

National Council for the Training of Journalists
Annual Report 2007-2008



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The NCTJ's values

Accessible and responsive to our customers

Strong sustainable growth and development

Upholding high and relevant standards

High profile, respected and influential

Best use of resources

Effective leadership, management and governance

Vital statistics

A total of **14,580** NCTJ exams were sat throughout 2007-8

These comprised:

8,017 preliminary exams (excluding shorthand) sat on course, **1,234** national exam sittings, and, **4,103** shorthand exam sittings

The total number of NCE exams sat was **1,226**

1,721 students attended one of **69** accredited courses at **42** approved centres and sat the preliminary Certificate in Journalism exams

254 of these achieved the gold standard, passing all exams while on course

651 candidates sat these exams on the two nationals dates

446 trainees sat the National Certificate Examination -

430 reporters, **15** photographers and **1** sub-editor

258 trainees achieved the gold standard of passing their NCE –

244 reporters, **13** photographers and **1** sub-editor

Registrations consisted of **590** reporters, **23** sub-editors and **20** photographers

44 scheduled and in-house short training courses were run during the year

From the chairman



Optimistic: Kim Fletcher

“The craft of journalism, on whichever platform it is practised, demands high standards.”

The media landscape changes fast, but the NCTJ maintains a simple proposition. It applies to the newest website and to the longest established newspaper. We are here to provide “a world-class education and training system that develops current and future journalists for the demands of the 21st century”.

We judge everything we do against that aspiration. Over the past 12 months we have done much to develop the NCTJ syllabus in line with the demands of the new world. But we have done so while maintaining the fundamental principle that the craft of journalism, on whichever platform it is practised, demands high standards.

This is not always a popular mission. Some students’ encounter with the NCTJ is the first occasion on which an examiner suggests that their work is not good enough. We hope they get over it, for we continue to believe that the learning and hard work required to pass NCTJ examinations provide real evidence of journalistic ability.

As media multiply, readers, viewers and listeners need to be able to tell the good from the bad, the accurate from the invented. The form of delivery is different, but the underlying journalistic rules are the same. That is why employers, confronted with a sack of applications from aspiring reporters, find NCTJ qualifications

a pretty good place to start.

So that’s the bedrock. Around it we build what students, teachers and employers want: web skills, video skills, subbing skills. Joanne Butcher and her team have been out around the country, talking to everyone who has a stake in journalism, encouraging all to have a say. It’s been a pleasure to see so many attending the workshops and conferences they have organised.

As ever, we are indebted to those who give up their time so willingly. The fact that so many have come to those sessions is a powerful antidote to the worries besetting the industry. While a depression settles over the media, with falling readerships, sinking revenues and worries about jobs, it’s good to see enthusiasm for journalism burning as brightly as ever.

Who is right – the pessimists, who say the great days of journalism are over – or the optimists, who promise they are only just beginning? Let’s come down with the optimists, for it’s immensely cheering to meet distinguished journalists heading for retirement who wish they could have their time again in the new world, with all the new opportunities it offers.

There are certainly lots of new outlets. Now we’ve just – just? - got to find a way to make them pay.

**Kim Fletcher,
NCTJ Chairman**

From the chief executive

This has been a year of progress and performance for the NCTJ and we are moving forward with even greater energy and enthusiasm thanks to all those who work with us and share our belief that high quality journalism training and skills really matter.

The media operate in a tough, competitive marketplace and like everyone else we must respond and adapt to changing times at a faster pace than ever before. Our efforts to deliver the premier training scheme for journalists in the UK have not just continued but accelerated as we work to improve our game.

In many ways it has been a bumper year with record numbers of registrations – 633 trainees – and examinations – 14,580 – and far-reaching changes to our structure and qualifications.

Our new Journalism Qualifications Board will oversee the development of converging journalism qualifications. The formation of the Student Council, to ensure all our stakeholders are involved directly in our deliberations and decision-making, was one of the highlights of the year.

Multi-platform journalism skills have been integrated into all our programmes of study. Our qualification for magazine journalists has been revamped in response to the needs of periodical publishers. Our new preliminary qualification for sports journalists is available and will soon be followed by an NCE.

The future of the Journalism Diversity Fund has been secured by the Newspaper Licensing Agency's commitment to a minimum of £100,000 a year for the next three years. There is much more work to be done before the competitive

world of journalism is more reflective of today's multi-cultural society.

Just like our successful inaugural awards for excellence in journalism, we hope our new event – the Journalism Skills Conference – will feature regularly in our calendar in the future. This is a unique opportunity to take a strategic view of the issues associated with educating and training journalists as well as the chance to celebrate the achievements of those involved in journalism training.

The NCTJ is committed to continuously improving its effectiveness, efficiency and value for money – so important to high performing and forward looking organisations.

We are determined to retain our focus and purpose but demand for our services is not restricted to our current markets. In the year ahead we will be exploring the potential to diversify and share the special knowledge and expertise we can bring to the table.

In order to realise our full potential and to achieve our ambitions we need many skills. In particular in the year ahead we will be forging the best partnerships for the future.

The NCTJ is confident about this future and the opportunities. We are full of ambition to further establish the NCTJ in its pre-eminent position as the leading organisation for high, exacting and relevant standards for training and qualifying journalists. We have a strong brand, great products and services, and the fantastic support of people who are committed to the future of good journalism. Providing we continue to demonstrate our effectiveness and manage our resources carefully our reputation and influence will continue to grow.

**Joanne Butcher,
NCTJ Chief Executive**



'Bumper year': Joanne Butcher

“Our efforts to deliver the premier training scheme for journalists in the UK have not just continued but accelerated.”

Qualifications development

Convergence

To meet the increasing need for multi-skilled journalists, the content of all NCTJ qualifications has been revised and updated this year to reflect the skills used in multi-media newsrooms nationwide. This follows the previous year's revamp of the reporters' NCE which required trainees to show they could operate as effective multi-platform journalists.

Now all student reporters, sub-editors and magazine journalists on accredited courses as well as direct entrants in the newsroom are being trained to write for the web. Their online journalism skills, knowledge and understanding are being tested in their NCTJ exams and portfolios.

Online journalism, including writing for the web and video journalism, has been integrated into the two core journalism assessments at preliminary level - news writing and portfolio.

Video journalism has been included in the portfolio as an optional element for the year ahead and video reports can be included in place of two written stories. Many centres are delivering video training and the NCTJ produced a short training film offering advice and guidance to tutors, trainers and trainees and students on the basic quality expected by examiners.

Legal and ethical issues related to writing news for the web are addressed in the media law syllabus. An online editing unit has also been added to the sub-editing exam. Student and trainee photographers now have to shoot video and must include video packages in their portfolios.

Magazine journalism

Following our work last year with leading magazine publishers, educators and trainers to review



Still life: video stills from the NCTJ's new Video journalism for Websites DVD

and revise the content of the magazine syllabus, a range of new assessments have been introduced.

There is a features portfolio where candidates must showcase six features and can include video reports. The magazine sub-editing exam has been updated and now follows the same programme of study as the reporters' sub-editing exam. The new business of magazines option equips candidates with a thorough knowledge of the magazine industry and the practicalities of how magazines work, which can be taken instead of public affairs.

The magazine journalism qualification has also been accredited by Ofqual to the National Qualifications Framework as a pathway through the level three Certificate in Journalism.

Photography

To bring the preliminary qualifications for press photographers and photo-journalists in line with reporters, magazine journalists and sub-editors, a new preliminary portfolio has been developed and will be introduced on accredited courses from September 2008. The portfolio requires photographers to produce eight

pictures for eight different categories and one video news report.

The skill of video reporting is being tested as part of the NCE for press photographers and photo-journalists in November 2008. Candidates will produce a three to five-minute video package including a recorded interview on a storyline set by the NCTJ photography exam board. The audio, visual and overall package will be assessed and video reporting may be included as a compulsory element from 2009.

Sports reporting

The development of a National Certificate Examination for sports reporters moved forward in 2008 with the help of editorial consultant, Murray Morse, former editor of the Cambridge Evening News. After extensive consultation, the new professional qualification will include the following assessments: a sports press briefing; sports interview; sports newspaper practice and a sports logbook.

Content for the logbook is due to be finalised before the end of 2008 and exam trials will take place early in 2009 with an expected launch date next summer.

Qualifications development

Journalism Qualifications Board

The NCTJ's awarding body structure was developed during the year, with the creation of a Journalism Qualifications Board. This will plan and oversee the industry's gold standard multi-media qualifications.

Chaired by Donald Martin, editor of the Evening Times in Glasgow, the board brings together all the chief examiners for each journalism discipline together with additional representatives to ensure the interests of industry, education and training providers, trainees and students are fully met.

The board is taking a completely fresh look at the structure, content and assessment of journalism qualifications to ensure they continue to meet the demands of modern newsrooms. It is managing the debate about balancing new and old journalism, what should be core and optional, and how people can be trained with the right skillsets – and mindsets.

The subject areas under the board's remit include news gathering, writing and reporting, media law, public affairs, sub-editing, sports journalism, magazine journalism, shorthand, photography, online and video journalism. The board is responsible for the overall structure and content of both the preliminary Certificates in Journalism and the National Certificate Examinations.



Speaker: Donald Martin presented the research at the Society of Editors' Conference

Speaking at the Society of Editors' conference in Bristol, Donald Martin said: "Our mission is quality training to high relevant standards but we must be realistic and prioritise what can be achieved and get the right balance of traditional and new skills."

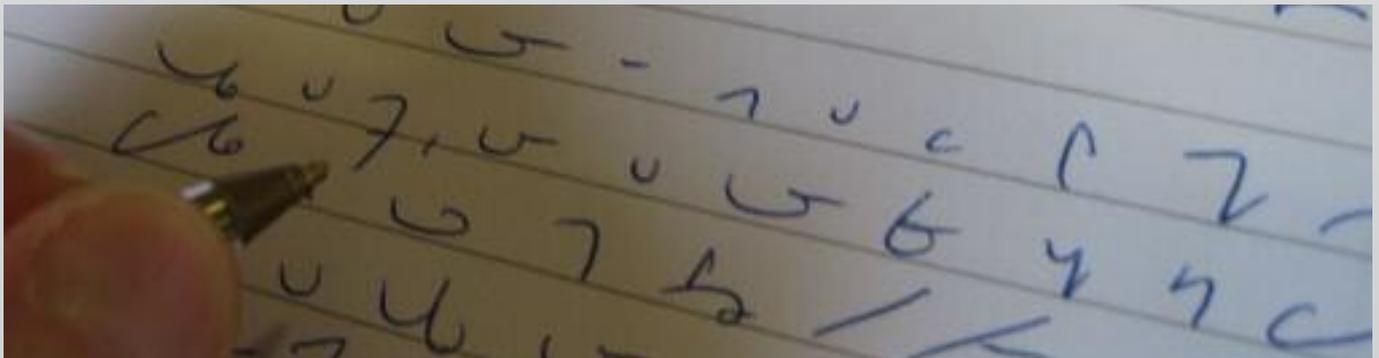
Qualifications and Credit Framework

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is the new process for recognising and accrediting qualifications in

England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Regulated by Ofqual (Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator), it is part of the government's attempt to reform the vocational qualifications system to make it simpler to understand, flexible and inclusive for learners.

The first NCTJ qualification planned for submission to the QCF is the preliminary Certificate in Journalism for press photographers and photo-journalists.



Accreditation



The last twelve months have seen further expansion of the NCTJ's accreditation scheme and provided further evidence – if any were needed – of the enormous challenges faced by both those who study for, and those who deliver the NCTJ's pre-entry professional qualifications.

In the past year, accreditation has been awarded to seven more journalism courses bringing the total to 69 delivered at 42 universities, further education colleges and private centres all over the UK.

We were sorry to see the closure of the Scottish Centre for Journalism Studies (SCJS) but are pleased that the gap will be filled by new NCTJ-accredited postgraduate journalism programmes now being offered by the University of Strathclyde and at Glasgow Caledonian University. Scottish postgraduate students can also study for their NCTJ qualifications as part of a new MSc in Journalism at The Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen or the long established NCTJ courses at Cardonald College.

In addition to the three new Scottish courses, the NCTJ now kite-marks: an MA in Journalism at Staffordshire University; journalism undergraduate degree courses at Nottingham Trent University and the University of Kent;

and a fast-track course delivered by News Associates from a new centre in Manchester designed to complement the one the company offers at its headquarters in Wimbledon.

“Gaining an NCTJ Certificate in Journalism is no mean achievement - and the NCTJ is proud to salute publicly in this report the latest 254 students to make the grade.”

Although there appears to be no shortage of providers – many more are queuing up for accreditation – and students willing to have a go, analysis of exam results from those accredited courses finishing during the 2007-8 academic year confirms what recruiting editors, particularly in the regional newspaper industry have long known – that the NCTJ's pre-entry Certificate in Journalism represents a rigorous, world-class vocational qualification that remains unfashionably tough to obtain.

Many of the students who completed NCTJ accredited journalism courses in 2007-8 obtained good exam grades in

some of the components that make up the pre-entry professional qualifications. However, only one in six students (a figure in line with previous years) graduated with the full preliminary certificates in journalism having gained A-C grades in all core subjects plus the relevant shorthand speeds.

The NCTJ remains determined to resist pressure to lower exam standards but the industry recognises the need to fine-tune the expectations it sets for those courses in the accreditation scheme to take account of different delivery formats.

While the NCTJ programme of study is exactly the same for all courses and the assessment standards are the same for all individuals, we cannot expect exactly the same exam successes from mature postgraduate students focused exclusively on the NCTJ syllabus and a growing number of younger undergraduates studying for a journalism degree.

For those who have the ability and determination to work as professional journalists, gaining the NCTJ Certificate in Journalism has a great significance as the key to a newsroom career. It is no mean achievement – and the NCTJ is proud to salute and acknowledge publicly in this report the latest 254 students to make the grade.

Courses with NCTJ accreditation

Bournemouth University
BA (Hons) Multimedia Journalism

Brighton Journalist Works
Certificate in Journalism
(Sub-editing)

Brunel University
MA Journalism

Cardiff University
PgDip Newspaper Journalism

Cardonald College
HND Journalism Studies
Day release – Newspaper
Journalism

City College Brighton & Hove
Fast-track Newspaper Journalism
Fast-track Magazine Journalism

City of Wolverhampton College
Academic year Newspaper
Journalism
Day release – Newspaper
Journalism

Cornwall College Camborne
Foundation Degree Newspaper
Journalism
Fast-track Newspaper Journalism

Darlington College of Technology
Fast-track Newspaper Journalism

De Montfort University
PgDip Newspaper Journalism

Edge Hill University
BA (Hons) Journalism
Glasgow Caledonian University
BA (Hons) Journalism
MA Multimedia Journalism

Harlow College
Fast-track PgDip Newspaper
Journalism
Fast-track PgDip Magazine
Journalism
Academic year Newspaper
Journalism
Academic year Magazine
Journalism

Highbury College
Fast-track Newspaper Journalism

Kingston University
MA/PgDip Journalism

Lambeth College
Fast-track PgDip Newspaper
Journalism
Foundation Degree Journalism

Leeds Trinity & All Saints College
MA/PgDip Print Journalism

Liverpool Community College
Fast-track Diploma Newspaper
Journalism
Fast-track Magazine Journalism
Academic year Newspaper
Journalism

Liverpool John Moores University
BA (Hons) Journalism

Midland News Association
Midland News Association
three-year training scheme

News Associates (London)
Fast-track Newspaper Journalism
Part-time Newspaper Journalism

News Associates (Manchester)
Fast-track Newspaper Journalism

noSweat Journalism Training
Fast-track Newspaper Journalism
Part-time Newspaper Journalism

Nottingham Trent University
BA (Hons) Print Journalism
MA/PgDip Newspaper Journalism

Press Association Training Centre
Multimedia Foundation course in
Journalism

Staffordshire University
BA (Hons) Journalism
MA Journalism

Sutton Coldfield College
Academic year Journalism

The Robert Gordon University
MSc Journalism

**The Sheffield College, Norton
Centre**
Academic year Newspaper
Journalism
Academic year Press photography

Academic year Photo-journalism
Fast-track PgDip Newspaper
Journalism
12-week block release Press
photography
12-week block release Photo-
journalism

University of Brighton
BA (Hons) Sport Journalism

University of Central Lancashire
BA (Hons) Journalism
PgDip/MA Newspaper Journalism
MA Magazine Journalism

University of Cumbria
BA (Hons) Journalism

University of Kent
BA (Hons) Journalism and the
News Industry

University of Portsmouth
BA Journalism (combined
honours)

University of Salford
MA/PgDip Newspaper Journalism

University of Sheffield
BA Journalism Studies (single &
combined honours)
MA Newspaper Journalism

University of Strathclyde
MLitt/PgDip Journalism

University of Sunderland
BA (Hons) News Journalism
BA (Hons) Magazine Journalism
BA (Hons) Sports Journalism
MA Newspaper Journalism
MA Magazine Journalism

University of Teesside
BA (Hons) Multimedia Journalism
Professional Practice

University of Ulster at Coleraine
MA Newspaper Journalism

Up To Speed Journalism Training
Fast-track Newspaper Journalism

Warwickshire College
Academic year Newspaper
Journalism

Journalism Diversity Fund

Throughout its third year, the Journalism Diversity Fund has continued to grow. The Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA) – which helped set up the fund in 2005 – pledged to give at least £100,000 a year for three years, securing the fund until 2010.

The industry-backed fund allows would-be reporters, sub-editors and photographers from under-represented areas of society the chance to train as journalists. This in turn helps to encourage the competitive world of journalism to better reflect today's multi-cultural society.

Along with the NLA, the fund is supported by leading publishing companies, including Associated Newspapers, News International, Guardian News and Media Group, and Pearson. The Scott Trust gave the fund a £25,000 boost this year.

During the past financial year, there were three application deadlines: October 31, 2007, March 31, 2008 and June 30, 2008.



Jo Adetunji

Jo studied the fast-track course in newspaper journalism at Lambeth College. She received a distinction for her portfolio and passed shorthand at 100wpm. She now works as a reporter at the Guardian.

The application deadlines for 2008-9 follow a similar vein.

There were 99 applications to the fund during the 2007-8 financial year. Twelve applicants were successful. One started his NCTJ training in February 2008 and the others will begin in autumn 2008.

A celebratory lunch was hosted by Associated Newspapers at its offices in Kensington, London, in September 08. It was an excellent opportunity for supporters to meet those receiving the bursaries and gave recipients a chance to network with industry professionals, which included representatives from the Society of Editors. Past bursary recipients enjoyed meeting each other and sharing their stories.

The lunch also celebrated the achievements of those who have completed training thanks to the fund, and have found employment in journalism – the whole point of the scheme.

Some of these are featured below:



Chinwe Akomah

Chinwe studied the postgraduate diploma in journalism at the University of Central Lancashire. She is now a trainee reporter at the Congleton Chronicle.



Speaking at the annual celebration lunch, Robin Esser, executive managing editor at the Daily Mail, said: "We at the Daily Mail believe in encouraging journalists from different ethnic and social backgrounds to take up this great profession because we want to see more of our diverse communities coming into the mainstream media - be it newspaper, television, or radio."

"It is vital that the beneficial effects of our varied society are reflected throughout the British media."



Kim Carmichael

Kim completed the MA in Journalism at the University of Sunderland. She passed all seven elements of the qualification and is now a trainee reporter at the Newcastle Journal.

Journalism Diversity Fund



Rosemary Davenport

Rosemary completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Newspaper Journalism at the University of Salford and now works as a trainee reporter at the Lincolnshire Echo.



David Menon

David completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Newspaper Journalism at the University of Central Lancashire and is now a trainee reporter at the Woking News & Mail.



Ashionye Ogene

Ashionye studied at noSWEat Journalism Training. She is now an assistant news editor at ITN. Prior to this, during a stint at the Guardian, she had a feature printed on the front page of the newspaper.

She said: "I wouldn't have been able to achieve all the things I have without the help of the JDF bursary. I will always be grateful to the fund and I encourage others to apply and show them that even if the industry seems like it's built against them succeeding, there are people and organisations that are here to help."



Old meets new: Oluchi Ugwu, who received a bursary last year, chats to 2008 recipients Jennifer Thompson, Eimhear O'Neill and Christina Johnson

The story so far

To date, a total of 139 people have applied to the fund.

Bursaries were awarded to 27 of these, and there are now this many diverse journalists working in this competitive industry.

During this financial year, bursary recipients have completed courses at the following centres:

Brighton Journalist Works
Darlington College
Kingston University
Lambeth College
Liverpool Community College

noSWEat Journalism Training
Scottish Centre for Journalism Studies (no longer running)
The Sheffield College, Norton Centre
University of Central Lancashire
University of Salford
University of Sheffield
University of Sunderland

Warwickshire College

As awareness of the fund continues to grow, so do the numbers of applications received. Press Gazette has allowed the fund a number of full-page adverts in its publications, for which we are grateful.

Preliminary certificates in journalism

In the 2007-8 academic year, 2,372 candidates sat an NCTJ preliminary Certificate in Journalism.

Passing all the sections which make the qualification requires a diversity of skills and knowledge - and the standard is extremely high.

Achieving this gold standard remains a great challenge to many students, however, the NCTJ remains resolute that high standards must be maintained and we will not allow standards to fall.

The 253 who passed all seven elements of the Newspaper

Reporters' certificate, while on course, are listed below.

These candidates set a shining example to their peers and we congratulate them all.

The seven elements (six exams plus a portfolio) are:

News writing: candidates write a news story, two nibs and suggest five follow-up ideas.

Public affairs: local government: examines knowledge of local government, includes a compulsory finance question.

Public affairs: central government:

examines knowledge in this area.

Media law: court reporting: examines court reporting and related issues in defamation and contempt, sources of law, crime terminology, relevant aspects of the PCC code.

Media law: general reporting: examines general reporting, including defamation, contempt, copyright, confidentiality and other aspects of the PCC code.

Shorthand (Teeline): at 100 wpm.

Portfolio: a record of training, includes cuttings which evidence a range of reporting styles.



Candidates passing all these elements of the NCTJ Certificate in Journalism (Newspaper Reporters), listed by centre:

Brunel University

Ruth Frances Sharpe, Jamie Stewart

Cardiff University

Helen Buckingham, Hana Callard, Rachel Clare, Nicholas Collins, Chris Cousens, Natalie Crockett, Carey Davies, Stephen Hackwell, Benjamin Harris, Steven Hayes, Thomas Knight, Ruth Mansfield, Kylie Mclellan, Howard Mustoe, Gillian Roberts, Alison Sanders, Timothy Sculthorpe, Andrew Sloan, Richard Wheeler

City College Brighton & Hove

Richard Keatley, Tracey Anne Scott

Cornwall College

Lucy Smith, Miriam Taylor

Darlington College

Laura Crothers, Christopher Jack Hole, Claire Lewis, Kate Liptrot,

Richard James McIntosh, Laura Nesbitt, Michael Purton, David Seymour

De Montfort University

Tracey Davies, Mark Goode, Siobhan Prideaux, Daniel Santy

Harlow College

Daniel James Wooton Bins, Jennifer Grant

Highbury College

James Edward Charles Burton, Russell John Butt, Benjamin Henry Craig, Arron Hendy, Sian Louise Hewitt, Sarah Hilley, Emma Jayne Jones, Lucy Jones, Chine Mbubaegbu, Emma Felicity Streatfield

Kingston University

Katherine Adams

Lambeth College

Daisy Collins, Rory Goulding, Delia

Jane Monk, James Edward Nadal, Benjamin Pearce, Suzan Uzel, Elizabeth Webster

Leeds, Trinity & All Saints College

Laura Bowyer, Craig Burnett, Mark Phillip Butler, Sarah Calkin, Tanya O'Rourke, Sundari Sankar, Jacqueline Turley, Victoria Turton

Liverpool Community College

Alex William Bell, Jessica Beckett, Karen Louise Britton, James Cox, Richard Edwin Frost, Paul Harvey, Lucy Ann McGuire, Helen Steel, Pamela Tully

Midland News Association

Winston Brown, Catherine Dalton, Charlotte Hester, Emma Louise Kasprzak, Erika Pennington, Mark Stuart Round, Ruth Taylor

Continued on next page

Preliminary certificates in journalism



Candidates passing all NCTJ exams continued:

News Associates London

Thomas Atkin, Nicholas Banks, Samuel Blackledge, Matthew Davis, Edward Davis, Toby Davis, Jordan Day, Paola Dellafiora, Francesca Elliott, Simon Fitzjohn, Oliver Florence, Alex Healey, Clare Hardy, Emma Louise Harrison, Simon Hopper, Katherine Islip, Craig Kemp, Emily Koch, Gerard Meagher, David Mercer, Thomas Oldfield, Michael Perkin, Thomas Pilcher, Michael Fintan Quinn, Peter Timothy, Alexander Varney, Robert Wood

News Associates Manchester

Caroline Craig, Michael Pollitt, Caroline Tilley

noSweat Journalism Training

Sally Burnell, Liat Clark, Harriet Cooper, Felicity Crump, Leila Dukes, Sophie Edwards, Sarah Hadland, Jennifer Henson, Nina Kelly, Joanna Kilvington, Laura MacDonald, David McNicoll, Steven Nolan, Maryam Omid, Christopher Richards, Matthew Stevens, Katie Wilson

Nottingham Trent University

Salma Conway, Peter Fearn, Melissa Galea, Robert Garratt, Kathleen Hall, Adam Harwood, Richard Howard, Daniel Palmer, Lauren Taylor

Press Association

Annabelle Dickson, Claire Hack, Victoria Leggett, Charlene Mitchell, Karen Rachel Kelly Moss, Sara Nichol, Jessica Thomas, Thomas Walling, Laura Williamson

Scottish Centre for Journalism Studies

Jennifer Archer, Christine McCartney, Matt Meade, Cara Sulieman

Staffordshire University

Daniel Coombs

The Sheffield College

Catherine Bates, Stuart Dalziel, David Elliott, Simon Faulkner, Sarah Louise Firth, Lindsay Garfitt, Carla George, Samantha Jayne Hughes, Katherine Liptrot, William John Ockendon, Kevin Owers, Robert Michael Wilson

University of Brighton

Danielle Reynolds

University of Central Lancashire

Elizabeth Rebecca Broughton, Andrew Philip Falk, Neil Gareth Vowles, Ian Andrew Waterhouse, Nia Eleri Mari Williams, Lucy Witter, Deborah Wood

University of Cumbria

Kirsty Wood

University of Salford

Elizabeth Broomhall, Rebecca Dawson

University of Sheffield

Ralph Laurie Allsopp, Sheena Campbell, Jennifer Coombs, Rachel Claire Fell, Amy Florence Gooderham, Louise Hall, Philip Medicott, Abhinav Ramnakayan, Louise Victoria Saunders, Jennifer Smith, Sarah Joanne Stead, Jack William Tappin, Paul Whyatt, Laura Wileman

University of Sunderland

Kim Carmichael, Peter Clark, Barbara Cunningham, Jennifer Newton, Karl Phenix, Michael Stringer, Ceressa Sweetman, Gareth Whem

University of Ulster

Emma Blee, Lara Martin, Roisin McLaughlin, Sarah Monahan

Up to Speed Journalism Training

Samantha Emanuel

Warwickshire College

Daniel Foster, Priya Mistry

Wolverhampton College

Donna Bowater, Adam Burling, Jessica Childs

A note about shorthand

The introduction of shorthand exams at lower speeds of 60 and 70 wpm resulted in more exams than ever being sat - 4,103. Of the 1,487 who sat at the industry-required speed of 100 wpm, 617 passed - 41 per cent. The pass rate for all exams sat, from 60 to 120, was 47 per cent.

Preliminary certificates in journalism

Magazine Journalism

Candidates must pass all six areas of this certificate to pass the course.

The different elements (five exams and a portfolio) are:

News writing: candidates write a news story, two nibs and suggest five follow-up ideas.

Public affairs: central government: examines knowledge of this area.

Media law: general reporting: examines general reporting - defamation, contempt, copyright, confidentiality, PCC code.

Sub-editing: examines subbing, copy correction, design, dealing with images, writing headlines and captions.

Shorthand (Teeline): achieved at 80 wpm.

Portfolio: candidates produce features to demonstrate competence in feature writing, production and design and background to the magazine industry.

Candidates achieving the gold standard Certificate in Journalism (Magazines) in 2007-8:

City College Brighton & Hove
Sophie Baker, Gareth Buckell, James Costelloe, Emma Grove, Georgina Gyton, Jane Hall, Luke McNaney, Emma Robertson

Harlow College
Deborah Evans, Anneke Elizabeth Hak, Timothy Rodie, Sarah Walker

University of Central Lancashire
Tara Hounslea

University of Sunderland
Stephen Dobie, Karl Phenix

Sub-editing

To achieve the gold standard in this course, candidates must pass seven areas – six reporter elements, as on page 12 (all except shorthand), plus a subbing exam.

Candidates achieving the gold standard Certificate in Journalism (Sub-editing) in 2007-8:

Brighton Journalist Works
Tara Booth, Talitha Bromwich, Joanna Kelly, Harry Lamb, Karen Ironside, Lauren Lloyd, James Lowe, Anthony Luzio, Geoffrey Moore, Ruth Morgan, Gemma Nethersole, Sheenagh Nixon, Louise Poffley, Heather Pugh, Catherine Relf, Kim Sanders, Dominic Smith

Photography and photo-journalism

To achieve the gold standard in these courses, candidates need to pass all four elements:

Press photographers

General photographic knowledge: examines light; cameras; lenses and accessories, images; exposure and processing; colour; technology; health and safety.

Photographic practice: examines PCC code of conduct; history of the press; ethical issues and working practices.

Media law for photographers: examines general laws relevant

to photographers, including contempt; copyright; confidentiality; reporting restrictions; courts and the law.

Caption writing: write two clear, accurate news captions to accompany two pictures.

Photo-journalists sit exams as above in general photographic knowledge, photographic practice and media law for photographers, and they also sit:

News writing for photo-journalists: write a picture caption and a composite caption

for a series of photographs.

Candidates achieving the gold standard Certificate in Journalism (Press photographers and Photo-journalists) in 2007-8:

The Sheffield College
Rachel Atkins, Catherine Booker, Jemma Cox, Douglas Easton, Timothy France, Adam Holt, Elizabeth Kearsley, Hannah Kinver, Matthew Lloyd, Georgina Mabee, Aisling Magill, Victoria Louise Middleton, Stephen Nelson, Laura Page, Laurence Underhill, Nicholas Wilkinson

Prize winners

Public Affairs

LG Communications PA Award - Catherine Dalton, Express and Star.

Shorthand

Harry Butler Award for the best shorthand note and transcription at 100 per cent accuracy for 100 wpm - Richard Burin, Harrogate Advertiser.

NCTJ Shorthand Award for the the best shorthand note and transcription at 100 per cent accuracy for 110 wpm - Lucy Ewing, of the Bolton Evening News.

National Certificate Examination

The National Certificate Examination (NCE) is the NCTJ's 'gold standard' professional qualification, designed to examine all-round competence in a range of fundamental skills. The NCE is currently available in three areas of journalism: for reporters; photographers and photo-journalists; and sub-editors. To be eligible, trainees must complete the preliminary Certificate in Journalism and undertake on-the-job training.

Until this year, the NCE was held twice a year. A trial run of a third NCE sitting took place on July 4, 2007, when candidates were offered a chance to re-sit the newspaper practice exam. This was a resounding success, and there will be three full sittings of the NCE in 2008-9 – July 2008, November 2008 and March 2009.

NCE for Reporters

There are four parts to this qualification, as detailed below:

News interview

Candidates complete an interview and use information gleaned to write a news story, to length and to deadline.

News report

Candidates take shorthand notes during a speech and write a news

story based on this and other information.

Newspaper practice

Candidates demonstrate they have a sound working knowledge of practical journalism, that they can respond to editorial situations, and can apply knowledge of media law and public affairs.

Logbook

This is a training record which includes a selection of cuttings demonstrating the trainee has satisfactorily covered a range of key tasks.

NCE for Photographers

There are four parts to the qualifications for press photographers and photo-journalists:

Practical

Candidates take a series of pictures during a staged scenario and submit: action shot, front page picture for supplement/magazine and three inside pictures.

Portfolio

A collection of ten pictures collected over the training period. They must all be of a standard acceptable for publication.

Advance project

Candidates have four weeks to prepare a double-page spread or single-page broadsheet on a given subject.

Logbook

This records details of training and a selection of cuttings demonstrating the trainee has satisfactorily covered a range of key tasks.

NCE for Sub-editors

The first sub-editing NCE took place in July 2007. There are three parts to the qualification:

Subbing

An on-screen subbing exam. Includes a hard copy proofing exercise and measures design ability.

Newspaper practice for sub-editors

Candidates demonstrate they are conversant with newspaper practice and can apply knowledge of newspaper law.

Logbook

This is a record of training and includes a selection of cuttings demonstrating the trainee has satisfactorily covered a range of key tasks.

NCE results, autumn 2007

REPORTERS, Sept 28, 2007 (including July 2007 newspaper practice re-sit)

Ruhubia Akbor, Oldham Advertiser
Tarik Al Rasheed, Malvern Gazette
Christopher Amery, St Helens Star
Stuart Amos, Surrey Comet
Emma Atkinson, The Citizen, Gloucester
Fiona Audley, Barking and Dagenham Post
Anne-Marie Baker, The Bath Chronicle
John Baker, Spalding Guardian
Julie Bartram, Spenborough Guardian
Helen Beighton, Derbyshire Times
Lynsey Bews, Fife Free Press
Christopher Birkle, Nottingham Evening Post
Marcus Boocock, Nottingham Evening Post
Martin Booth, Watford Observer
Christopher Breese, Melton Times
Shirley Brooks, Derby Evening Telegraph
Robert James Brown, Woking News & Mail
Jane Bruccoleri, Croydon Guardian
James Stuart Bryce, The Daventry Express
Karen Burke, Ilford Recorder
Tegan Chapman, News Guardian
Jenny Clover, South London Press
Matthew Colledge, Chard & Ilminster News
John Collingridge, Hull Daily Mail
David Michael Connop-Price, Basingstoke Gazette
Ellen Anne Cook, Express & Echo, Exeter
Victoria Corbett, Wokingham Times
Charlotte Cox, Macclesfield Express Advertiser
Robert Dabrowski, The News, Portsmouth
Andrew Daniels, Westmorland Gazette
William Davison, Town Crier Series
Jonathan Doel, South Wales Argus
Laura Downton, The Hampshire Chronicle
Marcus Harry Dysch, Hendon Times
Emily-Ann Elliott, Basingstoke Gazette
Tom Edwards, Express & Star, Wolverhampton
Keith Fairbank, Monmouth Free Press
Kristina Fox, Hebden Bridge Times
Alexandra Fredman, Whitby Gazette
Claire Margaret Fry, Worcester News
James Gates, Melton Times
Matthew Gaw, Crawley Observer
Liza-Jane Gillespie, Gazette Series Bailey Newspaper Group
Benjamin Green, Worksop Guardian
Jack Grove, Peterborough Evening Telegraph
Chantal Rosalyn Harris, Esher News & Mail
Claire Hutchinson, Crawley Observer
Christopher Henwood, Llanelli Star

Suzannah Hills, Western Telegraph
Thomas Hughes, Lincolnshire Free Press
Andrea Hyam, The Rutland Times
Tristan Harris, Bromsgrove Standard
David Jackson, Northants Evening Telegraph
Christopher Johnson, Croydon Advertiser
Matthew Johnson, Grimsby Telegraph
David Jones, Petersfield Post
Fariha Karim, Greenock Telegraph
Hurtej Kaur, Nottingham Evening Post
Steven Kelly, Runcorn World
Alicia Kelly, Worcester News
Laura Kenny, Middleton & N. Manchester Guardian
Daniel Kerins, The News, Portsmouth
Hannah Kirk, Pocklington Post
Angela Lisa Kirk, Lancaster Guardian
Sadie Lawlor, Sleaford Standard
Catherine Lea, Wakefield Express
Benjamin Lee, Cambridge Evening News
Rachel Leslie, Wilmslow Express Advertiser
Deborah Linton, The Bolton News
Natalie Mahon, Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph
Richard Mason, Darlington & Stockton Times
Steve Mather, Evesham Journal
Samantha Matthew, Slough Observer
Chloe Mayer, Barking & Dagenham Recorder
Philip McCabe, Freelance
Suzanne McTaggart, Yorkshire Evening Post
Dominic Mills, Leek Post & Times
Gareth Moorhouse, Wiltshire Times
Charlotte Jane Morgan, Wiltshire Times
David Moroney, Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald
Richard Morris, North West Evening Mail
Lynn Morris, Daily Echo, Bournemouth
Andrew Mortimer, Hull Daily Mail
Emma Mottram, Redditch Standard
Sophie Moynes, West Cumberland Times & Star
Laura Naylor, The Sentinel
Cathy Neligan, Halifax Evening Courier
Anthony O'Connell, Llanelli Star
Catherine Oakes, Derby Evening Telegraph
George Oliver, Rossendale Free Press
Helen Victoria Orrell, Essex Chronicle
Charlotte Orson, Lincolnshire Echo
Lee Peace, South Yorkshire Times
James Peacock, Express & Star, Wolverhampton
Daniel Peters, Mercury Series
Lorna Phelan, Pontypool Free Press
Diana Pilkington, Wimbledon Guardian
Ruth Caroline Pott-Negrine, Chronicle & Echo
Diana Elizabeth Prince, Evening Herald
Fiona Margaret Purnell, Glenrothes Gazette
Miran Farah Rahman, Keighley News
William Ramsey, Hull Daily Mail

Megan Reynolds, Waltham Forest Guardian
Robert Norley Rowlands, Newbury Weekly News
Kathryn Ryan, Salford Advertiser
Catherine Salmond, Fife Free Press
Hannah Scorer, Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph
Gabriel Shepard, Kent & Sussex Courier
Jennifer Silver, The Forester
Rachel Sixsmith, Horticulture Week
Kate Skelton, Nottingham Evening Post
Amanda Claire Smith, The Bolton News
Laurel Smithson, Welwyn & Hatfield Times
Emma Louise Spencer, Barnsley Chronicle
Jonathan Stayton, Esher News & Mail
Martin Steinmetz, Chorley Guardian
Corey Stephenson, Southern Daily Echo
Mark Tallentire, Darlington & Stockton Times
Johanna Thewlis, Bury Free Press
Stephen Thirkill, Mansfield Chad
Cherry Thomas, Lytham St Annes Express
Julian Thorpe, Barnsley Chronicle
Jean Margaret Tilley, Somerset County Gazette
Lydia Tipple, Andover Advertiser
Hannah Truman, Cumberland & Westmorland Herald
Stephanie Tye, Swindon Advertiser
Alexandra Valk, Northampton Chronicle & Echo
Marc Walker, Ilford Recorder
Simon Nathan Ward, Rugby Advertiser
Andrew Westbrook, Wandsworth Guardian
Andrew Whelan, The Argus, Brighton
Damon William Wilkinson, Rochdale Observer
Laura Williams, Wiltshire Gazette & Herald
James Williamson, Westmorland Gazette
Adam Wilshaw, Western Morning News
Sam Woodman, Worthing Herald

PHOTOGRAPHERS (November 7, 2007)

Hannah Brackenbury, Derby Evening Telegraph
Christopher Bull, Doncaster Free Press
Katherine Burnett, Derby Evening Telegraph
Jerome Ellerby, Hull Daily Mail
James Fitton, Halifax Evening Courier
Adam Gerrard, Derby Evening Telegraph
Paul Jackson, Journal and Admag Series
Dustin Michailovs, Nottingham Evening Post
Angela Ward, Mansfield Chad

SUB EDITOR (July 3, 2007)

Neil Wilcock, Halifax Evening Courier

NCE results, spring 2008

REPORTERS (March 7, 2008)

Lucinda Adam, Bucks Free Press
Melanie Adams, Southern Daily Echo
Samuel Adams, Wanstead & Woodford Guardian
Paul Ainsworth, Newark Advertiser
Victoria Allen, Redhill, Reigate & Horley Life
Catherine Allen, Mansfield Chad
Owen Michael Amos, The Northern Echo
Georgia Anderson, Hemel Hempstead Gazette
Ellen Louise Beardmore, Pontefract & Castleford Express
Sarah Bebbington, Jane's Information Group
Jodie Beecroft, Bridlington Free press
Jonathan Bennett, Kent & Sussex Courier
Susannah Berry, Wetherby News
Andrew Bond, Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph
Natalie Bowyer, Hunts Post
Bethan Louise Burke, North West Evening Mail
Jemma Callow, Banbury Guardian
William Carson, Southern Daily Echo
Richard Catton, Ripon Gazette
Ailsa Chalk, Sidmouth Herald
Lucy Diana Georgina Clapham, Bucks Free Press
Emma Louise Clark, St Albans Observer
Samantha Clark, West Sussex County Times
Monique Cleaver, Northants Evening Telegraph
Ruth Clegg, Lancashire Publications Ltd
Helen Collis, Western Morning News
Dolores Patricia Cowburn, Jersey Evening Post
Laura Cummings, Dunfermline Press
Laura Elizabeth Dale, Herald Express
James Davis, Stroud News & Journal
John Deehan, Burnley Express
Crispin Dowler, Inside Housing
Colin Drury, The Halifax Courier
Alexander Ellis, Thurrock Gazette
Chris Fay, The Northern Echo
Megan Elizabeth Featherstone, Halifax Courier
Nicola Fenwick, Darlington & Stockton Times
Alexandra Forsyth, The News, Portsmouth
James Forsyth, The Echo, Basildon
Joseph Garbe, Advertiser & Review
Timothy Green, Bucks Herald
Michael Greenwell, Nottingham Evening Post
Naomi Christine Jane Harris, Express & Echo, Exeter
John Harrison, Watford Observer
Sian Harrison, Hull Daily Mail
Lisa Higginson, Westmorland Gazette
Jennifer Lydia Hollamby, Oldham Evening Chronicle
Christopher Hudson, Macclesfield Express

Callum Jones, The Bucks Herald
Emma Judd, South Wales Evening Post
Lawrence Thomas Kennedy, News Shopper
Adam King, The Bucks Herald
Christopher Kirk, Newark Advertiser
David Knapper, Leek Post & Times
James Knock, Gloucestershire Echo
Elizabeth Lee, Chronicle & Echo
David Lindsell, Aldershot News
Debbie Lockett, Worksop Guardian
Alistair Mackay, Kirkintilloch Herald
Warren Manger, Coventry Evening Telegraph
Ashley Marshall, Harrogate Advertiser
Jonathan Matfin, Hemel Hempstead Gazette
Ian Robert McDonald, Dorset Echo
Kenneth Francis McErlain, Rugby Advertiser
Louise McEvoy, The Comet
Andrew McGill, Hunts Post
Asha Mehta, Peterborough Evening Telegraph
Daniel Menhinnitt, Croydon Guardian
Andrew Miller, Newark Advertiser
John Morgan, Cambridge Evening News
Catherine Morris, Diss Express
Claire Moulson, Maidenhead Advertiser
Anna Nalborczyk, Hereford Times
David Paine, Worcester News
James Robert Pallatt, Nottingham Evening Post
Nicola Park, North West Evening Mail
Nathaniel Merlin Parsons, Ham & High
Gemma Peplow, Leicester Mercury
Michael Pickard, Watford Observer
Andrew Pitt, Malton & Pickering Mercury
Graham Poucher, Wakefield Express
Louise Psyllides, The Sentinel
Laura Rands, Ilkeston Advertiser
Tim Raw, West Sussex County Times
Ross Robertson, Sunderland Echo
Thomas Rowley, Tameside Advertiser
Suzanne Rutter, The Halifax Courier
Christopher Slavin, Newbury Weekly News
Laura Alison Smith, The Echo, Basildon
Helen Smithson, News Guardian
Christopher Joel Sweet, Western Gazette
Daniel Thompson, Middleton Guardian
Joel N Turner, Leeds Weekly News
Richard Vernalls, Kidderminster Shuttle & Times
Katherine Rachel Vine, Manchester Metro News
Christopher Visser, North West Evening Mail
Lizanne Weafer, Stroud News & Journal
Allister Webb, Driffild Times
Gemma Wheatley, Croydon Guardian
Graeme Wilkinson, Carmarthen Journal
Karen Wilson, Bury Free Press
Stuart Woledge, Sevenoaks Chronicle

Claire Woods, Pulman's Weekly News & Advertiser Series
Andrew Woolfoot, Wiltshire & Gloucester Standard
Edward Wrenn, Northants Evening Telegraph

PHOTOGRAPHERS (May 7, 2008)

Michelle Adamson, Grimsby Telegraph
Bruce Francis Fitzgerald, Halifax Evening Courier
Daniel Martino, Gloucestershire Echo
Nick Toogood, Bromsgrove Advertiser/Messenger Series

Prize winners

NCE for Reporters

Eight reporters were commended for their performances in the National Certificate Examination in autumn 2007 and spring 2008. Each received a cheque for £250.

Society of Editors' Award for the best news interview paper:
Caroline Boyd and Andrew McGill

The Esso Award for the best news report paper: **Andrew Whelan and Nicola Park**

Ted Bottomley Award for the best Newspaper Practice paper:
Matthew Gaw and Katherine Vine

Newsquest Award for the best logbook: **Tarik Al Rasheed and Gemma Peplow**

The Pamela Meyrick award for 2007 went to **Christopher Amery**.

The Eric Dobson Award was presented to **Mark Tallentire**.

NCE for Photographers and Photo-journalists

Three awards are presented annually for outstanding work in these NCEs during 2007-8.

Nikon Award for best single image - **Katherine Burnett**.

Fuji Award for the best photography portfolio - **Adam Gerrard**.

South Wales Argus Award for the best advance project - **Dustin Michailovs, of the Nottingham Evening Post**.

Awards for Excellence in Journalism

In 2008, the first NCTJ Awards for Excellence in Journalism were set up, to recognise and reward the efforts of those training and entering this competitive industry. With quality and high standards at the heart of the NCTJ, it seemed natural to highlight and celebrate the achievements of those with promising careers in journalism ahead of them.

There were two avenues for entry, called the category awards: student, for journalists and photographers on NCTJ-accredited courses, and trainee, for those who have completed their training, with less than two years' experience on the job.

Three performance awards were



Well done: our winners at the Society of Editors Conference

also presented, for the best performances in NCTJ exams – at preliminary level and NCE.

A Chairman's Award, recognising a

substantial contribution to journalism training, will be presented by NCTJ chairman Kim Fletcher, in December 2008.

Category Awards

More than 120 entries were received for the following categories:

- News reporter of the year
- Sports reporter of the year
- Scoop of the year
- Feature writer of the year
- Images of the year

An eminent team of judges, including Paul Durrant, assistant editor of the Eastern Daily Press; Murray Morse, editor-in-chief of the Daily Sport, and Paul Sanders, picture editor at The Times, worked together to draw up a shortlist.

A final judging panel brought together the following industry high flyers to decide on our winners: Chris Elliott, managing editor of The Guardian; Steve Nelson, production editor at The Press, York and NCTJ chief examiner for newspaper journalism; Steve Panter, senior lecturer in journalism at the University of Salford; Steve Phillips, NCTJ chief examiner for photography and picture editor of the South Wales Evening Post, and Bob Satchwell, executive director of the Society of Editors.

The winners were announced at the Society of Editors' conference in November 2008, where they were presented with their awards by

Joanne Butcher and congratulated by Alan Rusbridger, editor of The Guardian.

The winners are:

Category	Student	Trainee
News Reporter of the Year	Naomi Loomes City College Brighton & Hove	Tessa Youens Gravesend Messenger
Sports Reporter of the Year	Steve Jones News Associates, Manchester	Jonathan Jurejko Doncaster Free Press
Scoop of the Year	Joint Winners Steve Kelly Brighton Journalist Works and Delia Monk Lambeth College	Ben Frampton South Wales Argus
Feature Writer of the Year	Paul Prowse Nottingham Trent University	Kelly Shorrock Derby Evening Telegraph
Images of the Year	Micha Theiner Sheffield College	Katherine Burnett Derby Evening Telegraph

Awards for Excellence in Journalism



Winning snap: the surreal quality of Micha Theiner's aerobatics shot, left, taken during the Red Bull air race in London, impressed the judges

Performance Awards

The following people received awards for their outstanding performance in NCTJ exams:

NCTJ Student Journalist of the Year
Jennifer Smith, University of Sheffield

NCTJ Photographer of the Year
Adam Gerrard, South West News Service (formerly of the Derby Evening Telegraph)

NCTJ Reporter of the Year
Tarik Al Rasheed, Malvern Gazette

What the judges said

The judges said that, as a whole, the winning entries had stood out and grabbed their readers' attention. Some were funny, all showed originality and imagination. Winners had demonstrated quality interviewing skills, effective use of the Freedom of Information Act and secured exclusive stories through managing their contacts.

The awards were well received and the winners gained a good deal of coverage throughout the process. It was free for candidates to enter, to encourage the maximum entries, and we are looking to develop them further in 2009.



Katherine Burnett captured the light-hearted spirit of a 1950s American Diner in Derbyshire with this imaginative picture

Student Council

This year, the NCTJ set up a Student Council to give a greater say to those studying for the industry's exams at universities, colleges and private centres across the UK.

The move is also expected to engender a wider debate about the future of journalism training and education.

Students at the 42 centres where the NCTJ accredits courses were invited to elect a representative to attend the inaugural Student Council meeting. It was hosted by the Manchester Evening News on February 15, 2008, and 22 representatives attended. They provided feedback on the industry's training scheme and discussed future employment trends with editors and representatives from the NCTJ.

The move acknowledges students, alongside editors, training providers and many others, as stakeholders in the development of NCTJ qualifications. With many students paying thousands of pounds to fund training, it's only right that we provide a forum for them to let us know what they think about the way we do things and how the quality of journalism training can be improved.

We will be acting on the many constructive ideas we received regarding exams, standards, league tables, courses of excellence, and the promotion of professional qualifications.

Four representatives of the Student Council were elected to present their views at the June 2008 meeting of the NCTJ board of directors.

They were: Jennifer Cauley, of Glasgow Caledonian University; Richard Frost, of Liverpool Community College; Karl Holliland, of Harlow College; and Louise Steggals, of the University of Central Lancashire.



Venue: the Manchester Evening News hosted the first NCTJ Student Council meeting



Elected: Karl Holliland, of Harlow College, represented his peers at the first Student Council meeting

Communications and events

Website

The NCTJ's website is the first point of contact for a growing number of people.

Sections of the website have been enhanced and new pages introduced, including a Resources page which features the new Video journalism for Websites DVD (see page six for more information on this).

A new 'Work with the NCTJ' section has been created, where we can display details of any jobs that may be being advertised at the NCTJ. We can also use this page to ask for volunteers to help us with our ongoing work, in which we are well supported by the industry – marking, helping at accreditation visits and on exam days.

A web statistics counter has also been set up, so we can monitor how people are using the website and we can use this information to better shape it to meet their needs.

We are planning to revamp the website in 2008-9, allowing a login facility for students and tutors. The website will be made more interactive and user-friendly.

Events

The NCTJ continues to organise a number of workshops, seminars and forums focusing on different areas of skill, to ensure we are working closely with our stakeholders and consulting with them regularly.

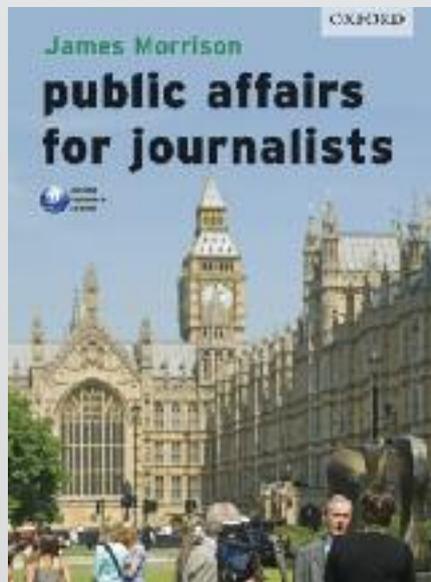
Marking workshops are held twice a year for each subject area, to ensure examiners marking NCTJ examination scripts are doing so to a high and consistent standard.

Two modernised news writing workshops were held throughout the year, to ensure all NCTJ-accredited

eJournalism News

This monthly electronic newsletter continues to be popular with recipients. It keeps them abreast of developments at the NCTJ, invites readers to upcoming events and has useful information about deadlines. This year, a tailor-made eJournalism News for Centres was introduced – a quarterly edition presenting information specifically of interest to centres offering an accredited course.

Publications



centres were kept abreast of changes to the news writing programme of study, which now requires candidates to consider different publishing platforms when reporting news stories. The workshops – one in the north and one in the south of England – were attended by representatives from the majority of our centres.

Our seminars for media law, public affairs and shorthand continue to gain positive responses from attendees and this year, the shorthand seminar was hosted for the first time by Bloomberg in

London. A number of forums were also held for different sectors – higher education, undergraduate and postgraduate, private providers - where issues relevant to those specific environments could be discussed.

Distance learning

Following the updated and relaunched Foundation Course in News Reporting distance learning programme in 2007, 185 people registered for this distance learning course in 2007-8. This is up from 71 in 2006-7.

Short courses

A programme of short open courses is available each year. Bespoke in-house courses are also available and are a popular and flexible alternative. To assist those about to sit the NCE, we also specialise in refresher courses.

We not only train journalists but anyone who needs journalistic skills. We cater for three key sectors: journalists; those who work with journalists; and those who are required to write or edit at work but who lack journalistic training.

London. A number of forums were also held for different sectors – higher education, undergraduate and postgraduate, private providers - where issues relevant to those specific environments could be discussed.

Tying in with the revamped distance learning programme, the NCTJ ran two series of refresher workshops to help distance learners and others prepare and refresh their knowledge before sitting the preliminary Certificate in Journalism exams.

Business and finance review

Resources

The net incoming resources of the group amounted to £51,271 (2006-7: £66,502) which, together with net realised and unrealised losses on investments amounting to £8,949 (2006-7 £10,324) produced a total movement of funds of £42,322 surplus (2006-7: £78,227 surplus). The consolidated surplus for the year exclusive of the Journalism Diversity Fund was £54,294 (2006-7: £6,981), £63,243 prior to adjustments for movements in the value of investments.

This satisfactory outcome was mainly due to the overall stability of the revenue streams.

The Council continued to invest in technology, communications and qualifications development. New qualifications for sports journalists were introduced. Online and video journalism assessments were integrated into print journalism qualifications. The National Vocational Qualification and NCTJ training schemes were merged successfully.

The industry charitable fund, the Journalism Diversity Fund, fosters greater diversity in the newsroom by promoting careers in journalism and awarding bursaries to those from minority ethnic and social communities without the financial means to attend NCTJ pre-entry courses. Managed and administered by the NCTJ as a "restricted fund", donations of £81,000 and £25,000 were received from the Newspaper Licensing Agency and Scott Trust respectively in 2008.

The directors consider the state of affairs of the company and group to be satisfactory.

Investment powers, policy and performance

Under the memorandum and articles of association, the NCTJ has the power to make investments in such securities, property and other investments as the directors see fit.

The portfolio is invested with the advice of Rensburg Sheppards Investment Management Limited and the directors are satisfied with its overall performance.

Structure and governance

The National Council for the Training of Journalist is a registered charity. The training activities of the group are carried out by NCTJ Training Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary.

New directors are recommended and appointed by the directors. The number of directors is not subject to any maximum but is not less than three. A director's term of office is three years, renewable for a further

three years, and, in exceptional circumstance, another three years.

Charitable contribution

During the year NCTJ Training Ltd made a charitable donation under deed of covenant of £88,996 (2006-7: £67,178) to its holding company, The National Council for the Training of Journalists, a registered charity (No: 1026685).

Reserves

It is the aim of the directors to generate surpluses sufficient to maintain a level of resources, which in the opinion of the board is commensurate with the identified needs of the NCTJ.

The principal funding sources are: donations from per capita members; income from registrations, pre-entry fees and examination fees; sales of publications; short courses; distance learning packages and training materials; accreditation fees; donations to the Journalism Diversity Fund; and investment income.

Statement of accounts	2007-8	2006-7
Incoming resources	£979,568	£902,608
Expenditure	£928,297	£836,105
Operating surplus for the year	£51,271	£67,904
Consisting of:		
Restricted fund	(£11,972)	£60,923
Trading surplus	£63,243	£6,981
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008		
Tangible fixed assets	£558,332	£548,129
Investments	£207,927	£216,876
Current assets	£364,094	£352,703
Current liabilities	£145,211	£174,887
Net current assets	£218,883	£177,816
Net assets	£985,142	£942,820

Working for the NCTJ

NCTJ staff:

Joanne Aitchison, examinations manager
Jan Alder, PA to chief executive and short courses manager
Joanne Butcher, chief executive
Stephen Chambers, head of accreditation
Chris Dunham, finance and IT manager
Lisa Edmonds, examinations controller
Emma Harpley, communications manager
Shevon Houston, events, training and diversity administrator
Lyn Jones, qualifications manager
Jessamy Rapkin, examinations controller
Beverley Rhodes, examinations controller

NCTJ Directors:

Kim Fletcher, chairman
Liz Page, vice chairman
Joanne Butcher, chief executive
Brien Beharrell
Sue Campbell
Edmund Curran
Chris Elliott
John Fry
Jan Lever
Donald Martin
Alison Moore
Steve Panter
Alan Qualtrough
Bob Satchwell
Malcolm Vickers

Priorities for 2008-9

The six priority areas agreed by the board of directors for action for the year ahead are to:

Ensure there is a supply of high quality qualified new entrants for multi-media newsrooms;

Develop the NCTJ's 'gold standard' for journalism qualifications and promote excellence;

Diversify the reach of the NCTJ into non-core areas and markets;

Communicate and promote effectively and enhance our profile;

Promote careers in journalism and take action to achieve greater diversity in the newsroom.

Review the strategic, operational and financial structure of the NCTJ

Awarding body:

Amanda Ball, principal examiner and chief examiner, public affairs
Lloyd Bracey, chief examiner, online journalism
Marie Cartwright, chief examiner, shorthand
Sean Dooley, chairman of the quality assurance and standards committee
Cathy Duncan, chief examiner, sub-editing
Dave King, chief examiner, sport
Mark Hanna, chief examiner, media law
Donald Martin, chairman of the journalism qualifications board
Steve Nelson, chief examiner, newspaper journalism
Steve Phillips, chief examiner, press photography and photo-journalism

NCTJ's Mission

To be recognised inside and outside the media industry as the primary body for developing qualified journalists.

Purpose

To provide a world-class education and training system that develops current and future journalists for the

demands of the 21st Century.

Objectives

To achieve our purpose we will:

- Accredite education and training providers and recognise courses of excellence
- Offer outstanding qualifications

which guarantee the skills needed in the workplace

- Foster continuing professional development for journalists throughout their careers
- Provide services and products that are demonstrably helpful and relevant to our customers

National Council for the Training of Journalists

The New Granary
Station Road
Newport
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB11 3PL
Tel: 01799 544014
Fax: 01799 544015
Email: info@nctj.com
Website: www.nctj.com