

# USC | ANNENBERG

## School for Communication & Journalism

### *School of Journalism – Master of Arts in Journalism*

### *Graduate Application Guidelines and Instructions for Fall 2012*

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#### Degree Program Overview

The School of Journalism is at the forefront of efforts to prepare students to thrive in the information age, while maintaining the highest ethical standards of journalistic practice. With an online electronic newsroom and digital editing equipment for radio and television news production, the opportunities are boundless, and USC Annenberg aims to link its programs to cultural, political, technological and social developments around the world. Students completing the M.A. in Journalism will choose one of five tracks: Long-Form Video, News Video, Audio, Text or Digital. All of our graduates demonstrate competency in leadership, numeracy, communications across platforms, media literacy, and visual literacy.

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#### Application Deadline

Admission to the M.A. in Journalism is limited to the fall term. The application deadline for U.S. citizens and permanent residents is **January 3**. International students are encouraged to apply by **December 1** to ensure that their applications are complete for scholarship consideration.

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#### Application Process

- 1) Go to [www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply/](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply/) and complete the online USC Graduate Admission Application. You must upload the following materials before submitting your application:
  - Statement of Purpose
  - Writing Sample
  - Professional Résumé
- 2) After you submit your application, you will pay your application fee with a credit card or request a waiver
- 3) Request letters of recommendation
  - Three letters of recommendation required
- 4) Mail the following materials (include USC-ID) to:  
**University of Southern California  
Office of Graduate Admission  
3601 South Flower Street, Room 112  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0911**
  - Official transcripts from all colleges/ universities attended, including study abroad programs
  - Confidential statement of financial support (international applicants only)
- 5) Request to have your admission tests reported electronically to USC (institution code 4852)
  - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test
  - TOEFL scores (international applicants only)

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#### Admission Testing

All applicants must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores.

International applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency. USC will waive the English proficiency requirement for international applicants who hold a recognized Bachelor's degree from the following countries: United States, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, or Canada (except Quebec).

Students who have studied in other countries are not exempted from the English-proficiency requirement, even if English was the medium of instruction at their previous school. If the English proficiency requirement is not waived, applicants must submit TOEFL scores; the minimum recommended score is 114-115 (IBT). For more details pertinent to international students, refer to [www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html).

Plan to complete all admission testing at least one month prior to the application deadline.

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#### Statement of Purpose

Submit an essay that addresses your thoughts on the future of journalism and how you see yourself fitting into the profession. Share your thoughts of journalism as a profession. Describe your motivation for becoming a journalist and your ideal job in journalism. Tell the admissions committee about yourself, beyond your resume that makes you an exceptional candidate to join Annenberg and to become a journalist. Lastly, share what about the Annenberg programs inspired you to apply. This statement should be two to four pages long, typed and double spaced. It should represent your best writing, so please take care to submit a clear, concise, and grammatically correct essay.

## Writing Sample

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Upload a sample of your writing (e.g. a press release, news clipping, or a college/university research paper).

## Résumé

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Submit a current résumé listing positions held, including internships, nature of work and dates of employment. Include academic and professional awards, honors, association memberships, teaching experience, subject matter expertise, language(s) other than English, and your familiarity with any research or communications technologies, e.g. Web design, television production, spreadsheets, etc., Indicate your proficiency level for each skill and area of expertise (E = expert, C = competent, F = familiar).

## Letters of Recommendation

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Faculty recommendations are preferred. However, one internship or employment recommendation may replace one faculty recommendation. If you provide recommenders' e-mail addresses on the online application, they will receive online recommendation forms.

## Estimated Cost of Attendance 2011-2012

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\$ 28,400	Tuition and fees (8 – 14 units per semester)
\$ 15,800	Room and board
\$ 1,008	Books and supplies
\$ 1,828	Personal and miscellaneous
\$ 2,295	Transportation
\$ 35	USC Orientation Fee for your first semester
\$600	Mandatory fees
\$ 49,966	Total

## Financial Aid

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Departmental scholarships, assistantships and project associate assignments are awarded competitively to domestic and international applicants based on the completed graduate admission application. **Note: Since application and scholarship review begins in mid-January, it is essential that you complete and submit your online USC Graduate Admission Application by the deadline to ensure full consideration for admission and merit scholarship awards.**

Although we offer departmental scholarships and awards, more than 80% of the incoming graduate class is self-funded. Plan to seek and apply for outside scholarships; begin researching opportunities at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). Visit the USC Financial Aid Web site at [www.usc.edu/admission/fa/applying\\_receiving/graduates/](http://www.usc.edu/admission/fa/applying_receiving/graduates/) for information about need-based federal financial aid.

International applicants must provide proof of ability to pay tuition and living expenses before an I-20 can be issued. For more information, refer to the USC Graduate & International Admission Web site at [www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html).

## Prospective Graduate Student Campus Visits

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Graduate information sessions are held on campus in the fall. In addition, the Annual Prospective Graduate Student Visit Day program will be held on November 11, 2011. For other dates and to make a reservation, visit our Web site at [www.annenberg.usc.edu/Prospective/VisitandSched.aspx](http://www.annenberg.usc.edu/Prospective/VisitandSched.aspx).

## Questions

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Contact Annenberg Admissions at [ascadm@usc.edu](mailto:ascadm@usc.edu) or 213-821-0770.

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