# Programme Specification ARO 034a

## Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>French and Journalism Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award e.g. BSc (Hons), MA etc.</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts with Honours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
<td>Literature and Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
<td>RP15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>UCX12-FREJOU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time ✗ Part Time ✗ <em>(if both please provide two Degree Programme Tables in the Outline Programme Structure)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>On Campus – UK X International ☐ Where: Online ☐ Blended ☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September X January ☐ Other <em>(if more than one entry point please provide a Degree Programme Table for each in the Outline Programme Structure)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of Programme</td>
<td>4 years (students who successfully apply for British Council English Language Assistantships between Year 2 and Year 3 will complete in 5 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCQF Level</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credit Value</td>
<td>480</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS Credit Value</td>
<td>240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Body Accreditation (all relevant accreditations to be listed)</td>
<td>Name of accrediting body: N/A Required for programme: Yes/No (delete as appropriate) Date of Accreditation: XX / XX / 20XX Date of Renewal: XX / XX / 20XX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Director</td>
<td>Dr Cristina Johnston (Prof. Elizabeth Ezra from 1 August 2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor of Studies</td>
<td>Dr Cristina Johnston (Prof. Elizabeth Ezra from 1 August 2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Approved</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Programme Overview

A comprehensive summary of the programme.

The Journalism Studies elements of this degree aim to produce graduates who have a critical understanding of the media and its role in society – nationally and globally – and who have the skills to enter jobs in the media at graduate trainee level. We offer a programme that is intellectually challenging, with transferable skills, giving learners the opportunity to explore the social context within which the media operates and it encourages a rigorous analytical approach to understanding the role of journalists and journalism in different political, economic, technological and cultural contexts. Areas of study offered to students include the history, economics, sociology and aesthetics of journalism. The course exposes students to a range of approaches to the study of journalistic media, including political economy, institutional analysis, textual analysis, audience studies, and practical skills. The programme encourages learners to reflect critically on the relationship between theory and practice in the field of journalism; and they have the opportunity to develop skills in print, broadcast and online journalism production, and to reflect critically on the cultural, economic, technological and political factors shaping the professional evolution and contemporary practice of these skills. Learners will be encouraged to put their skills into practice through work experience, internships and participation in student journalism. Successful learners will graduate with a deeper understanding of the position of the journalistic media in contemporary society, and they will be competent in professional practices – print, broadcast and online – expected of those entering the media as graduate trainees.

The French components of the degree combine the study of the French language, in written and spoken forms, with analysis and examination of French and Francophone cultures, politics and societies. We focus particularly on the modern and contemporary world (primarily from late 19th century to the present day), approaching French as a dynamic, global language. Integral to that approach is a Study Abroad semester (Semester 6) spent at one of our wide range of partner institutions across France or in Quebec, Switzerland or Morocco. We offer both Beginners’ and Advanced modules in the first 3 semesters of study with the two streams merging from Semester 4 onwards. For students starting in the Advanced stream (ie students who have a prior qualification in French), the modules taken in Semesters 1 to 4 encompass written language and grammar work, oral and aural classes and culture seminars (all weekly), as well as a schedule of regular lectures associated with the texts studied in the culture seminars. For the first full year, students starting as Beginners focus on building and consolidating language skills (in both written and spoken forms) through an intensive programme of language classes taught by native speakers. In Semester 3, students who started in the Beginners’ stream continue intensive language classes and are introduced to short texts and films in French to develop their skills in cultural analysis in order to be able to merge with the Advanced stream in Semester 4. Thereafter, no further distinction is made between former Beginners and Advanced students and the degree programmes are identical for both groups. Tailored advice for former Beginners is provided in course materials in Semester 4 to aid with the transition and integration.

In a cultural economy, where journalism is a major and expanding sector of the media industries and where languages are seen as a clear asset in graduates, students on this programme should emerge with a range of practical, creative, intellectual, analytical and research skills that enhance their employability.

Key Features of the Programme (including what makes it distinctive)

Stirling University was a pioneer in the academic study of the media, communications and journalism and has a global reputation for the quality of its research. It is at the cutting edge in its research on data journalism and digital media, ensuring learning is informed by the latest thinking in the subject. The Journalism programme is taught by people who are leaders in their field, with experience at a national and international level in a range of media organizations and platforms. Journalistic skills are taught by
academics with extensive experience in practice who remain active in the media. All graduates will have had the opportunity to study a range of academic and practice-based modules; but learners have the ability to tailor their studies to academic or practice-based pathways, as well as benefitting from a semester of Study Abroad.

French at Stirling approaches French as a dynamic, global language and you will examine a wide range of political, cultural and social aspects of contemporary France and the French-speaking world. Our students develop high-level written and oral skills in French, including translation and individual presentations, through weekly classes. We offer a dedicated suite of modules aimed at enabling Beginners in French to develop sufficient confidence and proficiency in French to be able to join our Advanced stream within 3 semesters. You will also benefit from our extensive network of partners across France and the French-speaking world for an integral semester of Study Abroad, as well as having the opportunity (subject to eligibility) to apply for a British Council English Language Assistantship.

**PROGRAMME AIMS**

*Overarching Programme Aims*

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

1. Use the intellectual and social skills you have learned effectively in a wide range of work and life-related situations.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the media, its history, and the people, stories and technologies that have informed current practice.
3. Produce high-level written French through composition work and produce high-level translation both to and from French.
4. Demonstrate a range of industry-specific skills in writing, editing and production.
5. Understand narrative form across different genres, and to choose appropriate story-telling techniques for different media platforms and audiences.
6. Demonstrate intercultural awareness and understanding, bolstered by a sustained period of residence and study abroad.
7. Conduct independent research on a topic of relevance in modern and contemporary French and Francophone cultures.
8. Use your inquiring mind creatively and imaginatively, harnessing your intellectual capabilities to effect change.
9. Be capable of working in a wide range of different sectors, using transferrable intellectual and practical skills learned on the programme.
10. Understand and operate effectively within the ethical, regulatory and legal frameworks that have an impact on the media and how it operates.

**WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

*Detailed Learning Outcomes*

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

1. Undertake journalistic activity based on an understanding of the media, its history, the regulatory environment, and the changing political, social, economic and technological forces which impact upon it.
2. Communicate effectively in a range of genres, in both English and French, in written and spoken form.
3. Exercise critical judgment when evaluating the role of the media in different societies, its output across a wide range of platforms, and in assessing its impact socially, culturally and politically.
4. Demonstrate creativity and innovation in generating ideas and producing work for publication or broadcast – displaying an understanding of media forms, structures and audience needs.
5. Research a subject in-depth and communicate the story or stories effectively, appropriate to a publication or platform and its target audiences.
6. Undertake academic research in French and in English, using a range of research tools.
7. Engage with current theoretical perspectives from within both Journalism Studies and French and Francophone Studies.
8. Reflect upon understanding gained in activities and cooperation (in English and French) across a wide range of individual and group tasks in order to formulate appropriate responses to a wide range of issues and problems.

Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes:

1. Communicate effectively one-to-one, in group or team settings and through the submission of written work to a given length, format, brief and deadline (in both English and French);
2. Gather, organise and deploy ideas and information to formulate arguments cogently and express them coherently in written, oral or other forms (in both English and French);
3. Work independently and in flexible and creative ways, showing self-discipline, self-direction and reflexivity.
4. Carry out research involving sustained independent inquiry (in English and French);
5. Generate story ideas, research them and write them up for specific publications, platforms and audiences.
6. Formulate appropriate questions for academic inquiry and employ appropriate methods and resources to explore those questions and communicate your findings effectively;
7. Evaluate and draw upon a range of sources and texts and appropriate conceptual frameworks.
8. Reflect on understanding gained in academic activities and act on insights gained.

These skills, subject-specific and generic, are valued by employers and contribute to graduate employability.

Values

Values are important in setting our life-goals and determining the quality of our interaction with other. These values and attitudes underpin the operation of the Journalism Studies programme:

1. Openness
2. Excellence
3. Ambition
4. Ethical Behaviour
5. Creativity
6. Independence
7. Intercultural awareness

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Outline of the teaching methods and approach to be used on the programme.

The Combined Honours degree in French and Journalism Studies contains theoretical, analytical and production elements, as well as a range of language-specific modules focusing on aspects of the French language and French and Francophone cultures, politics and societies. Learners will develop the skills required for the analysis of texts drawn from a range of media and genres, whether in English or in French.

The degree programme also has a practical element, in which production techniques employed in electronic, broadcast and print media are introduced, and an integral semester of Study Abroad at one of our partner institutions across France or the wider French-speaking world. The programme develops transferable skills in written and oral communication, logical reasoning, conceptual analysis, study skills
and group work, as well as enabling learners to develop flexibility, fluency and confidence through the period of Study Abroad.

Attainment of the learning objectives will be assessed through coursework and written exams. Coursework may take the form of online tests, individual/group presentations, essays or digi-essays. The coursework is designed to improve your critical thinking, creativity, communication and group working skills. We will liaise with the student accessibility and inclusion service to ensure alternative assessments are in place for students with additional learning support needs. Modules involving French language work will usually contain an element of oral assessment (either a group oral exam or an individual oral exam, for example) and oral assessment on these modules is compulsory. The bulk of assessment on the journalism programme is in the form of essays, and individual and group exercises and projects. A small number of modules, including the opening module Introduction to Journalism, feature an examination.

Level 8 semester modules

The first two compulsory modules in Journalism give a broad introduction to journalism and the ethical issues underpinning journalistic practice. They are popular with students from across the institution and attract large student numbers, c.150-200. Lectures are used to introduce students to the key concepts and issues and to guide independent reading, an essential part of the learning process throughout the degree. Lectures attendance is an important part of the learning process. Lectures are complemented by weekly workshops, these are linked to student reading. Full participation is encouraged, and students are expected to prepare for workshops. Debate is an important aspect of journalism and the creative industries and class discussion, which begins at this stage, is central to our teaching and learning practice. Workshops are moderated by a tutor, or a teaching assistant with expertise in the field of study.

In semester 3 learners take their first journalism practice module. Writing for Journalists 1 is a broad introduction to news writing – exploring the components of a well-written sentence and the structure of a news story. The module has a focus on writing strong intros to stories and writing briefs. Students are assessed on a number of journalistic writing projects. News quizzes are a feature of this, and subsequent, modules. Shorthand is taught as part of this module and its partner module, Writing for Journalists 2. By the end of Year 2 you should have achieved a shorthand speed of at least 60 words per minute.

French at Stirling offers both Beginners’ and Advanced modules in the first 3 semesters of study with the two streams merging from Semester 4 onwards. If you are starting in the Advanced stream (i.e. you have a prior qualification in French), the modules taken in Semesters 1 to 4 encompass written language and grammar work, oral and aural classes and culture seminars (all weekly), as well as a schedule of regular lectures associated with the texts studied in the culture seminars. Broadly speaking, these first four modules take you from the foundations of the French Republic in terms of its political, social and cultural structures (Semester 1) through the late 19th and early 20th centuries including World War I (Semester 2) and into the mid-20th century (Semester 3 where students examine France and the Francophone world against a backdrop of World War II and post-war decolonisation). The Semester 4 module brings students up to the present-day, through the examination of novels, films and other works from late-20th and early 21st-centuries. The Beginners’ stream focuses on intensive language learning for Semesters 1 and 2, incorporating aspects of the study of contemporary cultural texts in Semester 3, and merging with the Advanced stream in Semester 4.

Semester modules (level 9/10)

The work undertaken in semesters 4 to 8 builds on the knowledge, understanding and language skills provided by the Level 8 modules, applying this to more detailed and in-depth study. Writing for Journalists 2 gives learners the opportunity to study a range of journalistic genres and to write articles in different writing styles. In Contemporary Journalism Practice you will explore news values, news production, editing and design. This is the compulsory module in Semester 5. In addition to a range of modules from the Film and Media and Digital Media programmes, students can take modules in Magazine Journalism and Broadcast Journalism.
In Semesters 5, 7 and 8, you take a core French language module which focuses on the development of high-level language skills including translation to and from French, composition work in French and group and individual oral skills. Alongside these core language modules, you can choose from a selection of option modules centred on the areas of research expertise of French at Stirling staff, namely Postcolonial Studies, Visual Cultures and Gender and Sexualities. The options available vary from year to year but include: Cultures of Travel, Black France, Crime Fiction, Screening the City, Children’s Literature and Translation Theory. Our option modules are typically taught via weekly 2-hour seminars with classes of 15-20 students.

Semester 6 is a compulsory semester of Study Abroad which students spend at one of our wide range of well-established partnerships with institutions across France and the wider Francophone world (Switzerland, Quebec, Morocco). During the Semester Abroad, you take a range of courses at our partner institutions, including French language classes (translation, composition, oral classes, etc), as well as benefitting from immersion into a French-speaking environment outside the classroom. You are also strongly encouraged to apply for British Council English Language Assistantships, usually undertaken between Years 2 and 3.

Throughout Year 3 (including while on Study Abroad), you also take our Languages for Employability module which is taught on campus in Semester 5 and online while students are on Study Abroad. This module focuses on skills such as writing CVs and covering letters in French and delivering job-related presentations in French, as well as broader transferable skills that help strengthen your graduate profile.

**WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

*Outline of the assessment methods and approach to be used on the programme.*

**Assessment and Assessment Criteria**

You will receive a combination of formative and summative assessment. Formative assessment allows you to develop skills needed for marked assessments later in a module. These marked - summative - assessments may count towards your final degree classification. Feedback is given individually and in group contexts. Students are encouraged to engage with their tutors to look at how they might learn from completed assessments improve their performance.

A wide range of assessment formats are used over the course of a degree in French, encompassing grammar tests, composition work, translations (to and from French), group oral assessments, individual oral presentations in the target language and (occasionally) in English, analytical essays relating to cultural texts (films, novels, etc) and a research project in the target language (LANUFRE). Our Languages for Employability module also includes assessment of skills such as producing CVs and covering letters in French. We assess students’ work in line with the University’s grading scheme and have specific assessment criteria relating to written language (in French), oral assessment (in French) and essays relating to culture/history/politics. Please note that oral assessment in the target language is compulsory.

The bulk of assessments are done within the module itself. In a few cases there are examinations. The assessment regime will be fully explained in the module handbook and in lectures/workshops.

The University operates a common marking scheme for all modules and exams: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/).

All formally assessed work is marked blind and it is also systematically moderated or second marked.

**Feedback on Assessment**

- **What you can expect:**

The University takes feedback and feedforward very seriously and, along with the Students’ Union, have
developed a **Feedback Policy** and **Student Guide to Feedback**. The university identifies seven key principles of good feedback and feedforward:

- Constructive and supportive
- Clear and accessible
- Embedded
- Timely
- Transparent
- Goal referenced
- A dialogue

The University also identify steps **students** should take to get the most out of feedback and feedforward:

- Find out where, how and when feedback/feedforward will be provided
- Read and engage with the assessment criteria
- Engage with the feedback/feedforward you are given

Across the programme feedback can be informal and formal, formative and summative, and can be provided individually and in groups. It can take many different forms depending on the module’s requirements and will be used in the following ways across the programme:

- discussions in class about the assignment
- reviewing assignment exemplars
- practice assignments
- practising past exam papers
- ‘drop in’ advice
- guidance given on previous assignments about what to change in the future
- comments from staff or other students
- discussions in supervision meetings
- reflections in learning journals on academic/professional experiences
- Whole class or ‘generic’ feedback on how an exam question had been tackled
- final marks or awards.

- **What you should do with your feedback:**

You are responsible for:

- familiarising yourself with module information on how to approach assessments and how, when and where to find your feedback
- accessing and digesting your feedback
- seeking further help and guidance from your tutors and other students
- saving a copy of your feedback for future use
- reflecting on your feedback to celebrate and build on your strengths and to use what you have learnt in your approach to work in the future
- offering constructive and supportive feedback to other students when asked to do so.

- **When you will receive feedback:**

Formal feedback on assessment is expected to be given within three working weeks – where possible you will receive feedback sooner. Our learning management system, Canvas, will be used in the electronic submission, marking and feedback dissemination of coursework.

Further information on feedback and feedforward can be found here: [https://www.stir.ac.uk/media/stirling/services/academic-registry/documents/feedback-and-feedforward-policy.pdf](https://www.stir.ac.uk/media/stirling/services/academic-registry/documents/feedback-and-feedforward-policy.pdf)
Assessment Regulations
If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the Assessment and Academic Misconduct regulations at:


WHAT WILL I STUDY?
Outline Programme Structure

The list below shows compulsory and option modules for this programme. Option modules are revised over time and, in some cases, will be dependent upon pre-requisite and/or co-requisites being taken. More information about these requirements can be found in the relevant Module Descriptors. The options available each year can be subject to change due to student demand and availability of teaching staff.

- Where an “Option list” is specified, you have a choice of which module to take at this point in the degree programme and these choices are listed below
- For year 1 and 2 where “Any Module” is used it means that you can choose from all modules available to the year group and you can see the full list by following these links:

Undergraduate

Year 1

Total year 1 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 80
Option credits = 40

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Journalism</td>
<td>JOUU9X1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Contemporary French &amp; francophone Cultures OR Introductory French 1</td>
<td>FREU9A1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spaces &amp; Places in Modern France OR Introductory French 2</td>
<td>FREU9A2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical Issues in Journalism</td>
<td>JOUU9X2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Year 2

Total year 2 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 80
Optional credits = 40

Compulsory Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing for Journalists 1</td>
<td>JOUU9A3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth Century France OR</td>
<td>FREU9A3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>
### Year 3

Total year 3 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 100 [Option 1]; 60 [Option 2]
Optional credits = 20 [Option 1]; 60 [Option 2]

**Option 1**

**Compulsory Modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honours/General language</td>
<td>FREU9L5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>AUTUMN</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Journalism Practice</td>
<td>JOUU9J5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>AUTUMN</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages for Employability</td>
<td>LANU9LE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>AUTUMN &amp; SPRING</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory Semester Abroad in French Speaking Country</td>
<td>LANUFRE</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>

**Option 2** (Only for students who are exempted from LANUFRE with written approval from the French Programme Director and Study Abroad Advisor)

**Compulsory Modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honours/General language</td>
<td>FREU9L5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>AUTUMN</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Journalism Practice</td>
<td>JOUU9J5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>AUTUMN</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages for Employability</td>
<td>LANU9LE</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>AUTUMN &amp; SPRING</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Year 4

Total year 4 credit value = 120
Compulsory credits = 60
Optional credits = 60

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honours Language</td>
<td>FREU9L7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>AUTUMN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honours Language II</td>
<td>FREU9L8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law and Government for Journalists</td>
<td>JOUU9JL</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>

For Part time study, students are required to meet the full time Programme Structure in full but will take longer to do so.
For the French Components

Please refer to individual course materials for each module as we revise and update our required and recommended readings on a regular basis.

Required and Recommended Reading for the Journalism elements of the programme:

  NY: Pluto Press.

Students are strongly encouraged to consume as much news and current affairs as possible from print, broadcast and online platforms in both English and French, and to read it critically.

Section 3 Student Support

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING**

**Induction**
You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. These are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme.

For the French components of your degree, students beginning French in the Advanced stream are also provided with a programme of transition materials via Canvas (our VLE) in the weeks leading up to the start of their Semester 1. The aim of these materials is to help students adjust to University-level study of French via learning resources, exercises, online mini-lectures, etc that lead into our French programme.

**Study Skills Support**
Student Learning Services (SLS) are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.

All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services. However the service may be particularly beneficial:

- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
- If you have been out of education for some time.
What SLS are able to do:

- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
- Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
- Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
- Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
- Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/)

**STEER**

STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/)

**Academic and Pastoral Support**

**Adviser of Studies:** Advisers have an important role to play in enhancing your academic and personal development and are essential to ensuring you make the most of your time at university. Advisers provide a personalised point of contact for you to discuss academic concerns or queries within the academic community. The general purpose of the role is to provide more in-depth advice on the academic options available to you and on the academic policies and regulations within the University. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/)

**Personal Tutor:** The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/)

**Support and Wellbeing:** At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/)

**Student Union:** you can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/)

**Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)**

A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/)

**Learning Resources**

You can find out more about the resources available to support your learning here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/)
### METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

**Module Evaluation**
Module evaluations are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/)

**Programme Review**
Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff Consultative Committees, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/)

**External Examiner(s)**
Name of External Examiner: Zahera Harb  
Institution: City, University of London  
Kaitlynn Mendes  
Institution: University of Leicester  
Name of External Examiner: Darren Waldron  
Institution: University of Manchester  
Name of External Examiner: Patrick Crowley  
Institution: University College Cork

### Section 5 My Future

**WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?**

This degree prepares you for a job in the media, with many students progressing to trainee journalist roles in newspapers and magazines, but the degree provides transferable skills that are attractive to broadcasters, online platforms, strategic and corporate communications employers, PR companies and Press Offices, as well as in the fields of teaching, translation and tourism. Students are also attractive to employers of graduates in management and other roles.

How does this programme facilitate your development of the Graduate Attributes?

**Connected**
Journalism modules industry focused and practitioner led. Staff have strong links to the media sector and many are active in it. French modules have a strong focus on the modern and contemporary French-speaking world.

**Innovative**
The programme draws on expertise from researchers working at the cutting edge of media research, with specific strengths in digital journalism, big data and data journalism, as well as researchers working on a range of political, cultural and social issues of relevance to the contemporary French-speaking world.

**Transformative**
Learners are taught in a supportive environment that encourages them to play to their individual strengths and helps them find their voice. Many students have won national prizes for their work in Journalism, as well as scholarships and prizes for Language-related activities.

**WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**
Study Abroad is an integral element of this programme. Students on this programme spend their 6th semester of study at one of our partner institutions across France or elsewhere in the French-speaking world (Quebec, Switzerland or Morocco). We also encourage eligible students to apply for British Council English Language Assistantships which they tend to undertake between Year 2 and Year 3. The scheme extends the length of the degree by a year but offer successful applicants the opportunity to gain experience of teaching English conversation classes for a year. Successful applicants are contracted (usually for 8-9 months) to teach in the French school system (primarily at secondary level) and the assistantship is a paid appointment.

**WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

In addition to Semester 6 Abroad, eligible students are encouraged to apply for a British Council English Language Assistantship (see further details under Study/Time Abroad). Assistantships are normally undertaken between Year 2 and Year 3 and add a year to the length of the degree. Students are also encouraged to source their own internships, and the programme also has a partnership with Channel Four news for an internship annually.

**WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?**

*What programmes of study could the student go on to after successfully completing this one?*

Students can go on to study the Masters in International Journalism, Translation or Translation and TESOL at Stirling, similar programmes at other universities, and a wide range of masters in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Business and Management.

**WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

Students on this programme undertake a compulsory Semester Abroad in their 6th semester of study. We have a wide range of partner institutions across France and the wider French-speaking world (Switzerland, Morocco, Quebec) so students do not have to find their own placement. Arrangements for Semester 6 Abroad happen over the course of Semester 5, via compulsory meetings and information sessions organised by our Study Abroad Advisor and the University’s International Office. In most cases, students who undertake Semester 6 Abroad in France will be eligible for Erasmus funding. Non-EU students and any student interested in Semester 6 Abroad in Switzerland, Quebec or Morocco should talk to our Study Abroad Advisor as early in their programme as possible to discuss the financial implications.

Students should also note that French programme staff oversee the academic elements of students’ applications for Study Abroad but students are responsible for ensuring they respond promptly, fully and accurately to any requests for information (including all forms to be completed) both from Stirling’s International Office and from the host institution for the Semester Abroad. Failure to do so may result in problems registering at the host institution, delays receiving Erasmus funding and, in some circumstances, in students having offers of places withdrawn and/or being required to repay Erasmus grants received. This, in turn, has an impact on students’ progression through their degree and on their ability to graduate.

Students who spend Semester 6 Abroad (on module LANUFRE) do not pay student fees at the host institution (though some of our partners do levy small charges for specific individual modules) but continue to pay fees at Stirling while abroad. The amount of the Erasmus grant varies from year to year but in recent years has been in the region of €300/month. Only students who spend the semester in France are eligible for the Erasmus grant. Students who spend the semester in Switzerland, Quebec or Morocco will not have to pay fees at their host institution either (ie in line with students who spend the semester in France) but will not receive Erasmus funding.

All eligible students are also strongly encouraged to consider applying for a British Council English Language Assistantship. This is an externally-organised and highly competitive scheme that allows successful applicants to undertake a year of paid teaching (primarily English conversation classes) usually in a secondary school in France or elsewhere in the French-speaking world. For students studying Education, this scheme fulfils the GTC’s residence requirement but the scheme is by no means limited to Education students. Applications are submitted over the course of Year 2 (usually around the Winter break) and most
of our applicants undertake this year between Year 2 and Year 3, ie it extends the degree duration by one year but you are in paid employment for that year. Final year students can also apply for the scheme and undertake the assistantship in the year following their graduation.

In a very small number of cases, specific personal circumstances may mean that an individual student is not able to spend Semester 6 Abroad. Where students think such circumstances apply, they must contact the Study Abroad Advisor and the Programme Director as early as possible in their degree and they will be required to fulfil our minimum residence requirement. This entails a period of 4 weeks to be spent in France or a French-speaking country, often at a language school or in some form of internship or employment. This must be discussed and approved in advance by the Programme Director in consultation and the Study Abroad Advisor. Students should note that a 4-week minimum residence period is completed during the student’s own time and at their own expense.

For any questions regarding Study Abroad or other time abroad as part of your degree involving French, please do contact the Programme Director and/or Study Abroad Advisor.

Section 6 Admissions

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Admissions Criteria

SQA Highers
AABB – one sitting
AABBB – two sittings

GCE A-levels
BBB

IB Diploma
32

BTEC (Level 3)
DDM

Scottish HNC/HND
Bs in graded units

English, Welsh and NI HNC/D

Merits and Distinctions

Access Courses

Access courses and other UK/EU and international qualifications are also welcomed.

Foundation Apprenticeships

Foundation apprenticeships are considered to be equivalent to one Higher at Grade B.

Advanced Entry

Year 2 entry may be possible with an HND in a related subject. Please consult our Advanced Entry pages for possible courses.
International Students

If you are an international student and don’t meet the required academic and English-language criteria for entry onto this degree, there are other options. You could take our International Foundation programme, which prepares you for entry onto our degrees. Delivered by INTO University of Stirling on our Stirling campus, you can benefit from excellent teaching and supportive English language training. Successful completion of the International Foundation in Media, Humanities and Social Sciences provides guaranteed progression to this degree.