



ÖREBRO UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Programme Syllabus

Reg. no. CF 52-669/2005

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GLOBAL JOURNALISTIK, 120 HÖGSKOLEPOÄNG

Global Journalism, 120 ECTS Credits¹

The study programme was instituted on 16 December 2003, by the Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences. The programme syllabus was last amended on 11 December 2007, by the Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences. Section 8.1 was supplemented by a Vice-Chancellor Decision on 17 December 2007.

1 GENERAL

The study programme Global Journalism comprises 120 ECTS credits, with media and communication studies as the main field of study, and leads to a Degree of Master (Two Years) (with a major in Media and Communication Studies).

The programme has a global focus, in its content as well as in its design. New media and new information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the way in which these have altered the conditions for international journalism are central to the programme. The general aim of the programme is for students to develop their capacity to report on international events, to broaden their understanding of how media function in different parts of the world and under specific circumstances, and to master media-related information and communication technologies. The target group is journalists, both experienced professionals and newly qualified, with an emphasis on participants from the developing world.

The programme is a joint collaboration between Media and Communication Studies at the Department of Humanities, Örebro University, Sweden; the

¹ The English translation of the programme syllabus was last amended on 19 December, 2007.

Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki, Finland; the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Tampere, Finland; and the Journalism Programme at Oslo University College, Norway.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 General aims for second level education

Second level education shall essentially build on the knowledge that students acquire in first level education or corresponding knowledge.

Second level education shall involve a deepening of knowledge, skills and abilities relative to first level education and, in addition to what applies to first level education, shall

- further develop the students' ability to independently integrate and use knowledge;
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations; and
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable independence or for research and development work.

(Chapter 1, Section 9, Higher Education Act)

2.2 Objectives for Global Journalism

Objectives (in addition to the general aims stated in Chapter 1, Section 9 of the Higher Education Act)

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (Two Years) students must

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in their main field of study, including both broad knowledge in the field and substantially deeper knowledge of certain parts of the field, together with deeper insight into current research and development work; and
- demonstrate deeper methodological knowledge in their main field of study.

Skills and ability

For a Degree of Master (Two Years) students must

- demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information is available;
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts; and

- demonstrate the skill required to participate in research and development work or to work independently in other advanced contexts.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (Two Years) students must

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments in their main field of study, taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used; and
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

(Appendix 2, Higher Education Ordinance)

In addition to the above, Örebro University has the objective that students on completion of the study programme shall have acquired:

knowledge about:

- the effects of the developing information society on internationally as well as nationally operating media;
- the role of the media in globalisation processes;
- new information and communication technologies, and the new forms of media and journalistic genres these generate;
- journalistic ethics in relation to global journalism.

the ability to:

- analyse and report on international affairs;
- identify and incorporate regional/global factors into local reports;
- develop advanced skills in the use of new technology for information retrieval, analysis and publishing within global journalism.

3 PROGRAMME DETAILS

3.1 General organisation and content of the programme

The programme is constituted by ten courses (see below) and covers theoretical as well as practical elements. The seminar series runs parallel to the courses during the first year and aims at providing the students with an opportunity to further and advance their professional knowledge and skills.

3.2 Courses within the programme

Media and Communication Studies, second level, Global Journalism, Global Media, 8 ECTS credits

In this module, media and ICTs are studied in the context of globalisation. Particular attention is paid to new ICTs and foreign news reporting, as well as the consequences of an increasing transnational integration of news media for a

potentially globalised news journalism culture. The democratic challenges brought about by globalisation are dealt with. Moreover, structural aspects such as ownership, market trends, product diversification, technological convergence, and their consequences for professional news journalism are studied, with respect to qualification needs, skills, norms, and routines. The course also provides insight into institutions and norm setting related to media and development (UN, UNESCO, various NGOs) as well as more specifically about the UN/ITU World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS).

Media and Communication Studies, second level, Online Investigative Journalism, 8 ECTS credits

The aim of the course is for the students to gain knowledge about the specific conditions and working methods of online journalism. The students will learn to apply information retrieval skills (Internet research), handle large knowledge bases of international data (such as the DIALOG system), and to perform computer assisted data analyses for research and reporting purposes. The course also deals with methods for evaluating information found online. Using these new skills, students investigate topics of their own choice.

Media and Communication Studies, second level, Media and Development, 8 ECTS credits

The aim for this module is to introduce theories of global development (modernisation, dependency theories, participant theories, theories of sustainable development etc.), with special focus on the role of the media within these. Also, a historical overview of the media systems during various time periods is given, such as colonial media and liberation media. A survey of post-colonial national media is also given. Case studies are undertaken, focusing on the geographic and cultural areas represented in the student group.

Media and Communication Studies, second level, Reporting Europe and the EU, 7 ECTS credits

The course will equip the students with the knowledge and skills to report from Europe/the EU and on its relations to the students' respective home region in a meaningful way. The EU is a political, economic, social, and administrative super-national system with great international influence. At the same time, the union has a complex structure which demands specific competence in information retrieval by means of new technology. After completing the module, students shall have acquired an insight into the structure of the EU, as well as skills to seek, by means of new technology, strategic sources and information from a number of databases (DIALOG etc.).

Media and Communication Studies, second level, War and Peace Journalism, 8 ECTS credits

This module aims to stimulate reflective and a critically aware journalism on war, international conflicts, mediation/negotiations, peace efforts and crisis management. Students will analyse the role of journalism in international conflicts and crises, as well as the role it might play in the progress of events relating to these. Theories of propaganda, conflict management, and journalistic conditions

are dealt with. Assignments aimed at analysing propaganda effects, ethnocentrism, and stereotypes are included, as well as journalistic strategies to protect the professional ethics.

Media and Communication Studies, second level, Project, 7 ECTS credits

The project course contains a practical element in which the students, independently and in groups, carry out a journalistic production related to the aims and objectives of the programme. This means that the project should focus on international journalism, and preferably be completed by means of new technology. Students with a professional background within journalism can opt for a project which is relevant to their continued career.

Media and Communication Studies, second level, Method, 15 ECTS credits

This module will provide students with the methodological and practical knowledge required to successfully complete reliable research – academically and journalistically. Planning, design, and material gathering will be dealt with, as well as approaches to analysis and presentation of results. Advantages and disadvantages with various methods are discussed, as well as similarities and differences between academic and journalistic research.

Media and Communication Studies, second level, In-depth Studies, 15 ECTS credits

The course offers students the possibility to deepen their studies in one of the programme's subject areas as a preparation for the final independent project. The course is given in close cooperation with, and under the guidance of, supervisors with special competence in the chosen field. The course is given at the partner institution that is most suitable.

Media and Communication Studies, second level, Seminar Series/Media Monitoring, 14 ECTS credits

The seminar series is used for continuous updates of news reporting on different international current events and to facilitate the continuous discussion on professional criteria, methods and aims. The seminars hold an important pedagogical role in the programme as they hold elements together, and function as a platform for a continuous follow-up of the students' learning. Pedagogical methods for "training of trainers" within the journalistic profession will be attended to, for the purpose of advancing the participants' ability to forward the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme to colleagues in the students' home environment. Above all, the seminar series is the forum where participants will meet experienced journalists - foreign editors, correspondents, and other reporters.

Media and Communication Studies, second level, Independent Project – Master Thesis, 30 ECTS credits

During the course, students will conduct an independent project in the form of a master thesis. The final project may well be based on the student's activities within their professional environment, and make a contribution to the furthering of knowledge at their home editorial office.

3.3 Teaching methods

The teaching is characterised by a flexible and student-active approach. The knowledge process is based on the students' own professional needs and goals. Elements of problem-based learning are combined with lectures, seminars, and supervision. The participants produce reports, written or multimedial, which are examined continually. In addition, the programme contains significant elements of distance learning. For further details, see individual syllabuses.

4 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

The main part of the study programme will be held at Örebro University, Sweden. However, the partner universities are responsible for certain courses and modules according to their particular area of expertise. Students are expected to spend such study periods at the university in question. Besides this, the programme is not open to international student exchange.

5 GRADES AND EXAMINATION

Unless otherwise prescribed in the course syllabus, a grade is to be awarded on completion of a course. The grade is to be determined by a teacher specifically appointed by the higher education institution (an examiner) (Chapter 6, Section 18, Higher Education Ordinance).

Unless the higher education institution prescribes another grading system, one of the following grades is to be used: fail, pass or pass with distinction (Chapter 6, Section 19, Higher Education Ordinance).

The Vice-Chancellor has decided that all departments hosting foreign exchange students shall report grades using both the Swedish grading scale and the ECTS grading scale (Vice-Chancellor Decision no. 26/2002, reg. no. 42-2002).

In case the Vice-Chancellor allows departure from the three-step grading scale this is clear from the syllabus.

Some modules, such as seminars and project work, are compulsory. For details regarding compulsory modules and their scope, see individual syllabuses.

For further information, see local examination regulations.

6 QUALIFICATIONS

Degree of Master (Two Years) (with a major in Media and Communication Studies)

A Degree of Master (Two Years) (with a major in Media and Communication Studies) is obtained after the student, in addition to having obtained a first level qualification, has completed course requirements of 120 ECTS credits, including

- at least 90 ECTS credits on the second level, including
 - at least 60 ECTS credits with in-depth studies within a main field of study;
 - an independent project (degree project) of at least 30 ECTS credits within the main field of study.

For further information, see local qualifications regulations.

7 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Eligibility requirements on admission to the programme

To be eligible for the programme applicants must hold a first level degree comprising at least 180 ECTS credits (basic eligibility for admission to second level education in accordance with Chapter 7, Section 28 of the Higher Education Ordinance) within a humanities or social sciences main field of study, or an equivalent foreign degree. In addition, knowledge of English corresponding to “English Course B” from the Swedish Upper Secondary School is required (special eligibility for admission to second level education in accordance with Chapter 7, Section 31 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

Applicants who do not have “English Course B” from the Swedish Upper Secondary School or corresponding knowledge, must have their knowledge of English documented by an internationally recognised proficiency test, and enclose the test results in their application.

For further information, see local admission regulations.

7.2 Eligibility requirements on admission to courses within the programme

In order to gain admission to courses within the programme, students must meet the prescribed special eligibility requirements. To begin studies on the course *Independent Project – Master Thesis*, students must have completed all preceding courses within the programme. The special eligibility requirements are stated in the individual course syllabuses.

8 SELECTION AND GUARANTEED PLACE

8.1 Selection for the programme

The places on the programme are distributed between eligible applicants based on the following selection groups: a) journalism studies (20 per cent of the places); b) professional journalistic experience (20 per cent of the places); c) international professional journalistic experience (50 per cent of the places); and d) other eligible applicants (10 per cent of the places).

Within the respective selection group, places are distributed based on the following qualifications on the last application date: a) number of ECTS credits

within the main field of study, Media and Communication Studies, or equivalent; b) number of years of professional experience; c) number of years of professional experience; and d) total number of ECTS credits.

9 TRANSFER OF CREDITS FROM PREVIOUS STUDIES

Decisions regarding transfer of credits for courses are made by the examiner on the course in question (Chapter 6, Section 18, Higher Education Ordinance).

Decisions regarding transfer of credits for a course in a general qualification are, if the evaluation is made in connection with a request for a degree certificate and if the evaluation is regarded as a routine matter, made by the Head of the Education and Research Office (see “Vice-Chancellor’s delegations in education matters”).

Decisions regarding transfer of credits in all other cases are made by the Board of Department in question (see “Vice-Chancellor’s delegations in education matters”).

For further information, see local credit transfer regulations.

10 MISCELLANEOUS

The study programme requires basic computer skills and familiarity with the Internet.

The language of instruction is English.

11 ENTRY-INTO-FORCE AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS (CHAPTER 6, SECTION 17, HIGHER EDUCATION ORDINANCE)

This programme syllabus shall be in effect from the autumn semester 2008.

Students who commenced the programme in the autumn semester 2006 have the right to complete their studies in accordance with the programme syllabus established on 4 October 2005, until the end of the spring semester 2009.