



DEPARTMENT OF Journalism

UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH



Department of Journalism

The Department of Journalism at the University of Stellenbosch is the only specialised postgraduate training institution for journalists in South Africa. Students can choose between a full-time postgraduate course on an Honours level, the BPhil (Journ), a part-time MA in Media Management, Media Ethics, Science and Technology Journalism or Media, Culture and the Information Society as well as a full thesis for master's and doctoral degrees.

The Centre for Regional and Community Media also forms part of the department. The BPhil students compile daily news bulletins for the local community radio station.

BPhil (Journalism)

The postgraduate course, the BPhil in Journalism at honours level, is a professional course that delivers beginner-journalists to the media industry. Students who wish to apply for admission must either be in possession of a B-degree (in any field), or be in their final year of a B-degree. A written application must be addressed to the Registrar before the end of August of the preceding year. Applications can be sent to: The Registrar, University Office, Private Bag X1, Matieland 7602. Applications may also be done online at http://admin.sun.ac.za/Student/Admissions/forms/Intro_aansoeknagr.html. Only 20 to 25 students are admitted to the course annually.

Admission Test and Interview

All applicants are expected to write an admission test in September of the preceding year. Upon passing the admission test, applicants will be invited for an individual interview. A typing speed of 35 words per minute is a requirement for successful applicants, and this will be tested in the first week of the academic year.

Structure of the course

Students are expected to complete all assignments, attend class and other relevant media-related events from Monday to Friday. This includes some weekends. It will also be required of students to compile, write and read the daily local news bulletins for Stellenbosch's community radio station MFM 92.6 (<http://www.mfm.co.za>). The following subjects are compulsory :

Journalism Practice: News, Journalism Practice: Features and Articles, Media History, Media Management, Media and Society, Media Ethics, Radio Journalism, TV Journalism, Science and Technology Journalism, Financial Journalism, English for Journalists, International Journalism, Cultural Literacy, Photo Journalism, Computer Skills for Journalists, Page Layout, Internet Journalism, Media Law and Research Methodology

Duration of the course

The course starts in the first week of February and ends in November. Following this, students are required to complete a practical internship at an approved media institution for a minimum of four weeks before the degree is awarded in April of the next year.

Department of Journalism

MA (Journalism)

The MA in Journalism is a structured programme consisting of 180 credits. Students have to visit Stellenbosch for specific seminars. The course is popular with media practitioners who wish to further their education. The student can choose between three different M-options: a structured programme with 70% coursework and a 30% research component; a 50% structured programme with a 50% thesis.

Admission requirements

To be considered for the two-year MA in Journalism applicants must be in possession of a relevant honours degree. Apply in writing to the address indicated for the BPhil or apply online.

Admission Test and Interview

All applicants are required to write an admission test in September of the preceding year, where a pass mark of 60% is required. A selection panel will then assess and select candidates.

Structure of the course

The MA in Journalism is a structured course with several options – a structured MPhil, based on a system of part-time study, with a 30% research component or 50% thesis or a 100% thesis.

Duration of the course

The course usually takes a minimum of two years to complete, with degrees awarded in December and March.

PhD (Journalism)

The PhD (Journalism) is also offered by the department. Candidates are admitted on condition of appropriate postgraduate qualifications and a research proposal.

