

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES CENTRE**

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

**Master of Journalism**  
**Applicable to 2024-25 cohort and thereafter**

Most of Master of Journalism courses are 6-credit course requiring 120 hours of student learning activity, with a total study load of 1,200 hours and 360 contact hours for the curriculum. The contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses may vary according to the learning modes employed.

*1. Compulsory courses (6 credits)*

The Master of Journalism programme requires four compulsory 6-credit courses. Teaching normally takes the form of 3-hour lectures or a mixture of lectures, tutorials, labs, workshops and fieldwork each week throughout a regular 13-week semester, with 36 contact hours for each course. Student work is assessed through practical output such as news reports, video assignments and digital output as well as research papers, presentations, social media performance, exercises, essays, quizzes, tests, briefing paper, assignments, class blogs, book reports, take-home exam, projects, spot story, feature story and class participation with total output of 2,000-4,000 words for the whole course or its equivalent in the courses where the output is visual or digital (100% coursework).

*2. Core courses and elective courses (6 credits)*

Master of Journalism students take 5 - 7 courses from the three categories of core courses (namely “reporting and writing”, “visual and audio” and “digital and data”) and elective courses where teaching and assessment follows the same pattern as the compulsory courses described above, with 36 contact hours for each 6-credit course. Student work is assessed through practical output such as news reports, video assignments and digital output as well as research papers, presentations, social media performance, exercises, essays, quizzes, tests, briefing paper, assignments, class blogs, book reports, take-home exam, projects, spot story, feature story and class participation with total output of 2,000-4,000 words or its equivalent in the courses where the output is visual or digital (100% coursework).

*3. Independent study project (6 credits)*

This elective course allows students who are working as journalists or possess rich journalism experience to engage directly in either news media production, reporting and writing, or a project closely associated with the contemporary practice of the news media under the supervision of an instructor, with at least 120 hours of teaching and learning activities including meetings with the supervisor, supervised field work or research and independent study or research. Assessment includes 10% project proposal, 10% project work plan with deliverable timelines and 80% final project with total output of 2,000-4,000 words or its equivalent in the projects where the output is visual or digital (100% coursework).

#### 4. *Journalism internship (6 credits)*

This elective course allows students to undertake an internship in journalism or media-related work of six to eight weeks duration with about 120 to 160 placement hours. Assessment includes 10% work performance at professional partner, 60% portfolio (print, video or multi-media) and 30% internship journal and reflection with no more than 2,000 words (100% coursework).

#### 5. *Master's Project (6 credits)*

The Master's Project is a capstone experience required for the Master of Journalism programme. There are two options.

Option A: 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. Assessment includes 20% project proposal and 80% final project. The project should be presented by May 31 of the final year of study.

Option B: Students who have proven journalism experience, who are working journalists and part-time students can have the option of working on one pre-approved, multimedia story (enterprise project) for the entire project month of May. They can choose an area of dominant emphasis for the project; text, still photography or video, depending on which medium best suits the storytelling. It must contain a combined text output of 1,500 to 3,000 words and / or multimedia equivalents. Assessment includes 20% project proposal and 80% final project. The project should be presented by May 31 of the final year of study.

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 (100% coursework).

### **Documentary Filmmaking Specialisation**

*Applicable to 2024-25 cohort and thereafter*

Master of Journalism (Documentary Filmmaking Specialisation) courses are 6-credit courses requiring 120 hours of student learning activity, one 12-credit course requiring 240 hours of student learning activity and an 18-credit capstone experience course requiring 360 hours of student learning activity, with a total study load of 1,440 hours and 432 contact hours for the curriculum. The contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses may vary according to the learning modes employed.

There are three categories of courses in this programme, as outlined below.

#### 1. *Compulsory courses (6 or 12 credits)*

The Master of Journalism (Documentary Filmmaking Specialisation) programme requires four compulsory 6-credit courses and one compulsory 12-credit course. Teaching normally takes the form of 3-hour lectures or a mixture of lectures, tutorials, labs, workshops, documentary screening and fieldwork each week throughout a regular 12-week semester, with 36 contact hours for each 6-credit course and 72 contact hours for the 12-credit course. Student work is

assessed through output such as technical skills on professional editing tools & software, short essays, quizzes, group assignments, production assignments, documentary written essays, final projects, and class participation for the 6-credit courses and the 12-credit course, with the addition of a documentary video for the 12-credit course. Applicable to both 6-credit and 12-credit compulsory courses, the length of the required written output is 2,000-4,000 words for the whole course or its equivalent in the courses where the output is multimedia, with the addition of a documentary video of 12 to 15 minutes duration for the 12-credit course (100% coursework).

## 2. *Elective courses (6 credits)*

Master of Journalism (Documentary Filmmaking Specialisation) students take three of the listed elective courses. Teaching normally takes the form of 3-hour lectures or a mixture of lectures, tutorials, labs, workshops and fieldwork each week throughout a regular 12-week semester, with 36 contact hours for each 6-credit course. Student work is assessed through output such as news reports, research papers, presentations, social media performance, exercises, essays, quizzes, tests, briefing paper, assignments, class blogs, book reports, take-home exam, projects, spot story, feature story and class participation with total output of 2,000-4,000 words for the whole course or its equivalent in the courses where the output is multimedia (100% coursework).

## 3. *Documentary filmmaking capstone (18 credits)*

The documentary filmmaking capstone is required for the Master of Journalism (Documentary Filmmaking specialisation) programme. 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. Student work is assessed through output of a thesis project proposal of 500-800 words and a thesis film project with a duration of 20-30 minutes. The projects should be presented by the end of the final year of study. 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 (100% coursework).