

School of Journalism – M.A. in Specialized Journalism (the Arts)
Graduate Application Guidelines and Instructions for Summer 2011

Program Description

The M.A. degree program in Specialized Journalism (the Arts) is designed to provide you with a highly customized course of journalism practice and study in a specific arts field of your choosing. In addition, you are given the opportunity to develop an array of advanced reporting and leadership skills broadly applicable to a career in journalism.

The program is intended for 1) professional arts journalists who work in any medium, 2) recent college graduates holding bachelor's degrees in journalism or in one of the arts, and 3) experienced arts practitioners. Through a full and active collaboration between arts scholarship and professional training, this program aspires to elevate journalism's role as a mediating institution in the cultural context to the benefit of the audience, the arts and news profession.

The required curriculum is designed to be completed in nine months (August to May) and is comprised of two parts:

- Within the School of Journalism: 18 units of advanced coursework including a master's professional project, exclusive seminars on research methods and decision making, and journalism courses in arts and culture reporting, criticism and commentary.
- Outside the School of Journalism: 16 units of graduate level electives in a learner-centered program taken across USC's arts schools, including the School of Architecture, School of Cinematic Arts, School of Theatre, Roski School of Fine Arts, and Thornton School of Music. The elective course work must be taken from faculty-recommended lists in at least two arts schools, with at least 8 units from one school.

Application Filing Period

Admission to the M.A. in Specialized Journalism (the Arts) is limited to the summer term. The original application filing period for admission and scholarship consideration has been extended until Mar. 5, 2011. Applications received Mar. 6 and later may be considered for admission only. Admission decisions will be made on a rolling basis. Early applications are highly encouraged for best consideration in the selection of USC Annenberg Graduate Fellowships.

Application Process

- 1) Go to 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
 - Portfolio of Professional Work
 - Professional Résumé
 - Non-refundable application fee
- 2) Request letters of recommendation
 - Two letters of recommendation required
- 3) Mail the following materials to USC Graduate Admission Office, University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0915:
 - Official transcripts from all colleges/ universities attended, including from study abroad programs
 - Confidential statement of financial support (international applicants only)
- 4) Request to have your admission tests reported electronically to USC (institution code 4852)
 - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test
 - TOEFL scores (international applicants only)

Statement of Purpose

The M.A. in Specialized Journalism (the Arts) is designed for professional and aspiring journalists who seek a combination of specialized courses in journalism training and rigorous study of at least two of the arts in graduate-level courses. The program prepares journalists who work in any medium for the particular challenges of covering human creative expression. In your Statement of Purpose, discuss the reasons why you wish to pursue the specialized journalism graduate degree. Describe the field of study you intend to pursue and explain how you expect to apply the knowledge gained to your future work. This statement should be no more than 2,000 words (single-spaced or double-spaced) and should be representative of your best writing.

Portfolio of Professional Work

Submit a portfolio that illustrates the depth and range of your work.

For professional journalists, please submit 1) a bibliography of up to 10 published, broadcast or online works in journalism and 2) samples of recent work in journalism that are the equivalent of five reviews or two longer feature or magazine stories from one or multiple platforms. Work considered recent has been written within the past two years. Upload both the bibliography and written works as attachments to the online USC Graduate Admission Application. Broadcast or online materials may be mailed or emailed to USC Annenberg Admissions.

For experienced arts practitioners and recent graduates holding bachelor's degrees in journalism or the arts, please submit five recent examples of your writing, each being no less than 550 words and no more than 1,100. Papers unrelated to the arts are acceptable, but there should be no more than two of these. Work considered recent has been published within the past two years. Upload the written works as attachments to the online USC Graduate Admission Application. Broadcast or online materials may be mailed or emailed to USC Annenberg Admissions.

Print platforms – Submit the texts of newspaper or magazine articles with the name of the publication and the date published. Submit the texts of academic papers with the name of the course and the date submitted or published. If additional material related to the articles, such as sidebars, graphics, photo galleries or blogs, was published online, please provide either URLs to live links or screenshots in a common bitmap image.

Online platforms – Submit texts of the major elements of individual postings. In addition, please provide either URLs to live links or, if the links are no longer active, screenshots in a common bitmap image format, if available.

Broadcast platforms – Submit transcripts of television or radio stories. Also, please provide URLs for all stories accessible online or send disks with digital recordings in a readily accessible format by mail to USC Annenberg Admissions. Please be sure to clearly identify your material with your name and USC ID.

Professional Résumé

Submit a current resume 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

Professional references are expected. If you are a recent college/university graduate, submit one academic reference and one professional reference. If you provide recommenders' e-mail addresses on the online application, they will receive online recommendation forms.

Admission Testing

All applicants must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test and the minimum required score is 1,000 (GRE-verbal subscore + GRE-quantitative subscore).

International applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency. If your bachelor degree was not earned at a U.S. or UK college/university, you may be required to submit TOEFL scores; the minimum recommended score is 114-115 (IBT). For more international admission information, refer to the USC Graduate Admission Web site at www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html. Plan to complete all admission testing at least one month prior to the application filing period.

Fellowships

The USC Annenberg Graduate Fellowship Program will provide financial support to highly qualified admitted students who demonstrate exceptional potential for significant contributions in their field. Awarded on a competitive basis, fellows will receive full tuition remission, health and dental benefits, and a stipend. Fellows will be drawn from the pool of incoming graduate students at USC Annenberg, USC School of Cinematic Arts and USC Viterbi School of Engineering. To foster intellectual community and synergies across the participating programs, an annual forum will be offered. Visit www.usc.edu/schools/GraduateSchool/current_fellowships.html for more information.

Financial Aid

In addition to the USC Annenberg Graduate Fellowship Program, there are limited department scholarships which are awarded competitively to domestic and international applicants based on the completed graduate admission application. However, the vast majority of the incoming graduate class is self-funded. Plan to seek and apply for outside scholarships; begin researching opportunities at www.fastweb.com. Visit the USC Financial Aid Web site at 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 admission decision is released. For more information, refer to the USC Graduate & International Admission Web site at www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html.

Estimated Cost of Attendance 2010-2011

\$ 2,720	2-unit summer seminar
\$ 40,960	Tuition and fees (15 – 18 units fall and spring semesters)
\$ 15,696	Room and board
\$ 1,344	Books and supplies
\$ 1,828	Personal and miscellaneous
\$ 2,250	Transportation
\$ 35	USC Orientation Fee for your first semester
\$ 64,833	Total

Prospective Graduate Student Campus Visits

Graduate information sessions are held on campus throughout the academic year. In addition, the Annual Prospective Graduate Student Visit Day program will be held on November 12, 2010. For other dates and to make a reservation, visit our Web site at www.annenberg.usc.edu/Prospective/VisitandSched.aspx.

Questions

Contact Annenberg Admissions at ascadm@usc.edu or 213.821.0770.