

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF JOURNALISM
(MJ)**

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Journalism in the academic year 2026-27 and thereafter.

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference indicating that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Journalism (MJ) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed curriculum specified in the syllabus, or a prescribed course of study in one of the following specialisation(s): Documentary Filmmaking. The specialisation will not necessarily be offered every year.

Admission requirements

MJ 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Journalism, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) who are seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall have a score of 587 or above (paper-based test) or 240 or above (computer-based test) or 95 or above (Internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or a minimum overall band of 7.0 with no subtest lower than 6.0 in International English Language Testing System (IELTS); and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.

MJ 1.1. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree from this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they possess proven professional experience in journalism, show evidence of excellence in the practice of journalism and proof of competence in the English language and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if appropriate. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

MJ 2. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Journalism (Documentary Filmmaking specialisation), candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) who are seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and

- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.

MJ 2.1. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree from this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in a few exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they demonstrate success and expertise in the field of documentary filmmaking, and proven ability to create impactful and high-quality documentaries (e.g. having directed one to two award-winning documentaries or having extensive experience as producers of multiple award-winning documentaries); and show proof of competence in the English language and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if appropriate. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

MJ 3.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic abilities or their abilities to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register in the curriculum until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Award of degree

MJ 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Journalism, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) shall follow instruction on the syllabuses prescribed and complete all written and practical work which may be required; and
 - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.
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Period of study

MJ 5.

- (a) The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study.
 - (b) In the Documentary Filmmaking specialisation, the curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study.
 - (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of Studies.
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Completion of curriculum

MJ 6. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall follow the instruction on the syllabuses prescribed and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and practical work;
- (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory capstone project as prescribed in the syllabuses; and

- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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Exemption

MJ 7. Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, up to 12 credits in the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of Studies, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

Assessment

MJ 8. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MJ 9. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MJ 10. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of credits, not including the capstone project, taken in an academic year may be permitted to make up for the failed credits in the following manner:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment in the failed course within a specified period; or
- (b) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (c) for elective courses, taking another course of the same number of credits in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MJ 11. Candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory capstone project may be permitted to submit a revised capstone project within a specified period.

MJ 12. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MJ 13. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MJ 14. Candidates who

- (a) have failed more than half of the number of credits taken in an academic year; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or in any new course taken in lieu of a failed course under MJ 10; or
- (c) are not permitted to submit a revised capstone project under MJ 11; or
- (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory revised capstone project under MJ 11; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration

may be required to discontinue their studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

Candidates who have committed plagiarism in any written paper, examination, or other classroom assignment may be required to discontinue their studies.

Grading system

MJ 15. Individual courses shall be graded according to the following grading systems:

(a) Letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

or

(b) 'Pass' or 'Fail'.

Courses which are graded according to (b) above will not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

Classification of awards

MJ 16. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF JOURNALISM (MJ)

These syllabuses apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Journalism in the academic year 2026-27 and thereafter.

PURPOSE

The degree is a professional programme designed to produce graduates for the local, regional and international media and related industries who would practice in English or Chinese, or both. The curriculum emphasizes the practice of journalism as well as the ethics, laws, history and principles of journalism. It also has a special focus on issues facing Greater China and the Asia Pacific region.

Candidates are trained to report critically and intelligently about the basic issues of the day in all forms of media. Graduates will not only be competent practitioners of journalism, but they will also help raise standards of the field by pioneering in various forms of journalism across different platforms. Information technology is an integral part of the programme. Students will also be able to apply their training in critical thinking and communication skills to careers in other professions and industries.

CURRICULUM

The programme shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study, or not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 360 hours of prescribed work. To receive the award of Master of Journalism, candidates shall complete not less than 60 and not more than 72 credits, including:

- (a) 4 compulsory courses (6 credits each),
- (b) 1 compulsory capstone experience course (6 credits),
- (c) 5-7 elective courses (6 credits each) to meet the 60-72 credit mark as prescribed in the syllabuses below as partial requirement for the fulfilment of the degree.

Waivers may be granted for compulsory courses to students with extensive professional experience, subject to the approval of the Programme Director. Students must replace the number of waived credits with courses of the same credit value.

Candidates may take no more than 12 credits that satisfy two elective courses offered under approved graduate-level degree curricula in the Faculties of Arts, Law, Social Sciences and other divisions of teaching. A list of such elective courses will be published by the Programme Director from year to year. Students may seek approval from the Programme Director for permission to take courses outside the published list.

Optional Summer Institutes/ Programmes:

Summer programmes/courses may be offered in conjunction with well-established universities in Chinese Mainland or overseas. Candidates could be exempted from up to 6 credits upon successful completion of the programme and credits could be given.

Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:

- JMSC6001. Reporting and writing (6 credits)
- JMSC6093. Video news production (6 credits)
- JMSC6109. Media law, ethics and A.I. governance (6 credits)
- JMSC6130. News literacy and digital fact-checking (6 credits)

Capstone experience course (Compulsory)

Candidates shall complete the following course:

- JMSC6044. Master's project (6 credits)

Candidates shall complete 5-7 of any elective courses listed below to fulfil the 60-72 credit programme requirement.

Elective courses (reporting and writing)

- JMSC6014. Advanced reporting and writing (English) (6 credits)
- JMSC6027. Covering China (6 credits)
- JMSC6041. Special topics in journalism II (6 credits)
- JMSC6103. Reporting global affairs (6 credits)
- JMSC6111. Long form and feature writing (6 credits)
- JMSC6126. Covering climate change (6 credits)
- JMSC6127. Gender and the journalist (6 credits)
- JMSC6134. Covering technology and A.I. (6 credits)
- JMSC7001. Arts and culture journalism (6 credits)
- JMSC7007. Seminar topics in business journalism (6 credits)
- JMSC7008. Business news writing (6 credits)
- JMSC7010. Economics and financial analysis for journalists (6 credits)

Elective courses (visual and audio)

- JMSC6045. Special topics in journalism III (6 credits)
- JMSC6082. Photojournalism (6 credits)
- JMSC6085. Documentary film appreciation (6 credits)
- JMSC6118. Advanced video and multimedia production (6 credits)
- JMSC6119. Presenting for news and media (6 credits)
- JMSC6120. Podcasting and audio news (6 credits)
- JMSC6125. Generative A.I. in media applications (6 credits)
- JMSC6131. Advanced video production (6 credits)
- JMSC6132. Multimedia production (6 credits)
- JMSC6135. Advanced generative A.I. in creative media (6 credits)
- JMSC6141. Storytelling for social impact: International perspectives and practices (6 credits)

Elective courses (digital and data)

- JMSC6046. Special topics in journalism IV (6 credits)
- JMSC6055. Research methods for media studies (6 credits)
- JMSC6113. Data journalism (6 credits)
- JMSC6116. Media data analysis (6 credits)
- JMSC6117. Digital media entrepreneurship (6 credits)
- JMSC6124. Data skills (6 credits)
- JMSC6133. A.I. tools for journalists (6 credits)
- JMSC6140. A.I. and media innovation (6 credits)
- JMSC6142. Mastering social media for journalists (6 credits)

Elective courses (general)

JMSC6040.	Special topics in journalism I (6 credits)
JMSC6104.	Readings in China media and society (6 credits)
JMSC6115.	Journalism internship (6 credits)
JMSC6121.	Independent study project (6 credits)
JMSC6128.	Public Communication, campaigns and engagements (6 credits)
JMSC6204.	China's documentary and society (6 credits)

The elective courses listed above may not be offered each year; depending on the exigencies of staffing and student demands, additional courses may be offered and the courses listed may be offered in different years of study. Candidates should consult the Programme Office for the courses offered in any one year.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory courses

JMSC6001. Reporting and writing (6 credits)

As a key building block in the MJ programme, this course covers issues applicable to all media — print, broadcast and online. It emphasizes the development of reporting and writing skills as well as journalistic instincts and ethical judgment. Students learn by doing, sometimes under the pressure of deadlines and always under the supervision of editor-teachers who are experienced professionals. Students will be introduced to specialized reporting on such topics as politics, environment, education, social welfare and local, regional and international affairs. Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6093. Video news production (6 credits)

Video Journalism is becoming the world's dominant journalism language today. If you don't understand "video", you may find yourself, by modern media standards, journalistically illiterate. Whether you love the idea of learning to use video in your storytelling or hate it, to be a paid, professional communicator today you must be willing to add video to your repertoire of skills. Employers demand it and our audience deserve it. We live in three-dimensions. We should be capable of reporting in them as well. Video provides the option of bringing our sources to life; we see their faces, hear their voices, listen to them laugh or weep, whisper or sing, watch them run or dance, save lives or take them. It's powerful, impactful and — presently, irreplaceable. It can also be difficult to master, requiring both physical and cognitive effort, technical and editorial thinking. We will help you with both, but you must also help yourself by committing to learning and doing. In the short time we have together, we can only expose you to these skills. To master them you must practice. Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6109. Media law, ethics and A.I. governance (6 credits)

The course introduces non-law students to media laws in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and issues of A.I. governance. The first part of the course introduces students to the Hong Kong laws regarding of indecency/obscenity, defamation, copyright, contempt of court, privacy, access to information and other aspects of law that affect mass communication in common law jurisdictions. The second part covers China's regulatory framework, licensing, and socialist legal principles and content restrictions, state secrets, and liability for defamation and privacy violations. Finally, the course provides a comparative overview of global A.I. governance, contrasting the EU's risk-based A.I. Act, the US model, and China's security-integrated, technology-specific regulations. Each session emphasizes practical risk scenarios and legal reasoning that would serve as references for journalists and content creators. The legal and ethical issues faced by media professionals, especially with the advent of generative A.I. will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6130. News literacy and digital fact-checking (6 credits)

The proliferation of misinformation has become a global concern in recent years. Questionable rumours, dubious claims, fake photos and videos, conspiracy theories, propaganda, and other types of falsehood and deliberately manipulative content are now all part of what we consume every day. Never before has the need for "news literacy" been more urgent for our healthy civic life. We need to understand the complexity of what experts call "information disorder" and its intertwined ecology composed of human behaviour, computer algorithms, and strategic communication tactics. We need to know how to effectively navigate through the abundance of media content masqueraded as news in order to identify dependable facts while recognising an intricate web of factors affecting our perceptions, from culture to psychology to ideology. In the field of journalism, there has been a steady increase of fact-checking efforts to counter the trend. This inquiry-based, hands-on course teaches tools and techniques used by professional fact-checkers in order for you to acquire a more advanced digital tool dexterity and analytical mindset.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone experience course (Compulsory)

JMSC6044. Master's project (6 credits)

Option A:

The Master's Project or capstone allows students to apply the journalistic skills, tools and principles that they have acquired during the MJ programme and produce either one substantial piece, or a body of journalistic work, that is of publishable quality. Students begin to plan their Master's Project in their first semester with their advisors. There are a variety of methods open to students to fulfill their capstone obligations: group-based work (for example video, multi-media and web-based productions), or individual reporting projects that will produce magazine length print reports of about 1,500 – 3,000 words or its equivalent.

Students are required to devote 30 hours for meetings with the supervisor and in supervised field work or research, plus 90 hours of independent study and research. The project should be presented by May 31 of the last academic year of the curriculum.

Option B:

Students who have proven journalism experience, who are working journalists and part-time students can have the option of working on one multimedia story (enterprise project) as their capstone [for the entire project month of May.] They can choose an area of dominant emphasis for the project; text, still photography with text, or video, depending on which medium best suits the storytelling. The enterprise story ideas must be pre-approved by the programme director, in a written pitch email on or before January 31 of the last academic year of the curriculum.

Each student-developed story aimed for the capstone experience will be evaluated on the basis of faculty established criteria. The enterprise project should be presented by May 31 of the last academic year of the curriculum. Students are required to devote 30 hours for meetings with the supervisor and in supervised field work or research, plus 90 hours of independent study and research.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective courses (reporting and writing)

JMSC6014. Advanced reporting and writing (English) (6 credits)

This course is for those who have successfully completed Semester One Basic Newswriting and Reporting, who want or need further work on their basic newswriting skills, and who want to try to apply those skills writing short breaking news stories in a newsroom-like laboratory setting, mastering short wire-service style news stories and working under deadline pressure.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Prerequisite: JMSC6001. Reporting and writing

JMSC6027. Covering China (6 credits)

The course introduces students to the methods, as well as the ethical and cultural issues, involved in reporting on contemporary China. The course examines the public information structure in the People's Republic of China, news sources and the use of published documents and statistics, with special focus on the politics and economy of China. It will also give an overview of the state of the media and news topics in China.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6041. Special topics in journalism II (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the supervision of instructors. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The aim of the course is to develop a significant level of understanding and insight into issues that have an impact on the contemporary practice of journalism and the media. The course provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media issues for publication in academic journals, but is also aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on the profession.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6103. Reporting global affairs (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the world of foreign correspondence, including the challenges and rewards of reporting on complex global issues. These range from wars and conflicts to scarcity of natural resources to the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities. Students will critically examine the coverage of countries and topics in the international media, hear first-hand from correspondents in the field, and examine the crucial interplay of international reporting, public opinion and foreign policy decision-making. Students will also learn how to cover international "beats" by being assigned countries and global themes that they will report on each week in the class and for the course's global news website. Taught by instructors with a broad range of varied international reporting experiences, and supplemented by guest lecturers and visitors, this is a course for aspiring foreign correspondents or others interested in expanding their knowledge of global issues in the media.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6111. Long form and feature writing (6 credits)

This course aims to widen students' knowledge of journalistic forms and deepen their story-telling ability in English. It focuses on profiles, features, news features, news analyses and opinion writing, including editorials, columns, essays and reviews. Through lectures, examination of quality works and writing assignments, students learn how facts can be turned into stories with insights and points of view.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6126. Covering climate change (6 credits)

Over the past few years there has been a growing urgency to cover what the New York Times' executive editor called the "story of our time." Media groups like the Columbia Journalism Review and The Guardian have spearheaded a campaign to get outlets to cover climate change and devise a playbook for journalism. This comes as activists around the world band together to call for governments and businesses to take urgent action on an issue scientists have said will get much worse very quickly. This course will springboard on these latest developments and introduce the idea that climate change is not just an environmental issue, but a social, political and business one. It will affect health, security, economy, politics, food, water and energy supply, and impact Asia most severely, displacing people and threatening their livelihoods. Students will not only need to follow pollution and climate, they will need to follow the money - the way food is produced, the way people and goods move, and the way infrastructure is built to support them as they adapt and mitigate for a hotter Asia. Through their reporting, students will be able to show change at the highest levels of government, in the world's boardrooms and in the homes of individuals to combat a warming climate.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6127. Gender and the journalist (6 credits)

From #Metoo to the pandemic, some of today's biggest stories are shaped by gender issues and news organizations increasingly require reporters and editors to have a grounding in gender concepts. Meanwhile social media has facilitated important conversations about gender equality while having a detrimental impact on the way people think about their bodies. This course will help students uncover stories that may otherwise go unnoticed by looking critically at gender as a concept and considering how it intersects with other complex identities such as race and sexuality. We'll explore contemporary perspectives on gender, including basic gender theory and an overview of the role journalists play in facilitating social change. We'll talk about some of today's hottest social media trends, how they impact the mental and emotional health of young people, and how to write about them.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6134. Covering technology and A.I. (6 credits)

This course will take students on the journey of the recent developments of the technology industry, its impact on individuals, businesses and society, and how to cover them with in a critical way. The course will cover the tech and AI landscapes in the U.S., China and other key markets in the world, and the interrelations between tech and geopolitics as well as tech and business. Throughout the course, students will delve into some of the most impactful stories in the field, learn how to identify key thematic narratives and develop their reportage techniques.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC7001. Arts and culture journalism (6 credits)

In this course, we will explore the different forms of coverage of arts and culture, a key component for most media. The course will review some of the stories that journalists have written or produced about art and culture in a variety of media in recent years to learn what differences exist between such coverage and traditional news coverage. It will focus on traditional modes of covering arts and culture including profile interviews, reviews, longer-form articles and programmes, and documentaries. We'll look at these modes across different media platforms from online to print to broadcast. The course also will take a specific look at the cultural scene in Hong Kong, as well as international coverage of entertainment, arts and culture. You will spend time out covering cultural events in Hong Kong over the course of the semester. The course also features key guest lecturers from the creative industries in Hong Kong and also cultural media.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC7007. Seminar topics in business journalism (6 credits)

This topical course prompts students to engage with an array of complex issues and trends at the forefront of business journalism, such as financial market innovation, tech dominance, sustainable investing, the implications of deglobalisation and new models of media entrepreneurship, among others. This is not primarily a skills-based course but focuses instead on developing a conceptual framework for identifying, understanding and analysing newsworthy developments. The goal is to cultivate intense curiosity about economic and financial events, and to elevate students' capabilities for interpreting and narrating with clarity amid complexity.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC7008. Business news writing (6 credits)

This hands-on course helps students develop practical skills for identifying what makes a good business story, and a working familiarity with the tools and techniques needed to report and write those stories in a global context. Specific topics to be covered will include writing about financial markets, analysing corporate earnings and disclosures, covering macroeconomic issues, and writing about monetary policy and central banks, among others. This course prioritizes practice over theory; students will be tasked with delivering several publication-ready business and financial news reports on strict deadlines throughout the term, applying a variety of assigned formats to covering real-world events.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC7010. Economics and financial analysis for journalists (6 credits)

This course introduces key elements of economics and financial analysis for journalists, bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and practical applications. Students will gain essential knowledge and tools for interpreting and analysing economic data, financial statements, and market trends. This includes the basics of macroeconomic and microeconomic principals, concepts, and indicators; fiscal and monetary policy; international trade, foreign exchange and the role of government. Financial analysis will focus on the essentials of corporate income statements, balance sheets and cash flow statements; principles of investing, valuing securities, and portfolio construction; and corporate fundraising on public and private markets. Basic concepts of statistics and probabilities will be introduced, but the wont focus on econometrics or mathematics. Throughout the course, particular emphasis will be placed on applying concepts to real-world journalistic scenarios and case studies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective courses (visual and audio)

JMSC6045. Special topics in journalism III (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the supervision of instructors. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The aim of the course is to develop a significant level of understanding and insight into issues that have an impact on the contemporary practice of journalism and the media. The course provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media issues for publication in academic journals, but is also aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on the profession.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6082. Photojournalism (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of news photography: how to operate a professional digital camera and how to capture professional-quality news images. Using Hong Kong as a backdrop, students learn how to shoot images of urban news and feature events. By the end of the class each student will have produced a comprehensive photographic portfolio.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6085. Documentary film appreciation (6 credits)

This course will introduce students to documentary film as a form of journalistic and artistic expression. The course will adopt a historical approach and examine how documentary films both reflect and impact societies. Students will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of films, including commentary-based films, pure Direct Cinema films, poetic essay films, propaganda films, and controversial film forms such as hybrid documentaries and mockumentaries. Through lectures and tutorials, students will analyse the content, style, and methodology of documentary film, developing critical analysis skills and engaging in a multidisciplinary study of the subject. Discussions will encompass content-related, formal, and particularly ethical aspects of the different forms of documentary film.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6118. Advanced video and multimedia production (6 credits)

This course is designed for students who have already acquired basic skills in creating audiovisual journalistic content. The objective is to prepare students to create more sophisticated audiovisual content such as reports, documentaries, web and TV non-fiction series, and AI-created content (text to image and text to video) in their journalistic work. In doing so, it is intended to enhance students' skills in camera work, visual storytelling, working with social actors, innovative storytelling, and editing. As a result, students should be able to engage viewers with unique visuality, emotionality, and storytelling power. The key objective of the course is to get students ready for the challenges of the rapidly changing media world, including managing and producing AI-generated content.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6119. Presenting for news and media (6 credits)

This course is designed to introduce the fundamentals of writing, producing and presenting news for video as practiced at an international level as well as for social media platforms. This is a practical course that includes frequent filming, writing and presenting exercises and assignments to be done during class time and as homework. Students will gain an overall understanding of how the TV news process works, from news gathering, to news writing, to the production of newscasts and presenting on camera, with and without a script. Students will gain hands-on experience creating their own stories for news and social media using both camera and mobile phones. They will learn how presenting to video works. Students will have the chance to operate traditional studio equipment involved in producing TV news. They will gain experience speaking on camera in the roles of anchor and reporter. The class will simulate a real broadcast newsroom environment. With the prevalence of social media, students will learn how to cut down longer form video stories into bite-size pieces to be used on social media platforms as many news organisations do these days.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6120. Podcasting and audio news (6 credits)

Podcasting's resurgence in recent years and the durability of radio news make it essential that the well- rounded journalist have an understanding of how audio production and storytelling work. This course will provide beginning level exposure to the equipment and skills necessary for recording and editing audio content, audio storytelling, interviewing skills, the nature and science of sound, what defines a podcast, how to make a podcast available to the public, announcing and vocal performance technique and 'finding your own voice'. Assignments will include a variety of recording, interviewing and producing tasks, with the aim of each student creating publishable audio content. A strong level of spoken English and English listening comprehension are essential for this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6125. Generative A.I. in media applications (6 credits)

The basic course "Generative A.I. in Media Applications" explores the use of Artificial Intelligence in journalism and media. Students will gain basic insights into machine learning, the use of already established applications such as ChatGPT, NewsGPT, Midjourney and Stable Diffusion for journalistic and multimedia content creation, as well as ethical issues. In doing so, students will be trained theoretically and hands-on in prompt design, text, image, and video generation, deep fakes, news generation and fact-checking. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand and effectively use A.I. applications in their journalistic and multimedia work.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6131. Advanced video production (6 credits)

This is a hands-on practical course on the techniques of documentary style video production. Students will be introduced to the different styles of documentary videos. They will learn and practice all the necessary steps to produce a short documentary film. In addition, they will also be introduced to the latest applications of Generative AI in the creative process and learn how to use them.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6132. Multimedia production (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the process of creating, editing, and distributing multimedia content. Throughout the course, students will learn the fundamental concepts, techniques, and tools used in multimedia production, including digital video, audio, graphic and web design. The course will also emphasize the importance of storytelling in multimedia projects. Students will gain hands-on experience in creating multimedia projects using various software applications and platforms.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6135. Advanced generative A.I. in creative media (6 credits)

This production-focused course explores the cutting edge of generative AI in creative and journalistic media. Students will learn to design and produce AI-assisted audiovisual content across a variety of formats, including documentary reenactments, short fictional films, AI-generated commercials, music videos, and video newsroom content such as explainers, anchored reports, and synthetic B-roll packages. Emphasizing both creative innovation and journalistic integrity, the course provides hands-on training in prompt design, LoRA model training, storyboarding, narrative development, synthetic voice generation, and AI video creation. Students will also learn how classical skills—such as cinematography, editing, scripting, and sound design—can be reinterpreted and adapted for use in AI-based workflows, especially within the emerging landscape of news and factual media. Ethical, legal, and aesthetic questions around synthetic media are critically examined. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to work creatively, responsibly, and effectively within the rapidly evolving AI-driven media landscape.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Prerequisite: JMSC6125. Generative A.I. in media applications

JMSC6141. Storytelling for social impact: International perspectives and practices (6 credits)

The course will focus on how to better communicate social impact through storytelling, especially using digital media and online campaigns. Effective storytelling can raise awareness for social issues, engage grassroots communities, and benefit from cross-border collaborations. Students will be exposed to innovative ways of storytelling beyond traditional journalism, and explore how some of the latest technologies and platforms can be utilized. The course will examine cases of impactful engagements, inviting guest speakers from the international development sector and encouraging practical exercises.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective courses (digital and data)

JMSC6046. Special topics in journalism IV (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the supervision of instructors. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The aim of the course is to develop a significant level of understanding and insight into issues that have an impact on the contemporary practice of journalism and the media. The course provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media issues for publication in academic journals, but is also aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on the profession.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6055. Research methods for media studies (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide advanced training in qualitative and quantitative approaches applicable to the study of journalism and the news media. Students focus on a variety of philosophical and conceptual approaches to research as well as tools that help them conduct scholarly research in journalism. The course surveys the range of research methodologies currently used in media studies and the strengths and weaknesses associated with the respective research outcomes. Students taking the course are expected to have a basic understanding of research methodologies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6113. Data journalism (6 credits)

This course will provide students the tools needed to find and ask for information, basic computer- assisted reporting skills to make sense of data, and journalistic techniques to identify, report and write the stories for a general audience.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6116. Media data analysis (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide training for master-level journalism or communication major students about the basic techniques of web and social media analytics. It covers a variety of tools that help them conduct a range of applications including web scraping, API programming, text mining, sentiment analysis, network analysis, data visualization, as well as web site analytics. The course is designed and taught in problem-based or project-driven mode which aims to facilitate real life application of the techniques in a variety of media and communication settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6117. Digital media entrepreneurship (6 credits)

Digital media is radically transforming the industry in which students will practice journalism during their careers. This practicum will provide students with an intense 12-week introduction to the key trends shaping the media industry today as a foundation for the key focus of the course, media entrepreneurship. The course will focus on the process of conceiving, developing and creating a new media business in the context of these key trends.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6124. Data skills (6 credits)

This hands-on course will give you an introduction to the theory and practice of working with data to tell stories, focusing on core concepts, competencies, mindsets and best practices you'll need to get started. This will not be a math class or a computer programming class, but you will be expected to embrace numbers and coding to advance your skill set and build a knowledge base from which you can continue to learn and pursue data-driven stories. We'll begin with an overview of the core concepts you need to understand how to work with data. Then we'll learn the key steps involved in any data-driven news-story: gathering data, cleaning and refining your data, joining it with other data sets and analyzing it. Along the way, you

will complete homework assignments to practice what you learn.
Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6133. A.I. tools for journalists (6 credits)

A.I. applications for journalism provides students with a newsroom-focused, highly practical skill set in A.I.-assisted research, reporting, analysis, multilingual journalism and workflow automation. Positioned within the A.I. & Innovation Concentration, the course is intended to complement other courses' offerings – Data Journalism, A.I. & Media Innovation, Generative A.I. in Media Applications, and News Literacy & Digital Fact-Checking. The course focuses on the uses of A.I. for research, reporting, and writing.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6140. A.I. and media innovation (6 credits)

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies, as well as their impact on media and journalism. The course will offer clarity around AI in the context of media revolution, and it will cover the meanings and definitions of AI, existing AI tools and products that support the content production workflow, and limitations of AI from both technological and ethical perspectives.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6142. Mastering social media for journalists (6 credits)

Digital media is radically transforming the industry in which students will practice journalism during their careers. This practicum will provide students with an intense 12-week introduction to the key trends shaping the media industry today as a foundation for the key focus of the course, media entrepreneurship. The course will focus on the process of conceiving, developing and creating a new media business in the context of these key trends.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective courses (general)

JMSC6040. Special topics in journalism I (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the supervision of instructors. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The aim of the course is to develop a significant level of understanding and insight into issues that have an impact on the contemporary practice of journalism and the media. The course provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media issues for publication in academic journals, but is also aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on the profession.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6104. Readings in China media and society (6 credits)

The course explores the state of media in China, its historical development, its transformation and its role in the political, social and economic life of China. Through lectures and seminars with China experts and veteran journalists, the course offers an overview of the challenges in

covering China, and the state of coverage in the international and Chinese-language media.
Requirements: Chinese language proficiency
Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6115. Journalism internship (6 credits)

Students are required to enroll journalism internship for credits if they undertake journalism or media-related internships during the semesters in September to November or January to May. Those who wish to complete local internships for credits as an elective option must consult the internship co-ordinator for suitability. Students must commit to a minimum of 120 hours internship in journalism or media-related jobs. Students must submit portfolios and evaluation forms at the end of the internship. The internship supervisor must also submit an evaluation of the student's work. Students must also maintain a work journal to obtain credit. The journal would include weekly updates that summarize notable stories covered, challenges encountered, and lessons from the internship.

This course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis and will not be counted in the calculation of the GPA. However, grades will be recorded on the official transcript.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6121. Independent study project (6 credits)

This course provides for individual projects in journalism conducted under the supervision of an instructor. Students engage directly in either news media production, reporting and writing, or a project closely associated with the contemporary practice of the news media. This course is an elective option for the students to earn credits through original, well-defined, faculty-supervised independent study projects. Prior approval from the MJ programme director is required.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6128. Public Communication, campaigns and engagements (6 credits)

This module aims to equip and enhance students with knowledge and techniques in conducting public communications and campaigns on public or political issues. Through examining different cases and examples, students learn to apply research, planning and programme evaluation practices that help ensure success and demonstrate accountability. Students are provided with the opportunities to employ research-based planning and develop effective strategies for public communications and campaign planning.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6204. China's documentary and society (6 credits)

This course aims to explore the sociological and historical background of Chinese documentary works, examine the style and techniques of documentary filmmaking in China, and analyze how documentaries reflect and influence society. Students will improve their critical analysis skills and use a multi-disciplinary approach to study documentary films and social changes in China.

Assessment: 100% coursework

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF JOURNALISM

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING SPECIALISATION (MJ-DFS)

PURPOSE

The specialisation provides comprehensive professional training that prepares graduates for successful careers in the local, regional, and documentary filmmaking industries. The curriculum is designed to cultivate practical skills in documentary filmmaking, while also emphasising the importance of ethics, laws, history, and principles of factual storytelling.

Students will develop the ability to tackle a wide range of topics, including politics, society, and personal subjects, both in terms of content and artistic expression. The specialisation aims to foster the cultivation of an author's unique perspective on these topics, enabling viewers to gain special and exceptional insights.

The concentration is specifically designed to equip students with the skills necessary to navigate the ever-evolving narrative and visual challenges in international TV, streaming, on-line platforms, festival, and cinema markets. Students are encouraged to create innovative and distinctive works of art that captivate audiences. The curriculum covers all forms of documentary filmmaking, ensuring that students are well-prepared to apply these techniques to effectively convey their intended themes.

CURRICULUM

The programme shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study. To receive the award of Master of Journalism, candidates shall complete 72 credits, including:

- (a) 6 compulsory courses (6 credits each)
- (b) 1 compulsory capstone experience course (18 credits)
- (c) 3 of any elective courses listed (6 credits each)

as prescribed in the syllabuses below as partial requirement for the fulfilment of the degree.

Waivers may be granted for compulsory courses to students with extensive professional experience, subject to the approval of the Programme Director. Students must replace the number of waived credits with courses of the same credit value.

Candidates may take no more than 12 credits that satisfy two elective courses offered under approved graduate-level degree curricula in the Faculties of Arts, Law, Social Sciences and other divisions of teaching. A list of such elective courses will be published by the Programme Director from year to year. Students may seek approval from the Programme Director for permission to take courses outside the published list.

Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:

- JMSC6100. Documentary film production (6 credits)
- JMSC6201. The art of non-fictional camerawork (6 credits)
- JMSC6202. Audience design in documentary (6 credits)
- JMSC6203. Post-production in documentary (6 credits)
- JMSC6205. Visual design & producing non-fiction films (6 credits)
- JMSC6207. Documentary sound design (6 credits)

Capstone experience course (Compulsory)

Candidates shall complete the following course:

- JMSC6200. Documentary filmmaking capstone (18 credits)

Elective courses

Candidates shall complete three of the following elective courses to fulfil the 72-credit programme requirement.

- JMSC6085. Documentary film appreciation (6 credits)
- JMSC6125. Generative A.I. in media applications (6 credits)
- JMSC6130. News literacy and digital fact-checking (6 credits)
- JMSC6132. Multimedia production (6 credits)
- JMSC6135. Advanced generative A.I. in creative media (6 credits)
- JMSC6204. China's documentary and society (6 credits)

The elective courses listed above may not be offered each year; depending on the exigencies of staffing and student demands, additional courses may be offered and the courses listed may be offered in different years of study. Candidates should consult the Programme Office for the courses offered in any one year.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory courses

JMSC6100. Documentary film production (6 credits)

This course trains students to produce documentary films. The course covers research, exploration of different styles and perspectives, and the structuring of documentaries as well as ethical and legal issues. Guest speakers, including television programmers and funding agencies, will shed light on fundraising and the pitching of ideas. Students will work in groups to produce a project proposal and a short documentary.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6201. The art of non-fictional camerawork (6 credits)

This course emphasizes the camera's role in visual storytelling. It offers training in camera movements, pacing, lighting, and diverse visual styles, equipping students to craft media narratives for journalism, film, and commercials.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6202. Audience design in documentary (6 credits)

Audience Design in Documentary teaches students the practices of creating audience awareness and engagement around documentary films from an early stage of development to production and release, through a story-based and multi-angle approach. Students will learn concepts and phenomena of global ecosystem around documentary films, discover who their audience might be, find ways to identify how and where they can reach and engage them with an audience-centric approach.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6203. Post-production in documentary (6 credits)

The post-production course in documentary filmmaking teaches students the technical and creative skills required to take raw footage and turn it into a polished, high-quality documentary film. The course also includes the use of the latest Generative AI applications for all stages of the post-production process. Students will learn how to use Generative AI as a supporting element in editing, sound mixing, color grading, as well as in the creation of animation and reenactments for documentary films.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6205. Visual design & producing non-fiction films (6 credits)

This course teaches students creative visual storytelling and practical enhancements in producing documentary films. Students will gain a deeper insight into the concepts of storytelling and narrative structure for nonfiction films. This course includes enhanced proposal writing, a critical case study of producing process from development and financial strategy to production, impact producing, festival strategy and international distribution. Also, students' capstone project filming and editing will be reviewed and discussed in the tutorials.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6207. Documentary sound design (6 credits)

Sound is a crucial yet often underestimated element of documentary filmmaking. This course explores the creative, technical, and narrative roles of sound in non-fiction storytelling, focusing on how sound shapes meaning, emotion, and perspective. Through lectures and hands-on activities, students will learn the fundamentals of production sound recording, dialogue editing, ambience, and documentary sound design practices. The course examines historical and contemporary documentary works to understand sound as both a storytelling tool and an ethical practice, enabling students to develop a critical and practical understanding of sound design in documentary cinema.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone experience course (Compulsory)

JMSC6200. Documentary filmmaking capstone (18 credits)

In this documentary capstone course, students will create a compelling and thought-provoking thesis film with a duration of 20-30 minutes over the academic year. Students are required to

devote 90 hours for background research, defining the story, developing research plan, conducting interviews, collecting visual materials and planning the visual storytelling, 90 hours for meetings with the supervisor and in supervised field work plus 180 hours of production and post-production. The projects should be presented by the end of academic year of the curriculum. Students will work in groups under a designated faculty advisor. Individual projects will only be considered on an exceptional basis and approved by the programme director.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective courses

JMSC6085. Documentary film appreciation (6 credits)

This course will introduce students to documentary film as a form of journalistic and artistic expression. The course will adopt a historical approach and examine how documentary films both reflect and impact societies. Students will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of films, including commentary-based films, pure Direct Cinema films, poetic essay films, propaganda films, and controversial film forms such as hybrid documentaries and mockumentaries. Through lectures and tutorials, students will analyse the content, style, and methodology of documentary film, developing critical analysis skills and engaging in a multidisciplinary study of the subject. Discussions will encompass content-related, formal, and particularly ethical aspects of the different forms of documentary film.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6125. Generative A.I. in media applications (6 credits)

The basic course “Generative A.I. in Media Applications” explores the use of Artificial Intelligence in journalism and media. Students will gain basic insights into machine learning, the use of already established applications such as ChatGPT, NewsGPT, Midjourney and Stable Diffusion for journalistic and multimedia content creation, as well as ethical issues. In doing so, students will be trained theoretically and hands-on in prompt design, text, image, and video generation, deep fakes, news generation and fact-checking.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6130. News literacy and digital fact-checking (6 credits)

The proliferation of misinformation has become a global concern in recent years. Questionable rumours, dubious claims, fake photos and videos, conspiracy theories, propaganda, and other types of falsehood and deliberately manipulative content are now all part of what we consume every day. Never before has the need for "news literacy" been more urgent for our healthy civic life. We need to understand the complexity of what experts call "information disorder" and its intertwined ecology composed of human behaviour, computer algorithms, and strategic communication tactics. We need to know how to effectively navigate through the abundance of media content masqueraded as news in order to identify dependable facts while recognising an intricate web of factors affecting our perceptions, from culture to psychology to ideology. In the field of journalism, there has been a steady increase of fact-checking efforts to counter the trend. This inquiry-based, hands-on course teaches tools and techniques used by professional fact-checkers in order for you to acquire a more advanced digital tool dexterity and analytical mindset.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6132. Multimedia production (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the process of creating, editing, and distributing multimedia content. Throughout the course, students will learn the fundamental concepts, techniques, and tools used in multimedia production, including digital video, audio, graphic and web design. The course will also emphasize the importance of storytelling in multimedia projects. Students will gain hands-on experience in creating multimedia projects using various software applications and platforms.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6135. Advanced generative A.I. in creative media (6 credits)

This production-focused course explores the cutting edge of generative AI in creative and journalistic media. Students will learn to design and produce AI-assisted audiovisual content across a variety of formats, including documentary reenactments, short fictional films, AI-generated commercials, music videos, and video newsroom content such as explainers, anchored reports, and synthetic B-roll packages. Emphasizing both creative innovation and journalistic integrity, the course provides hands-on training in prompt design, LoRA model training, storyboarding, narrative development, synthetic voice generation, and AI video creation. Students will also learn how classical skills—such as cinematography, editing, scripting, and sound design—can be reinterpreted and adapted for use in AI-based workflows, especially within the emerging landscape of news and factual media. Ethical, legal, and aesthetic questions around synthetic media are critically examined. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to work creatively, responsibly, and effectively within the rapidly evolving AI-driven media landscape.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Prerequisite: JMSC6125. Generative A.I. in media applications

JMSC6204. China's documentary and society (6 credits)

This course aims to explore the sociological and historical background of Chinese documentary works, examine the style and techniques of documentary filmmaking in China, and analyze how documentaries reflect and influence society. Students will improve their critical analysis skills and use a multi-disciplinary approach to study documentary films and social changes in China.

Assessment: 100% coursework
