

JOURNALISM

STUDENTS are expected to undertake research-driven journalism, including the use of technology in a creative and responsible manner to serve the profession and society. Students are taught how to fine-tune their writing skills. They are also given an introduction in media management including the inner workings of newspapers and broadcast houses and taught the basics of research.

While journalists are still junior reporters, they are usually assigned to write on more general news events like court and crime reporting, school and municipal news. As journalists' writing abilities develop, other important matters are covered, for example sport, financial news, art, culture and politics. Experienced newspaper and broadcast journalists also get the opportunity to report on international news from abroad and may become foreign correspondents for their specific media institutions.

Journalists usually specialize in either print journalism or broadcast journalism. Print journalists can work for a wide variety of newspapers, magazines, journals and technical publications, while broadcast journalists are usually assigned to report for radio and/or television. These journalists provide the latest information on developments in special fields for specialized publications concentrating on, for example, music, theatre, agriculture, business, engineering and different sports.

Freelance journalists work on their own, often without a regular income. These journalists write on a wide variety of topics for various publications and radio and television stations and often find markets for their material by researching topics and visiting places of conflict, which are not regularly assigned by the conventional news media.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

History and good marks in languages.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

At a University a Senior Certificate with matric exemption is required and at a University of Technology a Senior Certificate or equivalent qualification is required.

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

A flair for languages and a keen interest in local and international affairs will be an advantage. Applicants may be required to attend a selection test and an interview on campus.

TRAINING

UNIVERSITY

Most universities offer a 3-year BA: Languages degree for Journalism.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

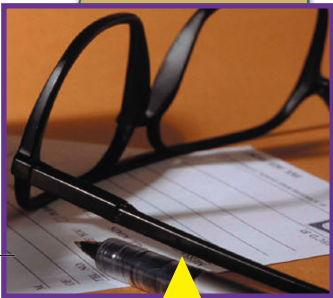
A three-year NDip: Journalism followed by one year to obtain a BTech: Journalism degree.

INDEPENDENT TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Some correspondence colleges offer a one-year course in Journalism/Freelance Journalism.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

News media agencies and magazines employ journalists. The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and M-Net employ full-time journalists as news collectors and script-writers for radio and television.



26

