Programme Specification

Programme award and title: MSc in Financial Journalism

| SCQF Level: | 11 | SCQF Credit Value: | 180 |

Educational aims of the programme:
Concise (e.g. a few sentences), general statement of aims and broad purposes of the programme

On completion of the course, students will be able to carry out analytical and critical skills demanded by employers in the areas related to financial news gathering and dissemination. Potential employment opportunities would include: financial newspapers, financial news agencies and organisations, banks, specialised news services, financial and business areas of existing media outlets, PR, consultancy, among others. Therefore, students will acquire practical and vocational skills required in many areas of journalism and finance.

This programme aims to give students:

(i) A holistic understanding of the principles and issues regarding news gathering and news dissemination.

(ii) The ability to read, analyse and interpret financial news.

(iii) The ability to write or produce audiovisuals news stories related to finance.

(iv) Allow students to acquire investigative and research skills.

(v) Provide awareness and understanding of the news agenda relating to financial journalism.

Intended programme learning outcomes:
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) of what the student will know, understand and be able to do as a result of their learning, expressed in the categories below. Please consider the contribution made to the student’s personal development planning (PDP) and future employability.

Knowledge and understanding

• (i) Understanding of key issues regarding financial news.
• (ii) Ability to gather financial news using primary and secondary sources.
• (iii) Awareness of the news agenda regarding financial and business issues.
• (iv) Understanding of financial language and terminology and ability to translate that into accessible language.

Subject-specific skills and other attributes

• (i) Ability to produce financial news articles.
• (ii) Ability to produce investigative feature articles.
• (iii) Critical reasoning.
• (iv) Ability to analyse and synthesis information from a variety of sources.
• (v) Ability to gathering and interpret financial-related numeric data.
• (vi) Ability to analyse, manage and process financial information.
• (vii) Ability to carry out investigative news reporting.

Generic skills (e.g. information skills, communication skills, critical, analytical and problem solving abilities) and other attributes

• (i) Report writing, layout and design, and verbal communication
• (ii) Team working and the allocation of tasks
• (iii) Independent learning towards academic and personal goals.
• (iv) IT skills such as word processing, creation and use of spreadsheets, use of statistical software and presentational applications.
• (v) Use of the Internet as a research tool.
• (vi) Ability to use relational data bases, bibliographical databases and other electronic information sources.
• (vii) Liaising with primary and secondary sources.
• (viii) Ability to carry out interviews.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies:
Outline (e.g. one or two paragraphs) on overall approach taken to develop and assess learning outcomes, including any distinctive features

• The new Masters programme will be structured in line with University expectations. Seven modules will be taught over the autumn and spring semesters. In addition to the compulsory modules in Journalism and Finance, students will choose option modules from Accounting and Finance. On successful completion of the taught programme, students will undertake a 12,000-word dissertation.
• Teaching methods will include lectures, seminars and practical workshops. However, it will be expected that students will assume also some independent learning. External speakers from the financial industry as well as practitioners in the area of financial journalism will be invited to address key issues.
• Assessment will include coursework and examination. Some modules will use a combination of both, while others will rely entirely on coursework when appropriate. Students’ work will be assessed and grades will be reported using the University’s common grading scheme for postgraduate courses although grades are subdivided to provide more detailed feedback to students.

Professional/statutory body accreditation or recognition:

Further details:
Entry requirements: http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/postgrad/index.php
Programme structure: http://www.calendar.stir.ac.uk/
Relevant Subject Benchmark statement (if applicable): http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework: http://www.scqf.org.uk/the_framework.asp
Introduction/revision date: