

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS

NCTJ Level 3 Diploma in Journalism **Qualification No:** 501/1103/6

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Overview

The NCTJ Level 3 Diploma in Journalism prepares learners for their first job, further training and a beginning to a career in journalism. Learners will be equipped with the qualities, skills and knowledge needed to become a journalist and work on publications serving many different platforms.

The qualification is designed to allow learners to demonstrate their skills by both classroom work and in the real world through practical work experience. This work is evidenced in a portfolio and is a key part of the assessment process.

Target Market

The NCTJ Level 3 Diploma in Journalism is suitable for those aged 16+ with a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C or above. There is no age limit. It can be used by those who have completed full-time education or by those who are considering a career change. It can also support individuals to work independently and effectively in life and those seeking to progress further in education and training.

NCTJ entry requirements are intended to ensure that there are no barriers to restrict access and progression. Equal opportunities exist for all learners. Learners with particular educational needs are not targeted separately although special provision may be made. It is a qualification many editors will seek from candidates when recruiting a trainee journalist.

Progression

The qualification is listed on the Register of Regulated Qualifications. It is one of a progressive range of qualifications from the National Council for the Training of Journalists. The Diploma prepares learners to progress to a qualification in the same subject area requiring more specific knowledge, skills, experience and understanding; the NCTJ's National Qualification in Journalism (NQJ). The NQJ qualifies a trainee journalist to become a 'senior journalist'.

Completion of the Diploma in Journalism attracts a tariff of 48 UCAS points for entry to higher education from 2017.

Mandatory and optional study units

Study for the Diploma in Journalism is based on a core and options model. To gain the Diploma in Journalism learners must complete four mandatory units and a selection of optional elective units at grades A-E to reach a minimum 82 credits. The four mandatory

units are: essential journalism or news reporting; e-portfolio for journalists; essential media law and regulation for journalists; and essential journalism ethics and regulation. The optional elective units include: public affairs for journalists; teeline shorthand for journalists; media law court reporting; videojournalism for online; production journalism; sports journalism; broadcast journalism; business and finance journalism; business of magazines; photography for journalists; and PR and communications for journalists. The core study units are key skills required by journalists no matter which areas they work in, whether it be print, online, TV, Radio or public relations. The options are designed to allow learners' choice and to build the Diploma qualification that will help them further their careers in journalism.

Units are assessed by examination apart from the e-portfolio which is an evidence based continuous assessment.

Flexible learning

The Level 3 Diploma in Journalism is designed to be delivered in both FE and HE settings or by independent training providers. All centres are approved by the NCTJ to deliver its qualifications. For a full list of NCTJ-accredited training providers please see the NCTJ website at: www.nctj.com . The Diploma is also available for study via distance learning.

Support

The Level 3 Diploma in Journalism was developed by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ). It gained the support of Creative Skillset to develop the qualification. The NCTJ is an awarding organisation which is employer-led. It was established in the 1950s to run the newspaper industry's training schemes following a Royal Commission on the Press. The nature of its formation and structure means that all qualifications promoted and accredited by the NCTJ have been given prior approval by the industry through representatives sitting on its main board of directors and on committees. The NCTJ, as in all cases when proposing new qualifications or changes, consults extensively with the industry by speaking directly with editors, editorial managers, educators and trainers.