

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING AB (FORMERLY LTPC)

Academic School / Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: MA in Public Relations and Journalism

FHEQ Level: 7

Course Title: Extended Professional Research Project

Course Code: PRJ 7550

Course Leader: Simon Goldsworthy

Student Engagement Hours: 600
Independent/Guided Learning: 600

Semester: SUMMER

Credits: 60 UK CATS credits
30 ECTS credits
12 US credits

Course description

For students working independently on their Masters professional research project. An extended project equivalent to a 15,000-20,000 word thesis is offered as an alternative to the internship. The professional research project encourages students to study intensively a topic agreed with a supervisor, and so develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work. Students apply their knowledge from across the autumn and spring semesters to researching a topic on public relations and journalism, which may relate to their work experience. This course is comprised of intensive and regular meetings on a one-to-one (by appointment) basis with a project supervisor to discuss the progress of research, development and writing.

Pre-requisites: MA Public Relations and Journalism students only

Aims and objectives

- For the supervisor to guide the student, as a junior research colleague, through the research, writing and production of an MA level professional research project of 15,000-20,000 words (or the equivalent of)
- For the student to undertake independent/autonomous research on a professional topic which makes a valuable contribution to the field
- To develop professional skills and experience which can be applied in work

placements or further graduate work

Programme Outcomes

By the end of this course successful students will be able to A, B, D, F, G, H:

- A. Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of key issues, themes and debates in PR and Journalism, while reflecting on their relationship to empirical evidence and to other relevant disciplines.
- B. Show critical and innovative responses to theories, methodologies and practices in PR and Journalism and their impact on the how the knowledge base is interpreted.
- D. Design and undertake substantial investigations addressing significant areas of practice in PR and Journalism, using selected and appropriate advanced approaches.
- F. Evidence the ability to exercise initiative in organising, pursuing and reflecting upon both supervised and self-directed individual and/or team projects, while accepting full accountability for outcomes.
- G. Show the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and diverse information in complex and specialised contexts, while reflecting upon and improving the skills required for effective written and oral communication
- H. Demonstrate the ability for innovative and autonomous learning, normative and ethical reflection, self-evaluation and engagement with disciplinary benchmarks.

Learning Outcomes

- demonstrate professional research skills including the application of appropriate methodologies for locating, assessing and interpreting primary sources
- show professional writing skills
- display an critical and practical awareness of the ways in which PR and Journalism can be used to meet specific objectives
- demonstrate a sophisticated critical awareness of ways of evaluating what can be achieved through the use of PR and Journalism

Indicative Content:

1. production of a professional research project equivalent to a 15-20,000 word Masters
2. a report, containing professional materials suitably and evidencing:
 - intensive autonomous study of a topic agreed with a supervisor
 - primary professional work making a valuable contribution to the field
 - a coherent argument
 - appropriate, critical use of secondary sources
 - critical self-reflection

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

