



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master's programme in Investigative Journalism, 60 credits

Magisterprogrammet i undersökande journalistik, 60 högskolepoäng

Programme code: S2JOU

Second cycle / Avancerad nivå

1. Confirmation

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 26-02-2019 (GU 2019/715) and was last revised on 26-02-2019 (GU 2019/715) to be valid from 02-09-2019, Autumn semester 2019.

Responsible Department/Equivalent: Department of Journalism, Media and Communication

2. Purpose

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).

3. Entry requirements

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.

4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

This programme leads to a Degree of Master of Science (60 credits) with a major in Journalism with Specialization in Investigative Journalism (Filosofie magisterexamen med huvudområdet Journalistik med inriktning mot undersökande journalistik).

The degree programme is the Master's Programme in Investigative Journalism, 60 higher education credits.

5. Outcomes

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both an overview of the field and specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take

responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Second-cycle study programmes shall involve the acquisition of specialist knowledge, competence and skills in relation to first-cycle courses and study programmes, and in addition to the requirements for first-cycle courses and study programmes shall:

- further develop the ability of students to integrate and make autonomous use of their knowledge,
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable autonomy, or for research and development work.

General outcomes for Degree of Master (60 credits)

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both an overview of the field and specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Local outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the programme, the students will be able to acquire the following

- 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

After completing the programme, the students will be able to acquire the following

- 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 own 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 meet new learning needs in this area.
- Independently be able to produce investigative journalism through digital publication platforms and visualization means.

Judgement and approach

After completing the programme, the students will be able to acquire the following

- 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 the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.
- Demonstrate an advanced capacity to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing own knowledge.

6. 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

HT	VT
JU2601 Investigative journalism in digital environments. 15 credits	JU2600 Investigative journalism across borders. 15 credits (incl. 7.5 credits method)
JU2602 Data journalism and visualization. 15 credits (incl. 7.5 credits method)	JU2603 Master's thesis in investigative journalism. 15 credits alt. JU2604 Master's project in investigative journalism. 15 credits

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, 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 third 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, continued training in statistical analysis and the use of online databases, as well as planning and research of a cross-border investigative project.

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 an investigation. The investigation will be carried out, the results processed and the analysis presented in the appropriate form.

7. 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.

8. Other information

The study programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with the applicable *Policy för kvalitetssäkring och kvalitetsutveckling av utbildning vid Göteborgs universitet* (Policy for the Quality assurance and Quality Development of Education at the University of Gothenburg).