



## **BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies**

### **Programme Specification**

**2025-2026**

## Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION .....	3
2.	OVERVIEW.....	4
3.	ABOUT THE PROGRAMME .....	5
4.	MISSION .....	6
5.	PROGRAMME STRUCTURE .....	6
6.	PROGRAMME OUTCOMES .....	8
7.	TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT .....	10
	Teaching Strategy.....	10
	Assessment Strategy .....	11
8.	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS .....	12
	Admissions .....	12
	Transfer Credit .....	12
9.	EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS .....	12
	Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies (US).....	12
	Certificate of Higher Education in Communications and Media Studies (UK) .....	12
	Diploma of Higher Education in Communications and Media Studies (UK).....	13
10.	STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE .....	13
11.	PLACEMENT.....	14
12.	STUDY ABROAD .....	14
13.	REGULATORY FRAMEWORK .....	15
	Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme.....	15
14.	LIBRARY RESOURCES .....	16
	Books.....	16
	Journals .....	16
	Online journal databases.....	16
	Other online resources.....	16
	Scanning/Digitising .....	17
	Library Instruction .....	17
	APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map .....	18
	Publication Dates .....	21

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the **BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies** awarded by Richmond American University London, using the protocols required by *The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies* (QAA, 2024)

The degree is delivered within the framework of a US Liberal Arts undergraduate degree programme. Typically, students are admitted with the equivalent of 24 US/ 96 UK RQF Level 3 credits and take the 120 US/ 480 UK credit programme over three years.). Each undergraduate credit is equivalent, approximately, to 1 classroom contact hour per 15-week semester and students work to a 16 US credit semester structure. On this basis, students are required to earn a total of a minimum 120 US academic credit hours in order to complete their degrees.

The degrees are also articulated in terms of UK Regulatory Frameworks, chiefly the *FHEQ* and the *Higher Education Credit Framework for England*. Each course has been assigned to an appropriate level on the *FHEQ*, based on the course's learning outcomes and assessment strategies. US undergraduate credit can generally be translated to ECTS and UK CATS credits in the following manner: 1 US credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK CATS credits. So, a US degree of 120 credits would translate as 240 ECTS credits and 480 UK CATS credits (with a minimum of 384 UK CATS credits at Levels 4-6 on the *FHEQ*).

**Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.**

**More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.**

**The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.**

## 2. OVERVIEW

<b>Programme/award title(s)</b>	BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Richmond American University London
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Richmond American University London
<b>Date of last validation</b>	24 February 2025
<b>Next revalidation</b>	Spring 2030
<b>Credit points for the award</b>	120 US Credits 480 UK Credits at <i>FHEQ</i> Levels 3-6 (96 at Level 3; 128 at Level 4; 128 at Level 5; 128 at Level 6)
<b>UCAS Code</b>	P300
<b>Programme start date</b>	September 2025
<b>Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)</b>	<a href="#">Communication, Media, Film, and Cultural Studies</a> (2024)
<b>Professional/statutory recognition</b>	n/a
<b>Language of Study</b>	English
<b>Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)</b>	FT
<b>Dual accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Middle States Commission on Higher Education (First accredited 1981; renewed 1996, 2006, 2016). OfS - UK Taught Degree awarding powers, registered provider with the UK Office for Students. QAA – Higher Education Review (AP) 2017
<b>Date of production/revision of this specification</b>	December 2024 (see chart at the end of this document for list of revisions)

### 3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The **BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies** is an interdisciplinary programme designed to explore the power, influence, and ethical responsibilities of media in the modern society. Students gain a comprehensive understanding of how media shapes human expression, public opinion, cultural and social norms and values, whilst examining the pivotal role of media in a global context as they study in a thoroughly international and intercultural academic learning environment.

This programme will enable students to critically address media's omnipresent and influence in the modern world, impacting as it does everything from social identities to political movements. It will also empower students to become responsible, innovative, and informed media analysts and practitioners. It achieves this by combining a thorough theoretical foundation in the curriculum with practical experience, including project-based learning, internships, and collaborations with industry professionals. The programme culminates with an opportunity to both test such practical skills in our Creative Collaboration course where they will produce content informed by a real-world practical scenario and also in a senior dissertation where students pursue their intellectual and professional interests in a capstone research project.

A further distinctive feature of the Richmond programme is that it is able to meet the wide ranging, specific needs of an international student body. In keeping with the international mission of this liberal arts university, students are guided towards developing critical thinking and engagement with analysis of media across platforms and enquiry regarding culture, race and gender differences. Students interact with and gain understanding from other students from a vast range of cultural backgrounds bringing a knowledge and awareness of the "global village" and its implications on world communication systems and processes. By exploring the opportunities and challenges presented in our mediate world, graduates are prepared to critically assess the evolving media landscape on a global scale.

Upon completion of the programme, students will emerge as informed media professionals capable of contributing meaningfully to the ever-evolving fields of media and communications with the knowledge and skills to be able to:

- Engage critically with media narratives and trends and dissect the ways media shapes public perception and cultural norms.
- Understand the powerful way that the media can impact and influence in an interdisciplinary, and transformative manner.
- Plan and develop media content across a range of different mediums such as videography, podcasting, graphics, photography, and computer-aided communication such as blogging, scriptwriting and writing for the Internet.
- Create content that is culturally sensitive, ethically grounded, and impactful that respects national, ethnic, and cultural nuances in representation and expression.
- Demonstrate a wide range of transferrable skills such as digital literacy, teamwork, self-driven independent work, project management, and intercultural awareness.

With a balance of theoretical and practical course offerings, students will be prepared to go into relevant postgraduate study and/or related careers, from journalism and digital media to entertainment and advertising. The BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies degree, with its unique interdisciplinary, intercultural, and global focus, enables students to respond appropriately and effectively to a rapidly changing world whilst mastering the skills necessary for success in the 21st century.

#### 4. MISSION

The mission of the BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies degree is to cultivate critical thinkers and skilled professionals who understand the transformative power of media in shaping society, culture, and human expression. Through a global and interdisciplinary lens, this program equips students to explore media's role across diverse cultural, national, and ethical landscapes and create content that can carefully negotiate and respond to contemporary challenges. Graduates are prepared to navigate and influence the dynamic media and creative industries, promoting responsible storytelling and fostering meaningful connections that reflect and respect the complexities of global society.

#### 5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

##### BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies

A normal course load per academic year is 32 US credits, equivalent to 128 UK credits. Students complete 128 UK credits at Level 6.

Please note that students must complete all Liberal Arts requirements AND the minimum credits stated at each FHEQ level.

Black = Major requirements

Blue = Liberal Arts Core

Green = Elective

LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
		Credits	
Level	Course Title	US	UK
XXX 3XXX	Transfer Credit from L3 quals	4	16
XXX 3XXX	Transfer Credit from L3 quals	4	16
XXX 3XXX	Transfer Credit from L3 quals	4	16
XXX 3XXX	Transfer Credit from L3 quals	4	16
XXX 3XXX	Transfer Credit from L3 quals	4	16
XXX 3XXX	Transfer Credit from L3 quals	4	16
<b>RQF Level 3 CREDIT TOTALS</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>96</b>
COMM 4102	Introduction to Content Creation	4	16
COMM 4101	Introduction to Communications and Media	4	16
COMM 4103	Introduction to Intercultural Communication	4	16

<b>Complete L4 Academic Literacies required course:</b>		4	16
LIBA 4301	Academic Research and Writing		
<b>Choose one L4 Arts/Humanities course from the following:</b>		4	16
ARTS 4101	History of Arts and Visual Cultures		
ADPR 4101	Introduction to Advertising, PR and Media		
FILM 4101	Introduction to Film Studies		
FILM 4102	Introduction to Filmmaking		
HIST 4103	World Cultural History		
LANG 4101	Language and Culture 1		
<b>Choose one L4 Social/Behavioural Sciences course from the following:</b>		4	16
POLS 4101	Rich World, Poor World		
ENTR 4101	Introduction to Entrepreneurship		
BUSM 4101	Introduction to Business Management and Marketing		
FASH 4101	Business of Fashion		
PSYC 4101	Introduction to Psychology		
<b>Choose one L4 Data/Numeracy course from the following:</b>		4	16
MATH 4101	Probability and Statistics		
DATA 4301	Data Literacy		
<b>Choose one L4 Science course from the following:</b>		4	16
ENVR 4103	Introduction to Environmental Science		
ENVR 4102	Ecology and Conservation		
ENVR 4101	Earth Systems Science		
COMP 4101	Introduction to Programming		
PSYC 4302	Biological Basis of Human Behaviour		
<b>FHEQ Level 4 CREDIT TOTALS</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS</b>			
COMM 5101	Communication in Mediated Environments	4	16
COMM 5102	Media Power	4	16
ADPR 5101	Visual Communication in Practice	4	16
<b>Choose one from list below:</b>		4	16
ARTS 5102	Arts and Visual Cultures in Context and Practice		
ARTS 5103	Studio Photography		
ADPR 5102	Persuasive Communications in Advertising and PR		
COMP 5104	Human Computer Interaction		
<b>Complete required L5 Research Methods course:</b>		4	16
COMM 5301	Research Methods in Media and Arts		
<b>Choose one L5 Service-Learning course from the following:</b>		4	16
LIBA 5301	Service Learning: Global Citizenship and Migration		
LIBA 5302	Service Learning: Leadership in a Globalised World		
LIBA 5303	Service Learning: Sustainability and Society		

LIBA 5304	Service Learning: Digital Collaboration		
XXX 5XXX	Choose 1 x L5 Elective	4	16
XXX 5XXX	Choose 1 x L5 Elective	4	16
FHEQ Level 5 CREDIT TOTALS		32	128
COMM 6101	Contemporary Issues in Global Media	4	16
COMM 6102	Creative Collaboration	4	16
COMM 6110	Senior Dissertation in Communications and Media Studies	8	32
Choose one from the list below:		4	16
ADPR 6101	Creative Campaigns in Advertising and PR		
FILM 6103	International Cinema		
ARTS 6101	Contemporary Debates in Arts and Visual Cultures		
Plus EITHER:		8	32
COMM 6401	Internship		
Or TWO of the following Major Options:			
MARK 6101	Digital Marketing and Social Media		
FASH 6102	Fashion and Luxury and Brand Management		
MARK 6102	Integrated Marketing Communications		
POLS 6102	Sustainable Development		
BUSM 6104	Leadership and People Management		
BUSM 6102	Project management Skills and Methods		
And ONE Elective Course:		4	16
XXX 6XXX	L6 Elective		
FHEQ Level 6 CREDIT TOTALS		32	128
TOTAL CREDITS FOR THE DEGREE:		120	480

## 6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. Please refer to the Curriculum Map at the end of this document for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

- A. Disciplinary Knowledge and Understanding
- B. Disciplinary Applied Skills
- C. Communication Skills
- D. Transferrable Skills

### Disciplinary Knowledge and Understanding (A)

#### LEVEL 4

- I. Demonstrates broad knowledge and understanding of the core theories and methods in communications and media studies.

#### LEVEL 5

- I. Demonstrates the ability to engage in critical reflection on quantitative and/or qualitative research methods.
- II. Demonstrates a critical engagement with theories and concepts used in communications and media studies.

#### LEVEL 6

- I. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of different paradigms to communications and media studies.
- II. Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic understanding of methodological approaches taken in communications and media studies.
- III. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of key scholars, texts and debates in communications and media studies, and the reflexive relationship between these and empirical practice.

### **Disciplinary Applied Skills (B)**

#### LEVEL 4

- I. Demonstrates a broad understanding of the key issues of and core debates in communications and media studies.

#### LEVEL 5

- I. Demonstrates critical understanding of the key problems and issues addressed in communications and media studies.
- II. Demonstrates engagement with the selection, application and utilization of disciplinary appropriate methods.

#### LEVEL 6

- I. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of practical issues and problems communications and media studies face (explicitly addressing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion/Education for Sustainable Development).
- II. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of a core problem or issue in communications and media studies through a senior project or senior seminar.
- III. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major debates and using sophisticated disciplinary analysis that utilises knowledge from other cognate fields as is appropriate.

### **Communication Skills (C)**

#### LEVEL 4

- I. Demonstrates broad communication skills (including digital literacy) in deploying ideas and information to in a range of different formats and media.

#### LEVEL 5

- I. Demonstrates the ability to formulate and communicate arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources and/or data.
- II. Delivers work with limited supervision and/or effectively engage in teamwork according to a given brief.

#### LEVEL 6

- I. Demonstrates the communication skills needed to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity, and advanced group work.
- II. Demonstrates the systematic ability to gather, organise and deploy highly complex ideas, evidence and information.
- III. Demonstrates the ability to formulate, synthesise and effectively articulate arguments potentially incorporating competing perspectives, concepts and evidence in a range of formats and media including in professional and interpersonal contexts.

### Transferrable Skills (D)

#### LEVEL 4

- I. Demonstrates broad skills that are relevant to the workplace in terms of both personal and/or group outcomes.

#### LEVEL 5

- I. Demonstrating both critical reflection on ethical principles in the research process and broader discipline, and self-reflection for the capacity of criteria-based evaluation of work.
- II. Engaging in action-learning and develop links to external organisations and actors in the process of enabling career planning to take place.

#### LEVEL 6

- I. Demonstrates the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives, and plan and implement actions.
- II. Demonstrates autonomy in taking personal responsibility for ethical and sustainable practices in the discipline and in locating their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research.
- III. Demonstrate entrepreneurial education in the form of skills and practices that translate directly into employment, ideally in the form of work that contributes to a portfolio.

## 7. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

### Teaching Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy adopted within the **BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies** degree is based on the understanding that all students will be treated as active learners. Clearly, the precise approach will vary from course to course, depending on the learning outcomes relevant to each class.

The generic components of our teaching and learning strategy normally involves a variety of approaches and include delivering many of the following:

- Regular use of formal lecture sessions in all courses.
- Occasional workshops and seminars in some courses.
- Regular use of individual and/or team-based projects in all courses.
- Regular use of self-directed and directed reading in all courses.
- Peer-tutoring led by advanced students in many courses.
- Use of audio-visual and library resources in some courses.
- Regular use of tutor- and student-led discussion groups via e-learning platforms.

The combination of teaching and learning approaches mentioned above develops our students' knowledge, thinking skills and practical skills.

Their knowledge is acquired through:

- Structured lectures and supporting materials
- Directed reading and use of internet materials
- Independent research

Their cognitive skills are developed through:

- Conducting research
- Making presentations and preparing other assessments
- Helping others to learn

Their practical skills are gained through:

- Application of theory to practices encountered during internships
- Using information technology to retrieve and manipulate data
- Negotiating by means of team-based projects

Their key skills are gained through:

- Employing and using appropriate linguistic skills
- Independent learning

### Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategies we use with our **BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies** degree speak directly to how we anticipate progression with student learning to take place.

In terms of following up with the assessment of student learning and consistent with US liberal arts traditions, our classes rely on the system of continuous assessment on a course-by-course basis and throughout any given semester. This approach often involves the use of term-papers, portfolios of work, quizzes, mid-semester and final exams as well as student presentations and general class discussion. Not every component applies to every course, but most do relate to many of the classes that are offered. Many of our courses involve a site visit or require attendance at a public lecture as well. Students generally find these events to be extremely valuable to their learning.

Most of the courses will follow the University Assessment Norms, however some may follow specialised norms, as listed in each CSD. See the Assessment Norm Policy for full details:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

## **8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Admissions**

Details of the entry requirements, including English language requirements, may be found at the appropriate page of the University website listed below, where a comprehensive Admissions Policy and Summary of Practice document is also published.

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions/>

### **Transfer Credit**

Prospective students with specific levels of subject achievement in Advanced Placement Tests, GCSE, A Levels and some other UK and international qualifications may enter with Advanced Credit and be given exemption from certain courses of the programme. Please see the Transfer Credit Policy Undergraduate for details.

## **9. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

An exit award is defined as a lower award than one for which the student is registered. Such an award may be conferred if a student completes part, but not all, of the requirements of the programme for which he or she is registered. Students may not enter the university registered for an exit award.

### **Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies (US)**

The US Associate of Arts (AA) degree can be awarded as an exit degree for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

30 US / 120 UK credits at RQF Level 3

30 US / 120 UK credits at FHEQ Level 4

Of the total number of credits required for the AA degree, 30 US/120 UK credits must be completed at Richmond. Students must obtain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a major of 2.0 in order to qualify for this degree. Latin Honours are not applied to the AA Degree.

The requirements for the AA degree are outlined in Table 1 above. All Level 3 and 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

### **Certificate of Higher Education in Communications and Media Studies (UK)**

The UK Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) can be broadly aligned with the US Associate of Arts Degree. Students who qualify for the AA degree will automatically qualify for the CertHE. But students may qualify for a CertHE without fulfilling the requirements for a US AA degree if they have not completed all of the RQF Level 3 requirements necessary to obtain the AA.

The UK CertHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK CertHE, 15 US/60 UK credits must be completed at Richmond.

The requirements for the UK CertHE are outlined in the section of Table 1 pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 requirements. All Level 4 Major and Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

### **Diploma of Higher Education in Communications and Media Studies (UK)**

The UK Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) has no US equivalent. The UK DipHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

120 credits at FHEQ Level 5

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK DipHE, 15 US/60 UK Level 4 credits and 15 US/60 UK Level 5 credits must be completed at the University.

The requirements for the UK DipHE are outlined in the sections of Table 1 and Table 2 above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 and FHEQ Level 5 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed. Level 6 courses can be “dipped-down” to fulfil missing Level 5 credits.

Students may not be awarded more than one UK exit award and the University Examination Board will recommend the most relevant one for the individual student circumstance.

## **10. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE**

There is a range of student support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to students. This is accomplished through a range of programmes and services that positively impact learning as well as the total student life experience.

All students have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their Academic Advisor. Academic Advisors have on-going responsibility for students’ academic progress, meeting with each student at least once per semester. Programme Directors assist students with

registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on career opportunities and provide pastoral support in many cases.

A range of Math, English, Technology and Writing workshops have been established to support students with needs in these areas. Librarians are on hand to assist with library use, which includes instruction in web-based resources.

The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure students are able to fully participate in the University community. Students who declare a physical disability or a special educational need are supported to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements. SEN students, for instance, receive extra time for examinations, and have the option of writing exams on university-provided computers, and/or of taking exams in a separate room.

The University operates a well-staffed Student Affairs department that provides services intended to support and encourage student welfare, safety and development. This department oversees the medical registration of students and provides counselling services. It also organizes a range of extracurricular activities and travel designed to further enhance students' educational experiences. Disciplinary and social grievance procedures are also overseen by this department.

## **11. PLACEMENT**

The Internship Office the University offers a formal mechanism through which students may receive work-placement opportunities. These placements are supervised, career-related work experiences combined with reflective, academic study that help students apply theoretical knowledge in the workplace. Participation in the internship programme is optional, but students who choose to take up a placement receive academic credit for their placement and associated academic work (see level 6 options).

Expectations with regard to careers education, information, advice and guidance (as outlined in the section on Enabling Student Achievement in *The UK Quality Code for Higher Education*) are handled by the university's Student Affairs department. This department conducts a variety of career services for students, ranging from resource provision to a CV service, and in particular through the LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) seminar series.

In addition to these services, the alumni office offers networking opportunities where students may contact alumni working in a variety of fields. The alumni office also offers these services via social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

## **12. STUDY ABROAD**

Richmond students have the option to take a leave of absence and travel away from the university as a 'study abroad'. With 40 partnerships spread over five continents, students can select from a wide range of partners. All courses taken elsewhere must be pre-approved by Registry Services.

### 13. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The **BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies** is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond American University London, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2024) UK Quality Code for Higher Education ([www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk))
- QAA (2018) The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education ([www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk))
- QAA (2008) Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England ([www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk))
- SEEC (2016) Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education, Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. 2014: Thirteenth Edition; Rev. Ed. 2015

#### Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The **BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies** features detailed published educational objectives that are consistent with the mission of the institution. All course outlines contain course specific objectives that are regularly monitored by the individual instructors and by the faculty as a group.

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners
- Internal Moderation
- Student representation
- Curricular change approval process
- Annual Programme Monitoring and Assessment
- Formal Programme Review, every five years
- Course evaluation
- Student satisfaction surveys and the NSS
- Feedback from employers

**BA (Hons) Communications and Media Studies with Combined Studies** is provided through a system of ongoing evaluations that demonstrate achievement of the programme's objectives, and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme. Ongoing evaluation is carried out for both US (the Middle States Commission on Higher Education) and UK (QAA) reviews. The University is a voluntary subscriber member of the QAA, and underwent its first full Institutional Review in May 2013 and a Higher Education Review (AP) in 2017.

## **14. LIBRARY RESOURCES**

### **Books**

Faculty and Students are encouraged to help in the purchase of library resources and submit requests for new purchases relating to and supporting their subject areas and research. Details of selected new acquisitions are publicized on the library subject pages and online catalogue.

The library also purchases academic ebooks to support students required reading, as well as cataloguing open access resources. These books are made available through the library catalogue.

Every year, the library collection is reviewed and non-relevant or out of date stock is withdrawn. Analysis of loans compared to purchases and new publications within core subject areas are used to drive additional purchases to make sure that the collection remains relevant and current.

### **Journals**

At present the Library subscribes directly to approximately 30 periodical titles. Where electronic access is provided with a subscription this has been made available through the library's online Publications Finder.

In consultation with faculty the Library regularly reviews its periodical subscriptions, ensuring relevant coverage is provided as the curriculum changes.

### **Online journal databases**

Full text e-journal services include access to Ebsco's: Academic Search Premier, Art Full Text, Business Source Premier, Communication and Mass Media Complete, Education Full Text, International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance, International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center, SPORTDiscus and PsycArticles; WARC and JSTOR. These provide access to around 42,000 titles, as well as business and market data and case studies.

In addition, students are directed to a multitude of other online databases which they can search for citations including Google scholar and subject specific internet gateways.

In all cases where the full text is neither in the library's subscription resources nor available online the Library provides free inter-library loans to students and faculty using the services of the British Library (BL On Demand).

Access to the e-journal databases can be found on the Library portal.

### **Other online resources**

Other online resources include a subscription to FT Education which provides on-line and mobile access to the newspaper archive as well as a wide range of digital and multi-media features, in-depth reports on a wide range of business and political topics and a digital learning tool that allows students and faculty to annotate and share articles. Additionally, the Statista platform provides easy access to over 1,900,000 statistics on a wide range of business

& social topics from over 22,500 sources as well as industry reports, research dossiers and market outlooks. A subscription to Mintel Academic provides access to market research data and expertise across the retail, media and financial services sectors in the UK as well as global trends and consumer behaviour analysis.

There are pages of subject related resources on the library's portal which aim to guide students to quality internet material as well as the most relevant subscription resources.

### Scanning/Digitising

Under CLA licence the library provides online access to scanned materials from the library print collection to faculty. These can then be accessed by students on a particular course of study through the member of faculty's Blackboard pages.

### Library Instruction

Students are encouraged to complete a library induction session online and visit the library during Orientation. Professional librarians teach information literacy and research skills to students as an embedded part of the Liberal Arts programme. Instructional materials for Library resources and research skills, customized to cover the resources most relevant for the subject area are also provided for each programme. In addition, further sessions on subject specific resources, tailored to individual assignments as required, are offered on Upper Division courses. Students can also receive individual, tailored help with resources, research skills and referencing on a one-to-one basis either in person or online throughout their studies.

## APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map

Course Code	Course Title	Disciplinary Knowledge and understanding (A)			Disciplinary Applied Skills (B)			Communication Skills (C)			Transferrable Skills (D)		
		I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III
Level 4													
COMM 4102	Introduction to Content Creation				X			X			X		
COMM 4101	Introduction to Communications and Media	X			X								
COMM 4103	Introduction to Intercultural Communication	X			X			X			X		
Complete required course:													
LIBA 4301	Academic Research and Writing							X			X		
One L4 Arts/Humanities course:													
ARTS 4101	History of Arts and Visual Cultures	X			X								
ADPR 4101	Introduction to Advertising, PR and Media	X			X			X			X		
FILM 4101	Introduction to Film Studies	X			X			X					
FILM 4102	Introduction to Filmmaking				X			X			X		
HIST 4103	World Cultural History	X			X			X					
LANG 4101	Korean Language and Culture 1	X			X			X					
One Social/Behavioural Sciences course:													
POLS 4101	Rich World Poor World	X			X			X					
ENTR 4101	Introduction to Entrepreneurship	X			X								

BUSM 4101	Introduction to Business Management and Marketing	X		X				X	
FASH 4101	Business of Fashion	X		X					
PSYC 4101	Introduction to Psychology	X		X		X		X	
<b>One L4 Data/Numeracy course:</b>									
MATH 4101	Probability and Statistics	X		X		X		X	
DATA 4301	Data Literacy	X		X		X		X	
<b>One Science course:</b>									
ENVR 4103	Introduction to Environmental Science	X		X		X		X	
ENVR 4101	Earth Systems Science	X		X		X		X	
ENVR 4102	Ecology and Conservation	X		X		X		X	
COMP 4101	Introduction to Programming	X		X		X		X	
PSYC 4302	Biological Basis of Human Behaviour	X		X		X			
<b>Level 5</b>									
COMM 5101	Communication in Mediated Environments		X	X		X			
COMM 5102	Media Power		X	X		X			
ADPR 5101	Visual Communication in Practice		X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Complete required Liberal Arts course:</b>									
COMM 5301	Research Methods in Media and Arts	X			X	X	X	X	
<b>One of below:</b>									
ARTS	Studio Photography	X		X			X	X	

5103													
ADPR 5102	Persuasive Communications in Advertising and PR		X		X	X		X			X		
ARTS 5102	Arts and Visual Cultures in Context and Practice		X		X	X		X					
COMP 5104	Human Computer Interaction	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
<b>Complete L5 Service-Learning required course:</b>													
LIBA 5301	Service-Learning: Global Citizenship and Migration							X	X			X	
LIBA 5302	Service-Learning: Leadership in a Globalised World							X	X			X	
LIBA 5303	Service-Learning: Sustainability and Society							X	X			X	
LIBA 5304	Service-Learning: Digital Collaboration												
<b>Level 6</b>													
COMM 6101	Contemporary Issues in Global Media	X		X	X		X		X				
COMM 6102	Creative Collaboration				X		X	X		X	X	X	X
COMM 6110	Senior Dissertation in Communications and Media Studies		X	X		X	X		X		X	X	
<b>One of the below:</b>													
ADPR 6101	Creative Campaigns in Advertising and PR	X	X		X			X		X			X
FILM 6103	International Cinema	X			X					X		X	
ARTS 6101	Contemporary Debates in Arts and Visual Cultures	X	X	X					X				
<b>And Either:</b>													
COMM 6401	Internship		X							X	X	X	X

<b>OR two of the below:</b>													
MARK 6101	Digital Marketing and Social Media	X			X		X						X
FASH 6102	Fashion and Luxury and Brand Management	X			X		X	X	X		X		
MARK 6102	Integrated Marketing Communications	X	X					X			X		
POLS 6102	Sustainable Development				X			X		X	X		X
BUSM 6104	Leadership and People Management	X			X	X							
BUSM 6102	Project Management Skills and Methods	X	X			X							X

Faculty may access the KILO map: [KILO KPO Tables](#)

### Publication Dates

<b>Revision 1</b>	Dec 2024 – First Edition