

Education plan

for

Master programme in Journalism
Masterprogram i journalistik

120.0 Higher Education
Credits
120.0 ECTS credits

Programme code: HJOUO
Valid from: Autumn 2007
Date of approval: 2007-06-13
Department: Department of Media Studies

Decision

This course plan has been approved by the faculty board for the humanities 2007-06-13.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Entry requirements and other conditions for admission to the course
180 credits of which at least 90 credits are from the same subject, including independent writing of at least 15 credits or equivalent. Alternatively, 120 credits with at least 60 credits within the same subject, including independent writing of at least 10 credits or equivalent. A pass grade in the course Journalistic Writing at JMK or equivalent. English B.

Programme structure

The programme as a whole combines profession-oriented practical exercises with academic analysis. The education and the specialisations included build on the knowledge of the subject area developed by students in their Bachelors studies. For the independently written Master's thesis, the student may choose between two alternatives, either a qualified journalistic project combined with a scholarly analysis, or a scholarly paper.

Two courses are given during the first semester, the first of which is focused on contemporary theory discussions, and the other on editorial structures, processes, and practices. During the second semester, the student chooses the subject for their thesis project and begins the preparation for different parts of the project within the framework of the other courses. Focus during the second semester is placed upon methods of investigation with comparisons between scholarly and journalistic forms of knowledge, including source criticism, statistics, interview methods, and archival studies. The semester finishes with a course in copyright law and ethics, with application upon an editorial project. The third semester contains obligatory faculty courses as well as optional courses chosen according to their relevance for the chosen area of specialisation and thesis work. Among the options are 10 weeks of practical work experience at an editorial office. The thesis work is completed and examined during the programme's fourth and final semester.

Goals

The purpose of the programme is to give advanced theoretical, methodological, and work-related knowledge in journalism as preparation for practical journalistic employment as well as independent research in the subject.

Having completed the course the student has demonstrated an ability to

-demonstrate broad knowledge within the area of Journalism Studies, as well as developed practical and analytical capabilities within selected areas of the subject;

- demonstrate insight into contemporary research and developments in the area of media studies, and the relevance of this for journalism as both an academic subject and as an experience-based practice;
- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge, and to independently analyse, assess, and handle complex research questions and events;
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, and creatively identify and formulate research questions, to plan and with appropriate methods perform qualified tasks with given time frames, and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge, as well as to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate the ability to give an account of, orally and in written form, their conclusions and the arguments that underpin them, in dialogue with different groups in national and international contexts;
- demonstrate the fully-rounded skills expected for participation in academic research or for independent work in the journalism industry;
- demonstrate the ability to assess journalistic issues with consideration of relevant academic, social, and ethical aspects, and to show awareness of ethical aspects within research and development work;
- demonstrate insight into journalism's possibilities and limitations from a structural perspective, its role in history and the present, and the responsibility for how it is used; and
- demonstrate the ability to take responsibility for their academic development.

Courses

Semester 1

Transitions in journalism (15 credits) obligatory course

Editorial organisations and practices (15 credits) obligatory course

Semester 2

Production of knowledge in journalism and academia (7,5 credits) obligatory course

Methodology and research methods (15 credits) obligatory course

Journalism ethics (7,5 credits) obligatory course

Semester 3

Academic writing in English (7,5 credits) obligatory faculty course

Scholarliness and research ethics (7,5 credits) obligatory course

One of three optional courses

Work experience at an editorial office (15 credits) optional course

Global media studies (15 credits) optional course

Specialisation courses relevant to thesis work (equivalent to 15 credits), optional courses in consultation with a tutor.

Semester 4

Completion and defence of thesis work (30 credits), obligatory.

For further information on the courses, see the course plan for the respective course.

Degree

Degree of Master of philosophy