



RICHMOND
THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
IN LONDON

**BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media
with Combined Studies**

Programme Specification

2015-2016

Introduction

This document describes the degree of BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies awarded by Richmond University, the American International University in London, using the protocols required by the *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland* (QAA, 2008). Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

QAA (2013). *UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Part A: Setting and maintaining academic standards and B1: Programme Design and Approval.* (www.qaa.ac.uk)

QAA (2008). *Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England.*

SEEC (2010). *Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education.* Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec.org.uk).

Middle States Commission on Higher Education. *Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education: Requirements of Affiliation and Standards for Accreditation.* 2006, Rev. Ed. 2011. (<http://www.msche.org/publications.asp>)

The degree is delivered within the framework of a US Liberal Arts undergraduate degree programme. Typically students complete 40 separate courses over the programme which takes 3.5 to 4 years (approximately 10 courses per year, with summer courses allowing for accelerated progress in some cases). Normally, each course carries 3 US academic credits (equivalent, approximately, to 3 classroom contact hours per 15 week semester). On this basis, students are required to earn a total of 120 US academic credit hours in order to complete their degrees. Of these 40 courses, roughly half are at the “lower-division” taken in the first two years of study and coded 3000-4999, and half are at the “upper division”, taken in years three and four, and coded 5000-6999.

Richmond 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 (note that the courses comprising the first year of the 4-year US undergraduate degree are normally at QCF Level 3). 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 360 UK CATS credits at Levels 4-6 on the *FHEQ*).

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1. Overview/Factual Information

Programme/award title(s)	BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies
Teaching Institution	Richmond, the American International University in London
Awarding Institution	The Open University
Date of latest OU validation	September 2012
Next revalidation	2016-2017 academic year
Credit points for the award	120 US Credits 480 UK Credits at FHEQ Levels 3-6 (120 at Level 3; 120 at Level 4; 120 at Level 5; 120 at Level 6)
UCAS Code	University Code: R20 Course Code: PP53
Programme start date	September 2009
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies 2008 http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/honours-degree-subjects
Other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes	See sections 2.3 and 2.4 below.
Professional/statutory recognition	N/A
Language of Study	English
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)	FT – 4 years (including one year at QCF Level 3)
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	Middle States Commission on Higher Education (First accredited 1981; renewed 1996 and 2006. Institutional Review scheduled for 2016.) QAA – IRENI May 2013
Date of production/revision of this specification	May 2014 (see chart below for list of revisions)

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, syllabi, and the student handbook.

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.

Programme Specification Publication Dates

First Edition	July 2011
Revision 1	February 2012
Revision 2	June 2012 (substantive revision, including <i>FHEQ</i> and credit mapping)
Revision 3	August 2013
Revision 4	May 2014
Revision 5	May 2015

2. Programme aims and objectives

2.1. Educational aims and mission of the programme

MISSION

The BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies major prepares students to become ethical news professionals in the converged newsroom of the 21st Century. The Major provides an interdisciplinary, multimedia approach to the study of and training of the core skills required for careers in journalism. It also develops an international, intercultural and global awareness within the framework of an American Liberal Arts curriculum. The focus of the degree is twofold: 1) to prepare novice news professionals to work in a converged newsroom where they will be required to deploy a variety of journalistic and multimedia skills; and 2) to train journalists to operate within an ethical framework.

GOALS

- To prepare students for successful careers in journalism, public relations and other media industries and for further graduate studies in related fields.
- To develop students' independent learning and working abilities.
- To enable an understanding of how cultural and media organisations intersect with general political and economic processes.
- To raise awareness of the ethical requirements and challenges of the news media and train students to respect ethical guidelines.
- To educate students to analyse constructively and logically, think critically, and to develop an intellectual curiosity and risk-taking approach of their own.

BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies aims to provide students with:

1. The provision of a degree which acknowledges the implicit connection between a student's university education and a future career by developing knowledge and skills which will be valuable and valued in the international marketplace;
2. The full development of each student's intellectual potential by means of a student-centred classroom and a full range of assessments designed to measure the acquisition of both theoretical and practical skills;
3. The maximum use of the particular cultural environment in which the degree is delivered, both in terms of the university itself and the broader context of the cultural life of London;
4. The use of a pedagogy which, at the same time as investigating each discipline in depth, seeks to find cognate commonalities and cross-references within the related disciplines of Communications, International Relations and Political Science;

5. The pursuit of knowledge against the changing backdrop of globalisation and those rapidly advancing technologies which are changing the characteristics of the news and international media industries.

BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies is distinctive in that it broadens the academic experience of the students as a consequence of Richmond's US Liberal Arts framework and General Education requirements, and deepens it as a result of the sequence of course requirements within the program. This balance between a core of requirements and a range of choices is a key characteristic of the US system of Liberal Arts undergraduate education which does not strive nor wish to replicate the British specialist orientation at the BA level. From this unique stance, the Richmond programme combines the best possible theory and practice from both sides of the Atlantic. Operating from a firm, theoretical interdisciplinary base, the degree provides a practical and theoretical training in journalism, public relations and related media industries, and seeks to achieve specific learning outcomes based on fundamental understanding of the role of the news media in contemporary societies, the role of the media in globalization processes, as well as a solid training in those practical skills and applications necessary for the versatility required for journalistic careers in a rapidly changing professional environment. The degree builds upon Richmond's acknowledged strengths in Communications, Art and Design, International Relations and Political Science to give students a well-rounded practical and theoretical basis in international journalism and media.

Progression is ensured throughout the levels, with the General Education/Combined Studies courses largely completed in the first and second years, and the subject-area study increasing in sophistication. In the final year, students complete a capstone senior course which entails an extensive, original investigative journalism project. Throughout their undergraduate careers students are encouraged to develop a Personal Portfolio (PDP) demonstrating their skills. There is a balance of theoretical and practical course offerings. As several key faculty members are active practitioners in their fields, students are exposed to the realities of journalistic and media practices throughout their Richmond experience and are prepared for related careers and/or relevant postgraduate study.

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. To achieve this, the programme offers not only a strong core of major requirements but also a range of options from which students may choose depending on their particular interests and career plans. The core of the degree in International Journalism and Media is the development of the key practical news gathering and reporting skills, the mastering of the different media (text, photography, publications layout, video production, etc) necessary in the converged newsroom as well as the understanding of the social, political and ethical constraints within which media professionals operate. Optional courses and the courses required by the General Education

programme reflect a range of student interests including artistic expression through studio art or performance, art journalism, creative writing, travel writing, public relations, political communications, international history, international politics, psychology, sociology and cultural studies. Thus, students may choose from a variety of specialized studies those which most closely match their talents and interests.

Additionally, the degree program has a distinct intercultural and multicultural focus in keeping with the University's Mission. Students interact with and gain understanding from other students from over 100 nations, in a university in which no single national group predominates, bringing a knowledge and awareness of the "global village" and its implications on world communication systems and processes. Focusing on critical issues such as globalisation, developing technologies and the growing interdependence of different cultures, International Journalism and Media students at Richmond are guided towards developing critical thinking and engagement with analysis of the mass media and enquiry regarding culture, race and gender differences.

International Journalism and Media students are strongly encouraged to gain practical experience by taking appropriate Internships via the university's Internship programme. Typically these internships will be undertaken at the end of the student's Senior Year. (It should be noted that these internships are an optional rather than compulsory component of the degree.)

2.2. Subject benchmarks

Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/honours-degree-subjects>

2.3. Internal contexts

BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media 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 Communications faculty as a group.

Processes based on the needs of the programme's various constituencies in which the objectives are determined and periodically evaluated: Each degree's Annual Programme Evaluation (APE) is a central element of Richmond's internal quality assurance and enhancement processes. APEs measure the academic quality and standards of the programme, identify good practice, record any issues to be

addressed, and, from year to year, track the ways in which those issues have been addressed. During the APE process, the academic schools:

- consider student input via course evaluations;
- consider any formalized faculty course evaluations conducted;
- consider all External Examiner reports;
- examine the Programme Specification, and note any changes required;
 - any major changes (“those which change the basic nature of the programme or student experience”) to existing programmes are first approved by Academic Board;
 - in the case of validated programmes, they are also submitted to the Open University (Centre for Inclusion and Collaborative Partnerships) for external approval.

A curriculum development process that assures the achievement of the programme’s objectives, and a system of ongoing evaluation that demonstrates achievement of these objectives and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme: Ongoing evaluation is carried out for both the US (*Middle States*) and UK (*The Open University – CICP*) institutional reviews, and independently by departmental members (when updating courses) and by students (during regular faculty-student meetings). The Academic Board closely analyses the APEs of all degree programmes, and The University’s response to the AMR is considered at the Schools and at Academic Board. An additional formal and substantive review takes place every five years during the revalidation process of Richmond’s degree programmes by The OU.

2.4. External contexts

BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media 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. (The Open University – CICP) reviews. Richmond is a voluntary subscriber member of the QAA, and underwent its first full Institutional Review in May 2013 (<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/admissions/about-richmond/american-british-accreditation.aspx>).

Faculty belong to professional organizations including as Political Studies Association, The British International Studies Association, The International American Studies Association, The British American Studies Association, International Communication Association, Presswise, Media in Transition, International Association for the Study of Media and Communication Research, etc.

Students are encouraged to attend meetings, lectures at other London universities, news organizations, think-tanks, public agencies and cultural institutions.

3. Programme Outcomes

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. The BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies degree at Richmond the American International University in London is a four year programme where the discipline is studied alongside a range of other subjects. Progression through the International Journalism degree is set out down each of the four columns of the Programme Outcome grid – with level-specific programme outcomes at QCF Level 3 and FHEQ Levels 4-6. The programme outcomes are then applied in each course on the International Journalism degree through assessed, courses-specific learning outcomes. The four broad categories of Programme Outcomes are:

- A) Theoretical Knowledge Base
- B) Practical Knowledge Base
- C) Cognitive Skills
- D) Personal Development

Refer to Appendix I – Curriculum Map for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

3.1. Theoretical Knowledge Base (A)

Includes: <i>knowledge base, debates in field</i>	
QFC LEVEL 3	
A3(i)	an understanding of the history of communication and major media technologies, and a recognition of the different ways in which the history of, and current developments in, media and communication can be understood in relation to technological change
FHEQ LEVEL 4	
A4(i)	a broad understanding of the link between democracy and a free press
A4(ii)	a broad understanding of the roles of cultural practices and cultural institutions in society
A4(iii)	a broad understanding of ethical requirements pertaining to the news media
FHEQ LEVEL 5	
A5(i)	a detailed understanding of the political, social, economic, cultural and institutional factors that inform the production and consumption of media products
A5(ii)	a detailed understanding of the ways in which different social groups may make use of cultural texts and products in the construction of social and cultural realities, cultural maps and frames of reference
A5(iii)	engage critically with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within the subject area and put them to productive use
FHEQ LEVEL 6	
A6(i)	a systematic understanding of key ethical issues such as public interest, privacy, libel, accuracy and media representations of gender and race
A6(ii)	a systematic understanding of the role of the media in society and its

	contribution to public affairs and the development of citizenship.
A6(iii)	a systematic understanding of the history of communication and media technologies, and a recognition of the different ways in which the history of, and current developments in media and communication can be understood in relation to technological change
A6(iv)	a systematic understanding of political, cultural, economic, social and institutional constraints to media objectivity.

3.2. Practical Knowledge Base (B)

Includes: <i>practical applications of knowledge base, principles of practice</i>	
QCF LEVEL 3	
B3(i)	an understanding of the processes linking production, distribution, circulation and consumption
FHEQ LEVEL 4	
B4(i)	a broad understanding and command of the techniques required to write basic journalistic assignments
B4(ii)	a broad insight into the cultural and social ways in which aesthetic judgements are constructed and aesthetic processes are experienced
B4(iii)	demonstrates a broad understanding of contemporary issues in international relations
FHEQ LEVEL 5	
B5(i)	a detailed knowledge of news-gathering and writing techniques and of multimedia requirements for news production
B5(ii)	demonstrates a critical and theoretical engagement with core problems and issues in the subject area, at the domestic, regional and global levels
B5(iii)	a detailed understanding of the ways in which forms of media and cultural consumption are embedded in everyday life, and serve as ways of claiming and understanding identities
FHEQ LEVEL 6	
B6(i)	a systematic understanding of key production processes and professional practices relevant to media, cultural and communicative industries, and of ways of conceptualising creativity and authorship
B6(ii)	demonstrates a systematic insight into the cultural, economic, environmental, geographical, historical, political and social dimensions of international relations, and of the significance of these for the subject area
B6(iii)	a systematic understanding of different professional and journalistic genres, formats and platforms.
B6(iv)	a systematic demonstration of competence in multimedia skills.

3.3. Cognitive Skills (C)

Includes: <i>critical thinking, synthesis, problem solving, research, analysis</i>	
QCF LEVEL 3	
C3(i)	demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to communication arguments effectively in written, oral or other forms, with an understanding of appropriate methods

FHEQ LEVEL 4	
C4 (i)	demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms
C4(ii)	demonstrates a broad understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods
C4 (iii)	demonstrates an ability to judge the reliability of sources, and begins to identify the strengths and weaknesses of concepts and theoretical frameworks
FHEQ LEVEL 5	
C5(i)	demonstrates the ability to formulate and synthesize arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources, with a detailed understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative methods
C5(ii)	delivers work with limited supervision to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate, of a problem-solving approach
C5(iii)	exercises a degree of independent and informed critical judgement in analysis
FHEQ LEVEL 6	
C6(i)	demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms
C6(ii)	demonstrates the ability to organise and manage supervised, self-directed projects, through which a sophisticated understanding of research methods is demonstrated
C6(iii)	demonstrates the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing perspectives and concepts, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts
C6(iv)	demonstrates the ability to provide critically appraisals of some of the widespread common sense understandings and misunderstandings of the subject area, and the debates and disagreements to which these give rise

3.4. Personal Development (D)

Includes: <i>personal development, engagement with feedback, interpersonal communication skills, levels of independence and autonomy, task completion, team work, ethical and intercultural awareness skills</i>	
QCF LEVEL 3	
D3(i)	demonstrates an awareness of views other than their own and adapts behaviour to meet obligations in personal and/or group outcomes and/or outputs
FHEQ LEVEL 4	
D4(i)	acts with limited autonomy under direction or supervision and engages in evaluation of own work and capabilities and outputs in key

	areas
D4(ii)	demonstrates broad skills that are relevant to the workplace, including the ability to work productively in a group or team, and to recognise factors that affect performance, including changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity
D4(iii)	demonstrates the ability to use a range of information communication technology (ICT) skills to perform tasks
FHEQ LEVEL 5	
D5(i)	demonstrates well-developed skills that will translate into the workplace, including the ability to work effectively within a group or team, to engage in self-reflection, and to adapt own actions and interpersonal communication skills to changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity
D5(ii)	delivers work with limited direction or supervision, demonstrating the capacity to consider and evaluate their own work using justifiable criteria.
D5(iii)	demonstrates the ability to adapt to complex and non-routine performance tasks using information communication technology (ICT)
FHEQ LEVEL 6	
D6(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
D6(ii)	demonstrates personal responsibility and professional codes of conduct, while taking responsibility for their own work, learning and development, and effectiveness in professional and interpersonal communication
D6(iii)	demonstrates flexible skills that translate directly into the workplace, including the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity, and advanced group or team work capacities, for example listening, contributing, leading, negotiating and proactively managing conflict as is appropriate
D6(iv)	demonstrates the ability to flexibly locate their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research, with a level of autonomy

The transferable skills acquired in this program equips the students with skills and knowledge to enable them to undertake careers (or further training for careers) in journalism, creative media industries, corporate communications, public relations and/or international marketing.

4. Teaching, learning and assessment strategies

4.1. Teaching and learning strategy

The teaching and learning strategy adopted within **BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies**.

- Teaching is through lectures, seminars, tutorials, news writing workshops
- Regular use of individual and /or team based projects
- Use of audio-visual aids and a range of technologies including graphics, video/editing, photography, multi-media production, pod-casting, publications layout
- Regular use of individual and/or group presentations
- Regular use of self-directed and directed reading in all courses
- Use of Library resources, historical archives, digital resources and online catalogues
- Use of occasional guest lecturers from specialist areas
- Frequent feedback on coursework and through one to one meetings with faculty and small group discussions
- Regular use of tutor and student led discussions groups via e-learning platforms such as Blackboard in many courses
- Using London as a resource

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 thinking skills are developed through

- Conducting research
- Making presentations and preparing other assessments
- Helping others to learn
- Project work employing a problem solving methodology

Their practical skills are gained through

- Application of theory to practice
- Using information technology to retrieve and manipulate data and graphics
- Negotiating with others in group projects

4.2. Assessment strategy

Most of the courses in the BA International Journalism and Media follow the Standard Assessment Norms Table or the International Journalism and Media Assessment Norms Table.

Standard Assessment Norms			
FHEQ level	Richmond/UK Level	Normal Number of Items (including final exam)*	Total assessment
LEVEL 3	R3000/UK A-level	3-4	1 two-hour final exam plus 2000-2500 words
LEVEL 4	R4000/UK Year 1	3-4	1 two-hour final exam plus 2000-3000 words
LEVEL 5	R5000/UK Year 2	2-3	1 two-hour final exam plus 3000-4000 words
LEVEL 6	R6000/UK Year 3	2-3	1 two-hour final exam plus 3000-4000 words
LEVEL 7	R7000/UK MA	2-3	5000-7000 words

*** Reasonable adjustments should be made for assessment activities such as midterm tests, in- class presentations, group assignments, etc. Any summative assessment activities must be reflected in the final overall assessment count.**

Excluding all atypical courses, the following should apply to all courses:

- All undergraduate courses should include one 2-hour final exam, with exceptions approved by the department.
- Final exams should normally be no less than 25% and no more than 50% of the overall final grade.
- Instructors may not fail a student solely for failing the final exam if all graded activities result in a passing grade for the course.
- Midterm tests are optional
- At Level 3, the normal length per item should be between 500-1000 words, or equivalent (not including finals).
- At Level 4, the normal length per item should be between 1000-1500 words, or equivalent (not including finals).

- At Level 7, word count will need to take into account the inclusion of a final exam.
- Attendance and participation cannot be assessment activities.
- Formative assessments are at the discretion of the instructor and do not count toward the number of items or toward the total word count.

International Journalism and Media				
FHEQ level	Richmond/UK Level	Normal number of items (including final exam)*	Normal length per item	Total assessment
LEVEL 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LEVEL 4	R4000/UK Year 1	5-6	300 - 500	2000-2500 words and /or multimedia assignments
LEVEL 5	R5000/UK Year 2	3-5	600-800	2500-3500 words and/or multimedia assignments
LEVEL 6	R6000/UK Year 3	3 -5	600-800	2500-4000 words And/or multimedia assignments

The skills and knowledge that IJM students acquire throughout their degree cannot be quantified and assessed in words and least of all in a two-hour exam. This is particularly relevant for those writing and reporting intensive courses. Instead their knowledge will be assessed by the demonstration of journalistic researching, writing and multimedia skills. In terms of writing, students will be assessed according to the following criteria: quality of information, clarity, conciseness, and ability to explain complex ideas in an accessible language. Moreover, in some courses students are required to incorporate multimedia aspects such as photography, podcasts, publications layout, etc. The assessment norms for the IJM students will reflect these criteria.

There are some other exceptions and those courses will follow a Special Programmes (eg. ADM, ARW) or Dissertation table approved on 28 June 2012 by Academic Council. Details of these can be found at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/> For courses that have atypical assessment norms and do not follow one

of the approved tables, assessment will first be approved by Learning and Teaching Policy Committee.

Grade Assessment Criteria/Marking Scheme

In order to obtain the **BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies** students require (amongst other requirements) a cumulative GPA across the entire degree of 2.0. This is a 'C' average. A minimum GPA of 2.0 must also be achieved in all courses taken to fulfil major requirements. For information on the calculation of the UK GPA as a basis for final degree classifications, see the myacademics page of the university portal at: <https://my.richmond.ac.uk/myacademics/default.aspx>

Course syllabi documents clarify, for each learning outcome, how that particular learning outcome is assessed, and what the threshold criteria for that particular learning outcome is, specified at the 'C' (GPA 2.0) level (i.e. a passing grade)

There are three 'pass' grades (and 7 sub-categories of 'pass' grade) in the **BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies**. The following general criteria are used to distinguish between these grades:

Grade A applies only to the exceptional piece of work which:

- has continued beyond the B grade band to develop a more advanced analytical and integrative command of the material and issues
- gives evidence of very wide reading and extensive knowledge of relevant theory and recent research
- is very well structured, putting forward cogent arguments which are well supported by carefully evaluated evidence
- superior (A-) or outstanding (A)

Grade B applies to work which:

- goes beyond the foundation level to develop a more questioning and analytical approach
- goes beyond the basic required reading, to study and discusses recommended texts and articles
- indicates an increasing ability to appreciate an extensive body of knowledge and to conceptualize the key theories, issues, debates and criticisms
- demonstrates the skills to present a balanced and comprehensive discussion
- has been completed with a thoroughness aimed to get the most learning out of the exercise
- good quality (B-), very good (B), or excellent (B+)

Grade C applies to work which:

- is basically competent, although undeveloped
- fulfils the requirements of the assignment at a foundation level, involving:
 - adequate coverage of the essential information specified, and

- the skill to present that material coherently
- selects relevant named references and quotations
- just below average (C-), average (C), or showing signs of reaching above average (C+)

Grade D applies to work which:

- has been done without proper understanding of the requirements
- is too short, or long and unedited or lacks structure
- relies on superficial, subjective statements
- uses unreliable and inappropriate sources, **such as Wikipedia**
- uses incorrect, or confused information
- fails to make proper use of named references and quotations
- unsatisfactory work (D-), very poor work (D) and work which is weak (D+)

Grade F, a fail, applies to:

- non-submission of work or work which is illegible
- late work after one extension has been given
- work which may be competent, but is either:
 - irrelevant (i.e. does not address the requirements of the assignment), or
 - uses un-attributed material (plagiarism)

5. Programme structure:

5.1. BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media

A normal course load per academic year is 30 US credits, equivalent to 120 UK credits. Students complete 30 US / 120 UK credits at Level 6 in the major at Richmond.

Please see degree chart below and refer to Appendix 2: Programme Structure Flowchart.

Please note that students must complete all General Education requirements AND a minimum of 120 credits at each FHEQ level. The Gen Ed programme commencing Fall 2015 offers more choice amongst levels, so students and advisors must ensure that both Gen Ed requirements and overall level requirements are satisfied. As long as a minimum 120 credits per level is achieved, Gen Ed Options I and II will be automatically fulfilled.

Table 1: Lower-Division / Levels 3 and 4 Degree Requirements

LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
QCF Level 3		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
ADM 3160	Foundations in Photography	3	12
COM 3100	Foundations in Mass Media and Communications	3	12
PLT 3105	Comparative Political Systems	3	12
	18 US/72 UK credits (6 further courses): General Education requirements¹	18	72
	3 US/12 UK credits (typically 1 further course)²	3	12
QCF Level 3 CREDIT TOTALS		30	120
FHEQ Level 4		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
AVC 4205	Introduction to Visual Culture	3	12
COM 4100	Introduction to Intercultural Communications	3	12
DEV 4100	Rich World/Poor World	3	12
JRN 4200	Introduction to Writing for Media and Journalism	3	12
JRN 4210	History of Journalism	3	12
	3 US/12 UK credits (1 further course): General Education requirement³	3	12
	12 US/48 UK credits (typically 4 further courses)⁴	12	48
FHEQ Level 4 CREDIT TOTALS		30	120

¹ Level 3 Gen Ed requirements: GEP 3100 Transitions I; GEP 3101 Transitions II; GEP 3120 Quantitative Reasoning; GEP 3140 Scientific Reasoning; GEP 3160 Creative Expression; GEP 3180 Research and Writing I.

² 3 US/12 UK credits to be completed at Level 3 consisting of one of the following: Gen Ed Humanities Social Science Option (if taken at Level 3); Gen Ed Option I and/or II (if taken at Level 3); Free elective(s)/Minor Requirements. For details of the Gen Ed options, please see the [Gen Ed Programme Specification](#).

³ Level 4 Gen Ed requirement: GEP 4180 Research and Writing II

⁴ 12 US/48 UK credits to be completed at Level 4 consist of some elements of the following in combination: Gen Ed Humanities Social Science Option (if taken at Level 4); Gen Ed Option I and/or II (if taken at Level 4); Free elective(s)/Minor Requirements. For details of the Gen Ed options, please see the [Gen Ed Programme Specification](#).

Table 2: Upper-Division / Levels 5 and 6 Requirements

UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
FHEQ Level 5		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
COM 5200	Mass Communications and Society	3	12
JRN 5200	Feature Writing	3	12
JRN 5205	Reporting and Investigative Journalism	3	12
JRN 5300	International Journalism	3	12
SCL 5200	Social Research	3	12
plus one of the following:		3	12
ADM 5200	Video Production		
ADM 5405	Photography: Theory and Practice		
COM 5105	Modern Popular Music		
COM 5215	Political Communications		
INR 5100	Critical Globalization Studies		
JRN 5400	Arts and Entertainment Journalism		
LIT 5100	Travel Writing		
PLT 5205	British Politics: Inside Parliament		
PLT 5405	The EU in the International System		
12 US/48 UK credits (typically 4 further courses)⁵		12	48
FHEQ Level 5 Credit Totals		30	120

FHEQ Level 6		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
ADM 6425	Photojournalism	3	12
ADM 6435	Web Design	3	12
COM 6200	New Media	3	12
JRN 6200	Publications Layout	3	12
JRN 6205	Media Ethics and Law	3	12
JRN 6210	Global News Analysis	3	12
JRN 6391	Senior Project	3	12
JRN 6392	Senior Essay	3	12
Plus two of the following OR Internship		6	24
COM 6205	PR and Self-Presentation		
COM 6400	Fashion and Media		
FLM 6220	Documentary: Theory and Production		
INR 6410	Diplomatic Studies		
JRN 6962	Internship in Journalism (6 CREDITS)		
JRN 6972	World Internship in Journalism (6 CREDITS)		
FHEQ Level 6 Credit Totals		30	120

⁵ 12 US/48 UK credits to be completed at Level 5 consist of some elements of the following in combination: Gen Ed Option I and/or II (if taken at Level 5); Free elective(s)/Minor Requirements. For details of the Gen Ed options, please see the [Gen Ed Programme Specification](#).

5.1. 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.

5.1.1. 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 QCF 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.

5.1.2. Certificate of Higher Education (UK)

The UK Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) can be broadly aligned with the US Associate of Arts Degree, but the CertHE does not require the completion of 30 US/120 credits at QCF Level 3. 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 QCF Level 3 requirements necessary to obtain the AA.

Students may not be awarded more than one exit award (notwithstanding dual accreditation of the AA/CertHE) and Boards will recommend the most relevant one for the individual student circumstance for any student meeting the criteria for an award to be made.

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, corresponding with a UK average of between 40% and 59%)*
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54, corresponding with a UK average of between 60% and 69%)*

- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses, corresponding with a UK average of 70% and over)*

*See Richmond OU/US Grading Translation Scale in *2015-2016 Catalogue*. Note that the Grading Translation will be phased in over several years starting with Level 3 courses in 2015-2016.

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.

5.1.3. Diploma of Higher Education (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, corresponding with a UK average of between 40% and 59%)*
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54, corresponding with a UK average of between 60% and 69%)*
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses, corresponding with a UK average of 70% and over)*

*See Richmond OU/US Grading Translation Scale in *2015-2016 Catalogue*. Note that the Grading Translation will be phased in over several years starting with Level 3 courses in 2015-2016.

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 Richmond.

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.

5.3 Minor requirements

Students may select International Journalism as an optional minor to complement their major field. Both the major and minor will be recorded on the student's transcript at graduation. At least three of the upper division courses required for a minor must be taken at Richmond. A maximum of three courses only may overlap between a student's major and any minor.

		US Credits	UK Credits
Minor Requirements		18	72
COM 3100	Foundations of Mass Media and Communications	3	12
JRN 4200	Intro to Writing for Media and Journalism	3	12
JRN 5200	Feature Writing	3	12
JRN 6205	Media Ethics and Law	3	12
plus one of the following:		3	12
JRN 5205	Reporting and Investigative Journalism		
ADM 6425	Photojournalism		
plus one of the following:		3	12
COM 6200	New Media		
JRN 5300	International Journalism		
JRN 5400	Arts and Entertainment Journalism		
JRN 6200	Publications Layout		
JRN 6210	Global News Analysis		

6. Regulatory framework

BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond The American International University in London and the Open University.

6.1. Admissions

To be considered for admission, prospective students should:

- normally be at least 17 years old, have completed a minimum of 12 years of schooling, and hold the required grade(s) in a complete US high School Diploma, UK GCE A levels, or other UK or international qualifications deemed equivalent by the University, by the start of the programme;
- have completed an application via UCAS, the Common Application or direct to the University, including a personal statement and academic reference and supplying verification of existing academic and English language attainments as required by the University.

Further details of qualifications accepted and grades required may be found on the University website, noting that these are common to all BA programmes at the University and there is no requirement as to the subject of entry qualifications. Prospective students from the United States should note that SATs are optional but not required. Whilst not routinely required, prospective students may be invited to interview where this is considered necessary in order to fully consider their application.

Prospective students with specific levels of subject achievement in Advanced Placement Tests, GCE A Levels and some other UK and international qualifications may enter with Advanced Credit and be given exemption from certain courses of the programme. Normally, Advanced Credit may be given for a maximum of 30 out of the total 120 (US) credits necessary to complete the programme. The University also welcomes applications from prospective students with previous Higher Education study who, depending on subjects taken and grades achieved, may be given up to 75 Transfer Credits against the total 120 (US) credits necessary to complete the programme.

Students who are not nationals of a majority English-speaking country should normally have achieved CEFR level B2 in a secure English Language test acceptable to the University prior to entry to the programme. At the University's discretion, students in this category who are EEA nationals may be excused this requirement where they have recently undertaken a full time programme of study of at least 2 years duration with English as the medium of instruction.

Prospective students who do not meet the above academic and/or English language requirements may be permitted to enter this programme at the appropriate point

after having first satisfactorily completed a Foundation Year and /or Academic English language programme at the University.

Further details of all of the above may be found at the appropriate page of the University website, where a comprehensive Admissions Policy and Summary of Practice document is also published (<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/admissions.aspx>)

6.2. Assessment

A proper assessment of student learning and progression of skills gained is fundamental to the work of the University. Much of what shapes the University's perspective on this has already been mentioned within section 4.2, above, under Assessment Strategy, which has been shaped in accordance with the expectations outlined in Section B6 of the *UK Quality Code for Higher Education*.

The University is also in compliance with Standard 14 on 'Assessment of Student Learning', as laid out by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Standard 14 includes the following passages:

"The systematic assessment of student learning is essential to monitoring quality and providing the information that leads to improvement. Implemented effectively, the assessment of student learning will involve the shared commitments of students, administrators and academic professionals... Assessment is not an event but a process and should be an integral part of the life of the institution."

(<http://www.msche.org/publications.asp>).

6.3. Progression

Progression is built into the Programme Outcomes (Section 3 above), as they are derived from the *SEEC* categories associated with specific levels of the *FHEQ*.

Learning outcomes in each individual course are therefore level-specific, ensuring an appropriate structure of progression through the degree, with students at graduation meeting the requirements of the QAA subject benchmarks.

6.4. 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. For full details of the internship programme, please see: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-programs/internships.aspx>

Expectations with regard to careers education, information, advice and guidance (as outlined in Section B4 of *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. For full details of career services offered to students at Richmond, please see: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/student-affairs/career-services.aspx>.

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. Please see: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/alumni.aspx>

6.5. Study abroad

Richmond classes benefit every semester through the arrival of study abroad students from colleges and universities within the United States. These students, who mostly enrol in classes at levels 5 and 6, very often bring with them a distinct set of values and approaches to learning that can be both enriching and challenging. Richmond faculty have the breadth of experience necessary with which to capitalise on the positive aspects of this class room dynamic. Please note that Study Abroad students register for classes *after* Richmond degree-course students have completed their registration process.

Richmond students have the option to take a leave of absence and travel away from the university as a 'study abroad'. In practice, however, very few students take this option up. It is more common for Richmond students to take a limited number of classes at other accredited colleges and universities during the summer, and then transfer these back to Richmond for inclusion toward their graduation requirements. All courses taken elsewhere must be pre-approved by the Office of Academic Affairs. All such courses are rigorously scrutinized, and only credit from appropriately accredited programmes, earned with a grade of C or above, are accepted for transfer. There are strict requirements regarding the number of courses and at what level may be taken outside of Richmond. Please see under "Graduation Requirements" at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-affairs/graduation/graduation-requirements.aspx>

6.6. Student support and guidance

All students have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their academic adviser. Academic Advisers have on-going responsibility for students' academic progress, meeting with each advisee at least once per semester. Advisers assist students with course selection and registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on postgraduate and career opportunities, and also provide pastoral support in many cases.

Students admitted from Fall 2013 onwards have an on-line "Academic Plan" made available to them, which acts as an interactive degree planner, outlining degree

requirements, and recording their completion – this enables students to track their progress towards their degree.

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

In accordance with the 2010 *Equality Act*, and with Chapter B4 of the *Quality Code*, Richmond 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 accommodated to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements – the university disability officer works with individual students to determine accommodations, and works with colleagues in the Academic Registry and the Schools to see that their needs are addressed. SEN students, for instance, receive extra time in examinations, and have the option of writing exams on university-provided computers, and/or of taking exams in a separate room. Please see:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/student-affairs/students-with-disabilities.aspx>

The University operates a well-staffed Student Affairs department headed by the Vice-President for Students that provides services intended to support and encourage student welfare, safety and development. This department oversees medical registration of students and provides counseling services. It also organizes a range of extracurricular activities and travel designed to further enhance students' educational experiences. The university [Student Charter](#) outlines responsibilities and expectations of both the students and the university, and the [Conduct Code](#) addresses expectations as to social conduct. Non-academic appeals and complaints and disciplinary incidents are overseen by the Student Affairs Department.

In its 2013 [IRENI review](#), Richmond was commended for “The care and attention paid to academic and pastoral support for international students throughout their association with the University”.

Appendix I : Curriculum map

This table indicates which study units assume primary responsibility for delivering and programme outcomes with the core required courses.

<u>LEVEL 3</u>	<u>ADM 3160</u> <u>Foundations</u> <u>Photography</u>	<u>COM 3100</u> <u>Foundations Mass</u> <u>Media Comm</u>	<u>PLT 3105</u> <u>Comparative</u> <u>Pol Systems</u>
<u>A3(i)</u>	x	x	
<u>B3(i)</u>	x	x	x
<u>C3(i)</u>	x	x	x
<u>D3(i)</u>			x

<u>LEVEL 4</u>	<u>AVC 4205</u> <u>Intro to</u> <u>Visual</u> <u>Culture</u>	<u>COM 4100</u> <u>Intro</u> <u>Intercultural</u> <u>Comm</u>	<u>DEV 4100</u> <u>Rich World/</u> <u>Poor World</u>	<u>JRN 4200</u> <u>Intro to Writing</u> <u>for Media &</u> <u>Journalism</u>	<u>JRN 4210</u> <u>History of</u> <u>Journalism</u>
<u>A4(i)</u>			x	x	x
<u>A4(ii)</u>		x			
<u>A4(iii)</u>	x			x	x
<u>B4(i)</u>	x	x		x	
<u>B4(ii)</u>	x				
<u>B4(iii)</u>	x		x		
<u>C4(i)</u>	x	x	x	x	x
<u>C4(ii)</u>					
<u>C4(iii)</u>	x		x	x	x
<u>D4(i)</u>	x		x		x
<u>D4(ii)</u>		x	x		
<u>D4(iii)</u>			x	x	x

<u>LEVEL 5</u>	<u>COM 5200</u> <u>Mass Comm</u> <u>& Society</u>	<u>JRN 5200</u> <u>Feature</u> <u>Writing</u>	<u>JRN 5205</u> <u>Reporting/Investigative</u> <u>Journalism</u>	<u>JRN 5300</u> <u>International</u> <u>Journalism</u>	<u>SCL 5200</u> <u>Social Research</u>
<u>A5(i)</u>		x	x	x	

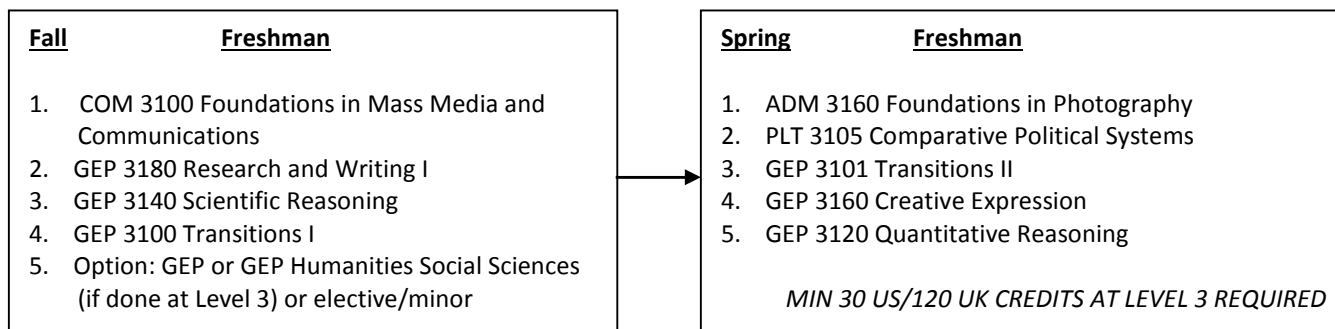
A5(ii)	x				x
A5(iii)				x	x
B5(i)		x	x	x	x
B5(ii)	x			x	
B5(iii)					x
C5(i)	x	x		x	x
C5(ii)		x	x	x	x
C5(iii)	x		x	x	x
D5(i)		x			x
D5(ii)	x	x	x		x
D5(iii)			x	x	x

LEVEL 6	ADM 6425 Photojournalism	ADM 6435 Web Design	COM 6200 New Media	JRN 6200 Publications Layout	JRN 6205 Media Ethics & Law	JRN 6210 Global News Analysis	JRN 6391 Senior Project	JRN 6392 Senior Essay
A6(i)	x		x		x	x		X
A6(ii)	x		x				x	
A6(iii)		x	x					
A6(iv)	x	x			x	x		X
B6(i)	x	x		x			x	
B6(ii)	x	x						
B6(iii)			x				x	
B6(iv)				x			x	
C6(i)	x				x	x		x
C6(ii)	x	x		x				x
C6(iii)								x
C6(iv)			x		x	x		
D6(i)	x	x		x			x	x
D6(ii)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
D6(iii)	x	x	x	x				
D6(iv)	x				x	x		x

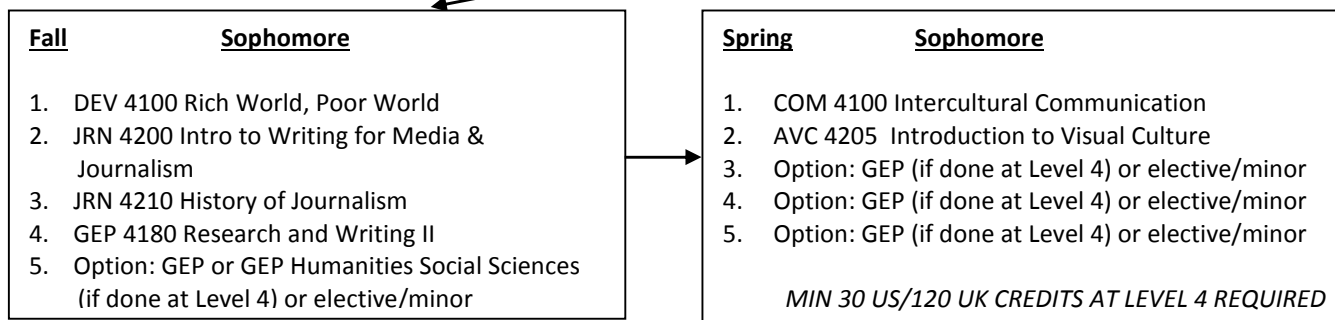
Appendix II: Programme Structure

Typical Degree Schema: BA (Hons) International Journalism and Media with Combined Studies. (Note: Based on a Freshman entering Richmond with no Transfer Credit and opting for one or two Minor subjects.)

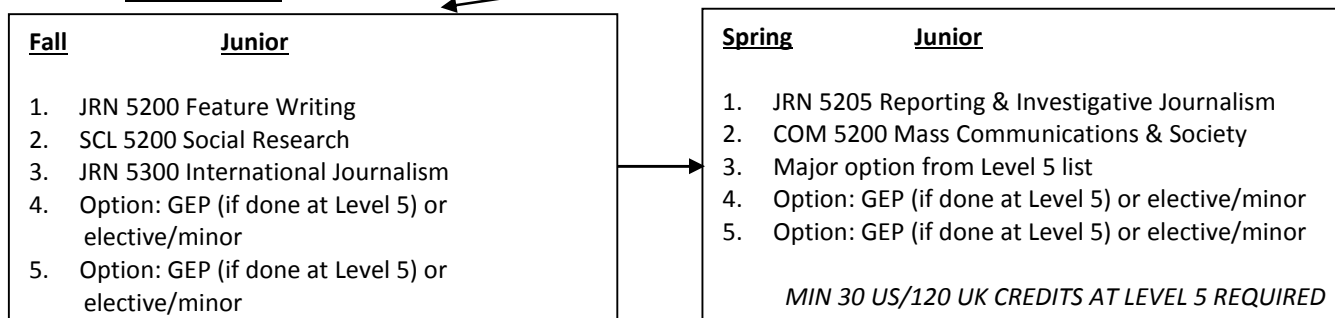
YEAR ONE:



YEAR TWO:



YEAR THREE:



YEAR FOUR:

