rapidly in the past decade. Google is now as big an employer of journalists as major broadcasters.
- Analysing or producing media for various corporations and companies in the communications sector.

Middlesex University students have access to MDX Works – an employability service that offers online resources, career advice and feedback on CVs. See [here](#) for more information.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

To ensure a high quality, interactive and experiential learning experience, students are provided with the following:

Induction materials before the course starts, and to refer to as and when they might need it. This material is supposed to be particularly helpful for those students that join us from non-journalistic backgrounds/subject areas.

Academic skills will be assessed as part of a diagnostic and addressed in particular in the module JCM4001

Short videos by module leader to recap and explain key objectives for the week.

Access to thousands of tutorials through LinkedIn Learning.

Weekly online real-time classes are provided on Adobe Connect – at 9am and 6pm UTC. These times have been identified as most appropriate to include UTC 1-12 (Dubai and Sydney for instance) and UTC -1 to -12 (New York and Vancouver for instance).

MDX Play – a space on the module for students to upload audio-visual material and receive feedback from tutors and peers.

Weekly schedules, with online readings, tutorials, videos.

Weekly short lectures by experts, which set the key question for the week, which is discussed on an online discussion forum.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	P5, Journalism.
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	HESA (E) Mass communications & documentation

20. Reference points

Internal documentation:

Middlesex University (2019-20) Middlesex University Regulations.
https://www.mdx.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0028/535186/Regulations-2019-20.pdf

External Documentation:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) JACS 3.0; Principal Subject Codes.

Quality Assurance Agency (2001) The QAA Framework for framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. QAA.

Quality Assurance Agency (2015) Characteristics Statement, Master's Degree
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=6ca2f981_10.

21. Other information
N/A

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Curriculum map for MSc Digital Journalism

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	In-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of digital journalism, informed by current practice, scholarship and research.
A2	Critical awareness of current issues and technological developments in digital journalism.
A3	Knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics.
Cognitive Skills	
B1	Resourcefully identify stories and issues that require further investigation.
B2	Critically reflect on their own progress as a learner.
B3	Assess sources and stories with ethical rigor, learned especially through case studies from around the world about how globalization is affecting journalism standards, practice and ethics.
Practical Skills	
C1	Use journalistic skills and techniques in a digital context.
C2	Retrieve and analyse data to find stories, develop them, and to illustrate them.
C3	Manage a research and journalistic project and demonstrate a high level of research skills.
Professional Skills	
D1	Work effectively as part of a team.
D2	Communicate using well-honed verbal, audio-visual and written communications skills.
D3	Demonstrate numeracy and problem solving skills at a high level.

2018/19

Programme outcomes											
A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3
Highest level achieved by all graduates											

Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3
Multimedia and Digital Journalism Skills.	JCM4000		x		x			x			x		
Reporting and Accountability: Power and Ethics.	JCM4001	x		x		x	x					x	
Big Data and Coding for Journalism.	JCM4002	x							x		x		x
Technological Advance, Trends, and Innovation in an age of Digital Disruption.	JCM4003		x					x					x
Major Project	JCM4004	x		x		x				x		x	