

**REGULATIONS FOR THE
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM (PDipJ)
AND THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF JOURNALISM (MJ)**

(See also General Regulations)

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.

Admission requirements

MJ 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism or the degree of Master of Journalism, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours from this University; or
 - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) obtain a score of 600 or above (paper-based test) or 250 or above (computer-based test) or 100 or above (internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or a minimum overall band of 7 with no subtest lower than 6.0 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) if they are seeking admission on the basis of qualifications from universities or comparable institutions outside Hong Kong in which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English; and
- (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.

MJ 1A. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours 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.

Qualifying examination

- MJ 2.
- (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, and may include a dissertation.
 - (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 Postgraduate Diploma

- MJ 3. To be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism, candidates shall
- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) follow instruction on the syllabuses prescribed and complete all written and practical work which may be required; and
 - (c) satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.

Award of Master degree

- MJ 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Journalism, candidates shall
- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) follow instruction on the syllabuses prescribed and complete all written and practical work which may be required; and
 - (c) satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.

MJ 5. Candidates who have been admitted to the courses leading to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism and who have completed the curriculum for the Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism and satisfied the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below, may be considered for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Journalism within 5 years of their completion of the curriculum of Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism. If candidates are so admitted, and complete the prescribed curriculum for the degree of Master of Journalism, they shall be eligible for the degree of Master of Journalism, but shall not be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism. Candidates admitted under this regulation to the courses leading to the award of Master of Journalism who fail to satisfy the examiners under MJ4 but who satisfy the examiners under MJ3 shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism.

Length of curriculum

MJ 6. The curriculum of the Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism shall extend over not less than one academic year and not more than two academic years of part-time study or equivalent, and shall include written examinations administered in accordance with the regulations and syllabuses set out below.

MJ 7. The curriculum of the Master of Journalism 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 300 hours of prescribed work, and shall include written examinations administered in accordance with the regulations and syllabuses set out below.

Completion of curriculum

- MJ 8. To complete the curriculum, candidates
- (a) shall follow the instruction on the syllabuses prescribed and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and practical work; and
 - (b) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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Examinations

MJ 9. An assessment of the candidates' coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in practical work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates' result in each written paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute part or whole of the examination of one or more courses.

- MJ 10. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of units to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted
- (a) to present themselves either for re-examination in the course or courses of failure, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum, or for examination in the same number of new units, except those units designated as compulsory are not replaceable under this provision; or

- (b) to repeat a year of the curriculum and present themselves for examination in the courses prescribed for the repeated year.

MJ 11. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed practical work may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in practical work within a specified period.

MJ 12. Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from the examination.

MJ 13. Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment, or in practical work in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners and are not permitted to repeat a year of the curriculum under the provisions of Regulation MJ 10; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course examined by means of coursework assessment, or practical work at a second attempt; or in any new course selected under the provision of MJ 10(a)

may be required to discontinue their studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

Examination results

MJ 14. A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the postgraduate diploma or degree requirements and are to be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism or Master of Journalism shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' postgraduate or degree diplomas.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM (PDIPJ) AND THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF JOURNALISM (MJ)

PURPOSE

The diploma/degree is a professional programme designed to produce graduates for the local, regional and international media 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 think 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, including print, broadcasting and new media. Information technology is an integral part of the programme.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Master of Journalism

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 300 hours of prescribed work. To receive the award of Master of Journalism, candidates shall complete not less than 33 and not more than 36 units, including 7 core courses as prescribed in the syllabuses below.

Candidates may take no more than 6 units 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.

Optional Summer Institutes/Programmes:

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

Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism

The programme shall extend over not less than one academic year and not more than two academic years of part-time study. To receive the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism, candidates shall complete not less than 17 and not more than 20 units, including 4 core courses as prescribed in the syllabuses below.

The courses listed below will not be offered each year; depending on the exigencies of staffing, additional courses may be offered and the courses listed below may be offered in a different year of study. Candidates should consult the Programme Director for the courses offered in any one year.

Core course list:

- JMSC6001 Advanced reporting and writing (4 Units)*
- JMSC6002 Critical issues in journalism and global communications (2 Units)*
- JMSC6019 New media workshop (3 Units)*
- JMSC6022 Media law (2 Units)
- JMSC6062 Television and radio writing (2 Units)*
- JMSC6063 Television and video production (3 Units)
- JMSC6044 Master's project (4 Units)

** core courses for Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism*

Elective course list:

- JMSC6014 Advanced writing workshop (English) (3 Units)
- JMSC6015 Advanced writing workshop (Chinese) (3 Units)
- JMSC6017 Media economics and management (3 Units)
- JMSC6021 Visual journalism (2 Units)
- JMSC6022 Media law# (2 Units)
- JMSC6023 Covering the environment (2 Units)
- JMSC6024 Cultural studies of the media (3 Units)
- JMSC6025 Literary journalism (3 Units)
- JMSC6026 Media law II: comparative studies (3 Units)

- JMSC6027 Covering China (3 Units)
 JMSC6030 Multi-media production (3 Units)
 JMSC6040 Special topics in journalism I (3 Units)
 JMSC6041 Special topics in journalism II (3 Units)
 JMSC6045 Special topics in journalism III (2 Units)
 JMSC6046 Special topics in journalism IV (2 Units)
 JMSC6047 Business and financial journalism in an age of globalisation (3 Units)
 JMSC6048 International news (3 Units)
 JMSC6049 Reporting public health issues (3 Units)
 JMSC6053 Business and financial reporting (3 Units)
 JMSC6054 Advanced business and financial reporting (3 Units)
 JMSC6055 Research methods for media studies (2 Units)
 JMSC6056 Reporting Hong Kong (3 Units)
 JMSC6057 China, globalisation and the rise of Asian business – myths, facts, and challenges (3 Units)
 JMSC6058 Navigating the fog: how the media tell China’s story (3 Units)
 JMSC6059 Legal reporting (2 Units)
 JMSC6060 Impact of new media on society (2 Units)
 JMSC6061 Radio news workshop (3 Units)
 JMSC6063 Television and video production (3 Units) #
 JMSC6064 Media, politics and public affairs (3 Units)

elective course for Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism only

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Core courses:

JMSC6001. Advanced reporting and writing (4 Units)

(Required for MJ degree and PDipJ, with possible waivers for mid-career students with extensive professional experience)

The course provides students a solid grounding in reporting and writing while emphasizing the development of journalistic instincts and ethical judgment. As a key building block in the MJ programme, it covers issues applicable to all media — print, broadcast and online. In skill development, it focuses on reporting and writing for newspapers, skills that can be adapted to the particular needs of other media. 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.

JMSC6002. Critical issues in journalism and global communications (2 Units)

The aim of this course is to get students to think critically about the fundamental values that surround journalism. Through reading and class room discussions each student is expected to arrive at his or her own understanding of some of the philosophical, ethical, and structural issues that journalism faces. The course is structured around four “crises” of contemporary journalism: the crisis of credibility, the crisis of relevance, the organisational crisis and the crisis brought by the technological revolution.

JMSC6019. New media workshop (3 Units)

The course introduces students to the basic techniques of reporting and storytelling with digital media and provides an understanding of the new media environment. Students learn to master Internet research, the latest desktop imaging and basic publishing tools, and the techniques of creating, implementing and maintaining Web sites. Topics explored include technological convergence, global and regional new-media trends, and the cultural and commercial impact of new media on journalists and traditional media.

JMSC6022. Media law (2 Units)

The course introduces students to the laws relating to freedom of expression, defamation, privacy, information access, contempt of court, obscenity and regulatory schemes for broadcast and the Internet. It also examines the legality of newsgathering practice such as undercover reporting, deception and the use of hidden cameras. While the course focuses on Hong Kong, the course will also address major media law developments in Mainland China, the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere.

JMSC6062. Television and radio writing (2 Units)

This is an intensive course in techniques for writing for television news. Students study both news and feature writing. Great emphasis is placed on simple writing for the ear and the marriage of words and picture. Weekly in class drills working with wire service feeds and outside video material hone writing skills. Reporting methodology is examined as is the application of British and American writing styles to the local idiom.

JMSC6063. Television and video production (3 Units)

This course develops the skills to produce TV News stories. Students learn to research, report, shoot, and edit enterprise news and feature packages using the latest digital video tools. Within a philosophy of multi-tasking, practical work in DV video shooting and editing on Final Cut Pro systems is emphasized. Students will produce 2-3 minute length feature stories and be introduced to long form and documentary production.

Pre-requisite: JMSC6062. Television and radio writing.

JMSC6044. Master's project (4 Units)

Students will work with a faculty advisor to explore a topic in depth, conducting original research and field interviews. Students will learn to report and organize the large amount of information gathered and present it in one of several possible formats: a magazine-length article of about 5,000 English words, a new media production of comparable length and depth, including photos video or other visual elements, a video production or a research paper. The expectation is that the master's project will be written or presented in English. Chinese will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances, and then only if the subject matter warrants it. Students also are expected to attend a series of seminars designed to assist in the reporting, writing and completion of the project. The project should be presented by May 31 for part-time students and August 15 for full-time students of the last academic year of the curriculum.

Elective courses:

JMSC6014. Advanced writing workshop (English) (3 Units)

This course aims to equip students with the theoretical and practical foundations for high-quality journalistic writing in English, focusing on in-depth features, personality profiles and news analyses and opinion writing, including editorials, columns, essays and reviews. Through lectures, examination of classic works and intensive writing assignments, students will learn how to turn collections of facts into structured stories and articles with points of view.

JMSC6015. Advanced writing workshop (Chinese) (3 Units)

This course has similar goals as the Advanced writing workshop (English), adapted to incorporate the craft and traditions of Chinese-language story-telling. Special attention will be placed on the use of action, dialogue and description to produce journalistic writing in Chinese that informs, enlightens and entertains while conforming to principles of accuracy, fairness and balance.

JMSC6017. Media economics and management (3 Units)

The course examines the theory and practice of media economics and its impact on the performance and conduct of media companies. Using case studies in Hong Kong, Asia and North America, the course explores the management of media companies as an art and a science. Topics include analysis of the total business process, leadership, patterns of ownership, merger and acquisitions, finance and accounting, human resources development, sales and marketing, and ethics. It also explores pressures of advertising on radio and television programming. It also examines effective management in the newsroom and the challenges facing media executives in the region.

JMSC6021. Visual journalism (2 Units)

The course explores the power of visual thinking, storytelling and presentation; info-graphics and constructing information with digital tools. It provides a theoretical and practical examination of visual communication processes related to desktop publishing, photography, layout, design, and Web information products. The hands-on element covers the creation of logical graphical elements and presentation pages for disseminating news in print and online media.

JMSC6023. Covering the environment (2 Units)

The course introduces students to the environmental issues that are becoming a major source of public concern such as climate change, air pollution, wildlife and natural resource preservation, and the impact of global trade on the environment. Students will learn to locate sources, understand scientific journals, and produce reports and stories that make environmental issues accessible to ordinary readers.

JMSC6024. Cultural studies of the media (3 Units)

The course will explore theoretical perspectives on the role of media in society, the global multimedia environment and the impact of the media on civil society and public criticism. The course will review the various theoretical approaches to media studies including the works of Marshall McLuhan, Jurgen Habermas, Pierre Bourdieu, Edward Said, and James W. Carey.

JMSC6025. Literary journalism (3 Units)

This course demonstrates how journalism can rise to the level of quality non-fiction literature. Students will read a rich variety of journalistic works of recognized quality produced in English in Asia and abroad, and analyze why they succeed on both a literary and journalistic level. The class will identify the tools and techniques writers employ to construct evocative and enduring true stories. Over this journey, students will become better readers and better writers.

JMSC6026. Media law II: comparative studies (3 Units)

A comparative overview of global media law trends, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, the course covers key legal and policy developments, including defamation, privacy, information access, copyright, jurisdictional disputes and regulations involving broadcast, the Internet and media ownership.

Prerequisite: JMSC6022 Media law unless exempted by the Programme Director

JMSC6027. Covering China (3 Units)

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.

JMSC6030. Multi-media production (3 Units)

The course explores the art of graphical layout, design and multi-media production using audio, video and interactive techniques. Students will be introduced to the latest digital tools of production on the Internet, including new tools for online collaboration and designing interactive web sites that provide for a rich multimedia experience.

Prerequisite: JMSC6019 New media workshop unless exempted by the Programme Director

JMSC6040. Special topics in journalism I (3 Units)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the individual 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.

JMSC6041. Special topics in journalism II (3 Units)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the individual 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.

JMSC6045. Special topics in journalism III (2 Units)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the individual 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.

JMSC6046. Special topics in journalism IV (2 Units)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the individual 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.

JMSC6047. Business and financial journalism in an age of globalisation (3 Units)

This course analyzes a range of economic, financial, and business issues that are relevant to journalism in an age of increasing globalisation. The historical perspective provided in this course covers the rise of Asia's economies in recent decades, the onset of the 1997 – 98 financial crisis, and the emergence of China as a major player in the world economy. . The aim of the course is to provide reporters with the historical and critical tools needed to get beyond the cliches that cloud so much of contemporary business and financial journalism. The course targets the big picture issues that journalists today need to know to cover an increasingly complex economic landscape.

JMSC6048. International news (3 Units)

This course introduces students to the challenges and reward of reporting foreign news. Students will be introduced to some of the major global issues dominating international news and be provided a basic grounding in international politics. The course will also have a practical element and allow students to try their hand at reporting foreign news.

JMSC6049. Reporting public health issues (3 Units)

This course provides students with the basic knowledge they require to report on medicine and health in an intelligent, informed way. Students will learn about the medical profession and how it functions, how to evaluate different sources of information on health, and come to grips with some of the ethical issues and dilemmas health reporters face. By the end of the course, students will have acquired the skills needed to report news and feature stories on health topics.

JMSC6053. Business and financial reporting (3 Units)

This course covers the basic knowledge and writing skills needed to succeed in the fast-growing field of business and financial journalism. Lectures focus on core skills such as reading financial documents,

understanding macroeconomic and microeconomic issues, working with statistics, reporting on companies and covering competition in a global economy. Students receive hands-on training in how to write the bread-and-butter stories in the business sections of newspapers, as well as an introduction to writing in-depth business and financial feature stories. Introductory knowledge of economics is recommended for those who wish to take the course.

JMSC6054. Advanced business and financial reporting (3 Units)

This course covers the advanced knowledge, as well as the reporting and writing skills, needed to cover business and financial issues in depth. Lectures explore the intricacies of global financial markets and the increasingly sophisticated instruments that are traded on them. The course also introduces students to the research and investigative techniques required to report on business and financial issues that are often concealed by companies and governments. Students produce a piece of investigative business reporting as part of the course requirements.

Prerequisite: JMSC6053. Business and financial reporting

JMSC6055. Research methods for media studies (2 Units)

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 practical methodologies and 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 quantitative research methodologies.

JMSC6056. Reporting Hong Kong (3 Units)

The aim of this course is to give students an in-depth idea of how Hong Kong functions in terms of its economics, business and politics, and what skills and approaches are needed to cover Hong Kong as a journalist. The course provides a critical examination of many of the misconceptions that persist in the way that Hong Kong is popularly perceived. Among the questions which will be explored are: To what extent is Hong Kong a laissez-faire economy? What are the implications of the government's land policy? How does the political system in Hong Kong work, and how do the political systems and economies of Hong Kong and China interact?

JMSC6057. China, globalisation and the rise of Asian business – myths, facts, and challenges (3 Units)

This course examines the emergence of China in the context of Asia as a powerhouse in global business and finance, and how that story is being told in the international and local media. The entrance of China onto the global stage in recent decades has sharpened the debate over what lies behind Asia's economic successes and failures. This course explores the complex and sometimes contradictory ways these developments have been portrayed in the media. The aim is to develop a critical and historical understanding of how business and financial issues of global significance are played out in coverage of day-to-day business issues.

JMSC6058. Navigating the fog: how the media tell China's story (3 Units)

This course provides students with an insider view of the political, social and economic transformation of today's China. Through seminars with China experts, international correspondents, and government officials, the course offers a road map on covering China, and the challenges and ways to overcome them. The course discusses what stories to look for, where to find sources and how to assess the validity of sources. The aim of the course is to equip students with the practical reporting skills needed to navigate what is one of the world's most important economic, political and social news stories.

JMSC6059. Legal reporting (2 Units)

The course explores the challenges of covering the courts and other aspects of legal reporting, and examines styles of reporting and writing, including a study of several high profile cases. It also provides an overview of media coverage of the courts and legal issues and a review of court reporting restrictions.

JMSC6060. Impact of new media on society (2 Units)

This course examines the social, economic and legal implications of emerging interactive digital technologies on culture and public life. Topics include online collaboration and relationships; free speech, copyright, file sharing and remix culture; role of virtual communities as a social space and its influence on traditional spheres; impact of wireless always-online capabilities; grassroots and citizens efforts in journalism and the arts. With such rapid developments, how have business models, government policies and social attitudes been affected? Studies will be global in scope, with a particular focus on the adoption of new media in Asia, and its influence on the development of today's online digital culture.

JMSC6061. Radio news workshop (3 Units)

This course provides the practical skills to report and produce radio news stories and current affairs radio programming. Students learn radio writing and production, including daily coverage, interviews and longer-format features. Class projects include field reporting and the use of digital audio workstations to produce and mix reports and programmes.

JMSC6064. Media, politics and public affairs (3 Units)

The course explores the role of the media in the political process in Hong Kong and overseas, and provides an introduction to public affairs reporting. Students will look at the role the media plays in political life and try their hand at reporting politics. Students will also undertake a project in public affairs reporting, and report in depth on an issue of public importance.