Programme syllabus for the

Master’s Programme in Investigative Journalism
(MIJ)

60 higher education credits

Confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences 2015-09-09
1. Degree Programme: Title and Credits
The degree programme is the Master’s Programme in Investigative Journalism
(Magisterprogrammet i undersökande journalistik).
Credits: 60 higher education credits (S2JOU)

2. Confirmation
The programme syllabus for the Master’s Programme in Investigative Journalism, 60 higher education credits, was approved by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg, 2015-09-09. It is valid from autumn 2016. The syllabus was revised 2015-10-21, to be valid from autumn 2016.

3. Aim of the Degree Programme
The Master’s Programme in Investigative Journalism aims to provide the skills to journalistically monitor democratic rights, expose corruption and abuse of power, as well as to connect different parts of the world or different groups within the same society. The programme combines theoretical and practical knowledge and provides a good base for those who want to work analytically and practically within investigative journalism at an international level. The programme focuses on investigative journalism in digital environments, with specialization on an international perspective, data journalism and digital publishing. A further object of the programme is to provide advanced knowledge within the field of journalism studies with special attention to the genre of investigative journalism and its terms both locally and globally. The training features investigative journalism from economic, legal and professional perspectives, in the light of historical as well as contemporary developments.

The programme is well established in the journalistic profession and the news industry, and has been developed in consultation with them. The goal is to prepare students for a changing news business through the optimization of knowledge and skills that are essential in this turbulent market: data-driven journalism and visualization, project management, entrepreneurship, cross-sectional partnerships—but also the manifestation of fundamental journalistic values in the form of investigative journalism. This means the skills to monitor global and transnational institutions, business, politics, organizations and agents (corruption, war on terror, development, climate change and much more).

4. Degree
After completing the degree programme, the student can apply for a degree certificate with the denomination Degree of Master of Science in Journalism, with specialization in investigative journalism, 60 credits (filosofie magisterexamen i journalistik med inriktning mot undersökande journalistik).
5. Main Field of Study
The main field of the degree programme is journalism, with specialization in investigative journalism.

6. Objectives
The specification of objectives follows what is stated in the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993: 100), with the addition of a number of local objectives. After completing the programme, the students will be able to acquire the following knowledge, competence and judgement.

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key areas of investigative journalism such as news values, verification of sources and ethical perspectives.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the scientific basis of journalism studies and be oriented in current research issues.
- Have knowledge about both academic and journalistic methods, with special emphasis on the statistical approach.
- Have knowledge about international perspectives on investigative journalism, and the development of journalism in digital environments.

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even with limited information.
- Demonstrate the ability to independently identify and formulate, for the subject and within the profession, relevant problems and to plan and carry out advanced tasks within specified time frames.
- Demonstrate the ability to orally and in writing clearly present and discuss your conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups.
- Demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development or to work in other advanced contexts.
- Make use of readily available tools for investigative journalism in digital environments, such as the mobile phone, as well as demonstrating an ability to independently identify and through their own information retrieval meet new learning needs in this area.
• Independently be able to produce investigative journalism through digital publication platforms and visualization means.

Judgement and approach

• Demonstrate the ability, within the main field of journalism, to make assessments with consideration of relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development, and in journalistic acquisition.
• Demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used.
• Demonstrate an advanced capacity to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

7. Degree Programme Content and Structure
The programme consists of four compulsory courses each of 15 credits. All courses are taught at full speed and give credits in the subject of journalism. The courses combine theory with practice and an explicit pedagogical goal is to move away from the distinction between academic and professional moments that so often characterize vocational programmes. This is expressed by an emphasis on the problematizing and methodological aspects of journalism, as well as the possibilities of applying scientific perspectives and research for journalistic purposes. The course is campus-based and built around the active involvement of the student.

Overview of the course structure

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<tr>
<td>JU2601 Investigative journalism in digital environments. 15 credits</td>
<td>JU2602 Data journalism and visualization. 15 credits (incl. 7.5 credits method)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JU2600 Investigative journalism across borders. 15 credits (incl. 7.5 credits method)</td>
<td>JU2603 Master's thesis in investigative journalism. 15 credits</td>
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<td>alt. JU2604 Master's project in investigative journalism. 15 credits</td>
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The programme's first course, JU2601 Investigative journalism in digital environments, introduces students to the basic techniques, ethical codes and approaches of investigative journalism in digital environments. The course aims to frame what investigative journalism
is, what trends are most important right now, as well as journalism's economic, cultural and political grounds.

The second course, JU2600 Investigative journalism across borders, is designed to round out the discussion more towards investigative journalism that spans borders. This kind of journalistic project sets advanced and different demands on research, hypothesis testing and source control beyond the purely national, precisely because conditions differ between states. The course therefore includes an outlook in terms of geographical comparative analyses, training in statistical analysis and the use of online databases, as well as planning and research of a cross-border investigative project.

The third course, JU2602 Data journalism and visualization, is primarily about journalistic methods, with a special focus on statistical and database knowledge for journalistic purposes. Data journalism is a growing area of the industry and there is substantial current research to contextualize and deepen the understanding of this journalistic genre. Students will learn hands-on techniques in programming and data research as well as methods for visualization of the final result. It is an art in itself to design data journalism in an attractive and easily understandable way, which is why training of such skills constitutes an important part of the course.

The programme concludes with a degree project in investigative journalism: either JU2603 Master's thesis in investigative journalism, or, alternatively, JU2604 Master's project in investigative journalism. The work is carried out as a journalistic, investigative project or as an academic thesis, depending on the student's own choice. Regardless of the genre, there are high requirements in terms of systematic approach, transparency and theoretical basis. Students must in either case show that they are capable of using theoretical perspectives to formulate a relevant question, choosing the most suitable method and designing a survey. The survey will be carried out, the results processed and the analysis presented in the appropriate form.

8. Prerequisites

The entry requirement for admission to the degree programme is a Bachelor’s degree of 180 higher education credits.

In addition to this, the basic English requirement is at least English 6 / English B or equivalent level on an internationally recognized test such as TOEFL or IELTS.
9. Guaranteed Admission
Students who have been admitted to the programme, who apply themselves to the course and conform to assigned administrative procedures, and who follow the programme at the prescribed pace, have guaranteed admission to all required courses within the degree programme.

10. Additional Information
- The programme, as well as each course included, is evaluated both orally and in writing.
- The programme is taught in English. If all students are Swedish, training can be given in Swedish.