



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Achieve International Excellence

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of International Journalism



About the Course

The Master of International Journalism will be introduced at The University of Western Australia in 2012 with the primary aim of producing the best student journalists across all media formats – print, broadcast and digital. This master by coursework degree will give students the ability to generate original journalism to a high industry standard while at the same time encouraging them to think critically about journalism in a global context. This focus on the international and domestic contexts, means that graduates will be equipped to work in the global environment.

Students will study in a setting that simulates industry, produce work for a real audience and on successful completion of the degree will have a portfolio of published pieces that will aid in their transition to professional practice.

Prominent and experienced journalists will teach the course

Prominent political journalist, commentator and Foundation Professor of Journalism, Peter van Onselen, has developed and will coordinate the

course. Working with other academics and acclaimed industry professionals, Professor van Onselen will expose students to leading journalists and scholars, providing a combination of theory and practical experience.

The industry based teaching team includes Walkley Award winning investigative journalist Anthony Klan (*Wall Street Journal*, *The Australian*), Kieran Gilbert (Chief Political Correspondent, *Sky News*), and Geoff Elliott (Business Editor, *The Australian*) plus guest lectures from a range of prominent journalists including Paul Kelly (Editor at Large, *The Australian*) and David Speers (Political Editor at *Sky News*).

The University of Western Australia has a reputation as a leading research-intensive university and is recognised as having the highest quality students taught by internationally renowned academics who are leaders in their fields.

“Journalism – the fourth estate – is a vital pillar of our global community. It is going through enormous changes and facing significant challenges as the rise of digital media threatens traditional print and broadcast mediums.”

*Winthrop Professor
Peter van Onselen,*

*Foundation Professor of Journalism,
Contributing Editor at The Australian
and the host of Australian Agenda on
Sunday mornings on Sky News.*



ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Who is this course for?

This course is available to both domestic and international students.

The course is designed for graduate students wishing to pursue a career in journalism. It will also greatly enhance the career prospects of those already working in the field. In addition, it is an excellent grounding for those professions related to journalism, including media advisors, and staff involved in communications and media strategy in government and business.

Depending on the pathway chosen, it may be a means of qualifying for entry to higher degree research programs such as the PhD.



Course Structure

The course will run over a tri-semester within one year (i.e. semester 1, semester 2 and a summer semester). Entry to the course is in February (semester 1) only and it is possible to complete the course as a full time or part time student. To complete, students will need a passing grade in 12 units of six points each (i.e. a total of 72 points).

The core units (compulsory):

History of Journalism

This unit explores the history of journalism, from the age of the printing press to the world of new media. Journalism is a key institutional component of the democratic state; we examine its role with particular focus on American and British journalism history, in contrast to the emerging practices in the East Asian region.

Media Law and Ethics

The legal and ethical context in which journalism is produced and consumed is the focus of this unit. Topics include defamation law, privilege, court and parliamentary reporting, copyright and privacy.

News Gathering:

Techniques and Timing

This is primarily a practical, 'how to' unit, in which the key topics are: gathering news; methods of story verification; the interview; evaluation of news-worthiness; writing the story; the compilation of information within a range of resource contexts; and the practical application of ethical standards of news-gathering and presentation.

Practicum 1: Print and Digital

The course includes two practicum units designed to train students in the practice of content production. The first of these concentrates on print and digital, focusing on the production of stories and commentary suitable for online production. Students will work in a simulated newsroom environment, with weekly deadlines for completion of publication-ready news stories and regular deadlines for the production of more extended opinion pieces.

➤ **Issues in Contemporary Global Journalism**

Benedict Anderson famously identified the national newspaper as the communicative foundation of the 'imaginary community' that is the nation-state. Today, journalism is overwhelmingly global. Beginning with an examination of the 'nation-defining' (but internationally owned) publication, *The Australian*, this unit seeks to understand international journalism, and the practices it sustains, as a global phenomenon.

➤ **Investigative Reporting**

Investigative journalism is under threat from the commercial imperatives that drive contemporary news publications, yet remains the corner stone of good journalistic practice. This unit examines the idea and practice of investigative journalism, including the research and story evaluation skills, the necessity to pitch for funding, and the importance of understanding one's audience.

➤ **Online Journalism**

From the Wikileaks phenomenon, to the role of Facebook in the 2011 Egyptian revolution, the transformative power of online organisation and communication, and it's recasting of what journalism is or should be, has been remarkable. Working in a web-based environment, students will explore the ways in which online journalism is creating a new form of 'public sphere' and equally, the dangers it may embody.

➤ **Practicum 2: Broadcast and Digital**

The second of the two practicum units concentrates on broadcast and digital. Students work in a simulated newsroom environment, where they work towards regular deadlines for the completion of broadcast-ready radio and video pieces, from short news stories to longer features. Completed work is prepared for digital publication and broadcast via the Master of Journalism website.

Elective units:

➤ **Advanced Writing and Broadcasting**

This unit exposes students to live broadcast situations on media partner networks, affording the opportunity to publish with 'real world' newspapers. Students work to tight deadlines where they are required to react to situations as they unfold, making editorial and presentation decisions. The unit is designed to complement the work placement unit, preparing students for a career across multiple media platforms.

➤ **Management and Editorial**

Management and editorial represent the two key, but often conflicting, imperatives of news organisations: to work as a business enterprise attuned to the interests of stakeholders, and to offer objective, impartial news coverage. This unit examines the conflict across local and international settings, as both a fascinating theoretical tension, and as the ground for the day to day practice of the newsroom and editorial decision making.



➤ **The Role of the Correspondent**

In this unit we examine the nature of the role of the political and foreign correspondent and the challenges the correspondent faces – reporting on disaster and war, gauging the pulse of the political setting from a press gallery, and dealing ethically with participant ('insider') knowledge. Media organisations typically put their foreign correspondents through rigorous courses to prepare them for overseas service, and in this course we tap into those offerings.

➤ **Politics, Business and the Economy**

This unit explores political institutions and the political economy more generally, including its complex interaction with the media, both in Australia and internationally. The unit provides grounding in the content of key policy areas and, more specifically, an understanding of the role which business plays in modern economies and how news is able to register this activity.

➤ **Practicum 3: Website Editor**

Most news organisations now have a strong online presence. The Master of International Journalism course maintains a website for the publication of student news and features. This unit tasks an editorial team with the responsibility for creating that site over a semester, the goal being to ensure that the Master's site has a level of professionalism, accessibility, and relevance, similar to an industry site. Because there is a practical limit to the size of an effective team, there is a quota for this unit; however it can be taken in any semester.

➤ **Dissertation (24 points)**

The dissertation unit allows suitably qualified students to pursue a sustained research project, or creative media presentation, related to the practice of journalism.

➤ **Work Placement (12 points)**

This work placement unit gives students the opportunity work in a professional media context over an eight-week period (three days per week.) The objectives are to give students the practical context in which to develop the skills obtained over the first two semesters of the degree, to enable them to make a direct contribution to publication within the industry, and to provide an entry-way into the profession.

How Do I Apply?

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the Master of International Journalism must have a relevant bachelor's degree with an average mark of at least 65 per cent in Level 3 units of the major, or equivalent as recognised by the Faculty.

Domestic Students

Current students or recent graduates can apply via StudentConnect. New students can apply on line via studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate/apply

International Students

International students can apply via studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate/apply which also gives more information about the study environment, course fees, refund policy and support services.

For assistance or further information please contact:

**The Student Office
Faculty of Arts, Humanities
and Social Sciences**

The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009
Tel: +61 8 6488 2091
Email: arts.faculty@uwa.edu.au
arts.uwa.edu.au/courses/postgrad/coursework/masjournalism

