

Field of Study Focus: Journalism

Student Resource

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Journalism is the discipline of collecting, analyzing, verifying, writing and presenting news regarding current events, trends, issues and people. The main activity of journalism is the reporting of events: stating who, what, when, where, why and how, and the significance and effect of these events or trends. Journalism is present in a variety of media including: newspapers, television, radio, magazines and online. These graduate programs train students to be professional journalists and some schools may be stronger in certain specializations.

COMMON SPECIALIZATIONS

PRINT JOURNALISM	This area covers journalism in newspapers, news magazines, general interest magazines, trade magazines, hobby magazines, newsletters, and private publications.
BROADCAST JOURNALISM	This area covers journalism in radio, television and film. Students can focus on reporting, production or both.
ONLINE JOURNALISM	As the name indicates, this area concentrates on journalism and emerging technology. These types of programs emphasize web site production and layout as well as traditional reporting, writing and editing. Students also need to learn current online ethics and law (privacy issues and intellectual property).
ARTS & CULTURAL REPORTING	The emphasis for this specialization is the integration of journalistic writing with an individual writer's voice, and requires a broad understanding of contemporary culture, and the ability to analyze, criticize, and build an argument. Students may take courses in architecture, film, fine arts, music, or theater to complement their journalism training.
POLITICAL REPORTING	This is a broad area of specialization that encompasses everything a reporter needs to know about politics. This can include history, current political systems and institutions and how to analyze and report on these topics.
ECONOMIC & BUSINESS REPORTING	In addition to learning business writing, students in this area normally take courses in accounting, finance, economics, business history and marketing. The journalism programs that offer this concentration do so in conjunction with the business school. Some programs require applicants in this area of specialization to also take the GMAT exam.
SCIENCE, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING	This specialization trains journalists in writing stories pertaining to scientific disciplines, health and medical fields and environmental issues. Courses are taught with an emphasis on scientific trends and the use of new technologies.
PHOTOJOURNALISM	Students in this area of journalism learn how to communicate through the use of photography. Courses focus on the techniques and styles of photography for newspapers, magazines, documentary and online media.

COMMON DEGREES

MS	Master of Science (program lengths vary from one to two academic years)
MA	Master of Arts (program lengths vary from one to two academic years)

SPECIAL NOTES ON APPLYING: Due to the nature of the program, English language skills are heavily weighed. Writing skills are also assessed with required essays on the application and/or writing/work samples. Some schools even go as far as requiring students to take a proctored writing exam. Prior academic performance is weighed in the admission decisions, but since this is a professional degree program, the letters of reference, resume and work samples are critical.

SPECIAL TIPS FOR NON-DEGREE APPLICANTS: Most journalism programs do not accept non-degree applicants.

SPECIAL TIPS FOR VISITING STUDENT RESEARCHERS: Most programs do not accept visiting researchers.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ADMISSION/ FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES	Deadlines vary by school, with the earliest typically being December 1 st . Most deadlines fall between January 1 st and February 1 st . The most competitive programs have extensive admission requirements, so it is important to review the websites early on in the process.
ACADEMIC BACKGROUND	No specific field of academic background is required, but most programs prefer students with multidisciplinary training. A student's educational background can vary as long as English writing ability is evident.
WORK EXPERIENCE	Although not required, it is helpful for international applicants to have some journalism experience. Most international applicants have some professional experience in the field prior to applying. This is a professional degree program, so a commitment to the profession of journalism is something the schools weigh heavily.

Source: Prepared by the Institute of International Education's University Placement Services Division using information from internal resources and materials and resources readily available on the internet.