

Postgraduate Diploma Broadcast Journalism



For more information
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All course enquiries to
the Postgraduate
Admissions Office:
pgadmissions@
lcc.arts.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7514 6400

Level: Postgraduate Diploma
Study mode: Full-time
Duration: 30 weeks across three terms of 10 weeks
Start date: October – June
Application: Directly through the College Postgraduate Admissions Office

Course description

Graduates of this course won the two top prizes in the BJTC/BBC Awards 2010 and a third was one of four nominees in The Guardian Media Awards – Student Broadcaster of the Year 2010.

Winner of the Broadcast Training Council Award for Excellence in 2008, the course — the first of its kind in the UK — was started in 1977 in response to demand from employers for trained journalists to staff an increasing number of local radio stations. Now in its 31st year, it is one of the most successful broadcast journalism courses in the country with an outstanding track record. The vast majority of former students are now working in radio and television news rooms across the UK and overseas, many in high profile positions.

The course is highly intensive and hands-on. You will learn all the necessary skills needed to work as journalists in radio, television and online. These skills include news writing, news reading, voice training, researching stories, preparing news bulletins, production of features and documentaries, website building, online production and essential studio techniques, using industry-standard facilities. You will have the opportunity to operate in a simulated media industry context, working to firm deadlines and schedules, under the guidance of professional staff with sound broadcasting experience. The course includes a three-week work placement.

As well as learning practical skills the course covers areas such as media law and contemporary affairs. You will develop an understanding of the importance of

the relationships between broadcasters and their audience and the significance of digital and online developments in the industry. Throughout the course you will also be required to apply rigorous ethical considerations to the work you produce.

The course includes visits to the major radio and TV studios broadcasters in London. You will also have the opportunity to meet politicians and lobby correspondents and hear guest speakers drawn from all areas of broadcasting. (See under 'Who teaches on the course?').

The course is supported by the industry and is accredited by the BJTC (Broadcast Journalism Training Council).

Course structure

Phase 1

- Induction
- Broadcast News Reporting 1
- Media Topics
- Law 1
- Contemporary Affairs
- Online Journalism

Phase 2

- Electives: you will be able to choose two from a range of electives such as music broadcasting, radio sports journalism, project management or case study research
- Law 2
- Work-based Learning
- Broadcast New Reporting 2

FAQs

How do I apply?

Home/EU students should apply directly through the College's Postgraduate Admissions Office. Download an application form from the LCC website at: http://www.lcc.arts.ac.uk/docs/2007_2008_app_form.pdf and send it to:

The Postgraduate Admissions Office, Room WG03, London College of Communication, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6SB, UK.

International/non-UK/EU students should apply via the LCC International Office. Download an application form from the LCC website at: http://www.lcc.arts.ac.uk/docs/international_app.pdf and send it to:

The International Office, Room WG03, London College of Communication, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6SB, UK.

Is there a deadline for applications?

The deadline for applications is 31 August 2012 for entry in the following October, but late applications will be considered. However it is in your interest to submit your application well before this deadline as we begin interviewing in March.

What are the standard admission requirements?

Usually we require an undergraduate degree in any subject and some previous journalism experience. This can be unpaid work on a student newspaper, student radio station or hospital radio. You should also have a wide knowledge of current affairs. If you don't have a degree you will need to have previous experience in the broadcast industry.

Entrance is via application form and a group interview session. Your application should demonstrate that your intention to begin a career in broadcast journalism is founded upon a well-researched and accurate understanding of the state of the industry and the opportunities that it affords. At the interview your abilities as a speaker, writer and team player will be assessed and you'll be given a test to assess your knowledge of news and current affairs.

Do I need to produce a portfolio? If so, what should it contain?

No. But we rigorously test candidates at interview.

Will I need to attend an interview?

Yes, where you will sit a news and current affairs test, team-working test and written and spoken assignments.

Are the requirements different for international students and EU students from outside the UK?

Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate their competence in English to IELTS Level, normally to level 7.5, or demonstrate an equivalent level of achievement.

Students from overseas should contact Vicky Gavulic in the International Office.
Tel: ++44 (0) 20 7514 8138. Email: v.gavulic@lcc.arts.ac.uk

How long is the course?

30 weeks

When does the course start and finish? When are the vacation periods?

The course is a total of 30 weeks long across three terms — Oct–Dec, Jan–March and April–June and there are four weeks off at Christmas and Easter. We follow the conventional academic term dates.

How much time would I be expected to spend in College?

The course is full-time and runs every day from Monday to Friday. There are usually one or two free periods each week.

Where is the course taught?

At LCC, Elephant and Castle.

What kind of projects does the course involve?

Projects are mostly practical. Typically, they will involve the production of radio and TV pieces, a documentary and an online site.

How will the work be assessed?

There are 12 assessments over the year. These are mainly practical, but there are two written examinations in media law. In addition to formal teaching sessions, seminar work, presentations and tutorial work you will be expected to engage in independent research, work-based learning, essay writing, course work and project work for which both tutor and peer support is provided through individual tutorials, group discussions and peer review.

What are the facilities like?

The College has three fully-equipped radio studios, a talks studio and a newsroom with 30 work stations. The facility was built in 2003 and is among one of the most advanced university newsrooms in the UK. The newsroom and studios are all equipped with ENPS, Radioman, Quick Edit Pro, Burli, BBC and Sky and IRN news feeds. A portable recording kit (professional Marantz recorder) is issued to each student as part of the course fee. Our technology mirrors that used by the BBC.

In addition the LCC campus is well equipped with a large library and information centre with open access computer facilities, an advice and information centre, exhibition galleries, lecture theatres, studios, laboratories, teaching areas, a shop, refectory, coffee bar and student bar. There is also an Enterprise Centre for Creative Arts which provides information, events and advice on becoming self employed in the creative industries.

What equipment will I be expected to have?

We will provide all the equipment you need for the course. However, home internet access would be useful.

Would I be expected to have any prior knowledge of particular software or any other technical skills?

No, although being familiar with keyboarding and MS Windows would be extremely useful.

What kind of people should I expect to meet on the course?

About a third of students are recent graduates, a third are adding to experience already gained in the industry and the remainder are career changers. Ages normally range from 21 to 45. A firm grasp of a relevant discipline is extremely useful. This can range from English or politics to modern languages or perhaps physics or engineering — any subject that is of practical use to a journalist. Some people are making a career change or joining the course to update and enhance their knowledge; others are intending to gain the necessary skills to land their first job.

Who teaches on the course?

The Course Director is Martin Shaw, himself a graduate of the course. His career began in commercial radio as a newsreader and reporter in Coventry. He then moved to the BBC in London. Martin was a reporter, newsreader and producer at BBC London before being appointed news editor of the station. He has also worked in regional television news. He is assisted by Rebecca Pearce, another graduate of the course who until recently was the producer of BBC Breakfast. There is a full time technician assigned to this course. Law is taught by leading industry lawyer, Glen Del Medico.

Guest speakers in 2007 included Helen Boaden (an LCC alumna, now head of BBC News), John Sopel (another graduate and now one of the main presenters on BBC), David Mannion (Editor-in-chief, ITV news and also Visiting Professor of the course), John Waite (presenter of R4's *Face the Facts* and editors from SKY, the BBC and commercial radio. Our 'newsdays' are overseen by editors from the industry (six from the BBC and six from commercial radio) and elements of the course are taught by industry professionals. We also employ a professional broadcast voice coach.

What are the distinctive features of the course?

The course is one of the longest-established broadcast journalism courses in the country with some of the best facilities in the UK and superb links to the broadcast industry. We have an extensive list of guest speakers, excellent industry contacts and opportunities for field visits. The course continues to be rigorous in matching the demands of the industry and providing a reliable route to a career in radio and television.

The BJTC said in 2007: "This course continues to go from strength to strength — the teaching team has been broadened, strengthened and the range of professional skills now available is even better than before... There was real tangible enthusiasm for the course, which for most students had delivered even beyond their expectations, which we know are already high, given its reputation."

What do students do when they leave?

Ninety percent of students are employed in the industry within three months of graduation — most of them in local radio stations. The BBC and commercial broadcasters use the course as a recruitment ground for the next generation of broadcast journalists. Our graduates typically join BBC local radio or a commercial radio station and then move on to their chosen fields after a couple of years. Some go straight to television jobs. In 2007 two students went to the BBC as TV producers and a third is at CNN. Recent graduates are presenting on BBC's London TV and *60 Seconds*, ITV News and *London Today*. Others have gone straight to jobs with MTV, BBC (*The Culture Show*, *Watchdog*, *Parliament*) and BBC World. Two former students are Helen Boaden, BBC Director of News and Jane Root, former controller BBC 2, now working for the Discovery Network in the USA.

A recent graduate, Amy Lewis, won the Independent Radio News Reporter of the Year award in 2006 for her radio feature on the impact of the Tsunami in Sri Lanka. She now works as a reporter for Meridian TV. In 2007, graduate Ray Sadri won the same award after just 10 months in the industry.

What do former students say about the course?

"When I graduated from the course last year I was offered a short-term contract at BBC London, working in TV news. Within a couple of months I was offered a broadcast journalist role working on the BBC London website. From that I moved into producing for TV News, and I am now presenting the morning news on BBC Breakfast ... I knew a postgraduate diploma in broadcast journalism was an essential passport into news and I only had eyes for the LCC — quite simply it had the best reputation. The course didn't let me down. Consistent package-making assignments really gave me a chance to find my style and learn all the essential techniques. The strong focus on voice has really helped me at BBC London and the tutors' constant support and attention was invaluable. I found the LCC course thorough and demanding, but I enjoyed every minute of it, and it has certainly reaped professional rewards."

Alice Bhandhukravi (graduate 2006)

"Although I only graduated last year, I have already been given some fantastic opportunities in both radio and television. I have no doubt this is because of the exceptional teaching and training I received while studying at LCC. Every day, I put into practice something I learnt on the course, whether it is doing an interview, writing a script, or getting to grips with media law. I left the course with plenty of experience and this has been invaluable in helping me make the transition from classroom to newsroom."

Lauren Carter (graduate 2008)

How much does it cost?

For information about fees visit the website at <http://www.arts.ac.uk/pg-fees.htm> or call the Postgraduate Admissions Office on +44 020 7514 6000, option 3.

Currently we have three Bloomberg scholarships. Details will be given at interview. The BJTC (Broadcast Journalism Training Council) website also offers good advice.

Are there any additional fees?

No.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about the course, contact the Course Director, Martin Shaw on: s.shaw@lcc.arts.ac.uk

For administrative and enrollment matters, please contact the Postgraduate Admissions Office on +44 (0) 20 7514 6400, email: pgadmissions@lcc.arts.ac.uk or visit the website at: www.lcc.arts.ac.uk.