M.S. Journalism Summer 2016

DEGREE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Successful modern-day journalists must possess a wide variety of technical skills – the ability to write, report and produce content for any platform, and at least one area of specialized expertise – in order to thrive in today’s challenging media environment. The USC Annenberg School’s nine-month, 36-unit, Master of Science degree in Journalism is an intense, deadline-driven program in which you will learn how to write, report, produce, code, publish, and promote (through social media) cross-platform stories in a converged news environment. When you enroll in the M.S. in Journalism, you will also be offered courses that provide you with a specialty in an area of interest and which are designed to prepare you for specific careers in television news, radio news, long-form audio and video documentary production, online video and audio news production, and various forms of text reporting (including webtext, online longform, and magazine writing). Classes are also offered that allow you to build on your digital skills and embark on careers in data journalism, data visualization, app creation, online design and publishing, and coding.

When is the application deadline?

The application deadline is December 1, 2015 for international applicants. All official transcripts (original language and English translation for International students) and test scores must be sent to USC Graduate Admission by December 15.

The application deadline is January 1, 2016 for domestic applicants. All official transcripts and test scores must be sent to USC Graduate Admission by January 11. Incomplete applications are not reviewed by the faculty admission committee.

What content should be in my application resume?

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, video editing, podcasting, spreadsheets, etc.

What should I address in my Statement of Purpose?

This statement, which must be representative of your best writing, is limited to 1500 words and must convey your passion for the field while addressing the following:

1. Describe a journalistic event or experience that sparked your interest in pursuing this profession and why.
2. Discuss a favorite news site, and why it works for you.
3. Discuss an aspect or area of the field that is of particular interest to you.
4. Describe how you would engage with the USC Annenberg curriculum, and what kind of work you see yourself doing upon graduation.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Complete all admission testing as early as possible and no later than one month prior to the application deadline.

Valid test scores must be reported electronically from the testing agency to USC (code 4852 for GRE and TOEFL. For IELTS, select University of Southern California Graduate Programs).

- GRE scores are valid if taken within 5 years of the degree program start date.
- International students must submit valid TOEFL or IELTS scores; scores are valid if taken within 2 years of degree program start date. USC Annenberg recommends a minimum TOEFL score of 114 (IBT) or minimum IELTS score of 8.0 for all degree program applicants.
- International applicants who completed their entire undergraduate degree in the US or another Anglophone country where English is both the language of instruction and the only official language of the country are exempt from submitting TOEFL or IELTS scores. Completing a graduate degree in an Anglophone county does not exempt you from submitting TOEFL or IELTS scores.

Go to www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply. Complete the online USC Graduate Admission Application. Enter your name as it appears on your passport. If applicable, indicate any alternate or previous name in the “other name” field. Upload the following supporting materials before submitting your application:

- Résumé or CV
- Statement of Purpose
- Writing Sample
- Unofficial copies of transcripts from all college/universities attended, including USC. (Only upload the English language translations of international transcripts.)
- Recommendation Letters - Create online profiles by providing names and email addresses of your referees. Apply Yourself will send instructions and forms automatically. USC Annenberg only accepts online recommendations.
What type of writing sample is required?

The faculty graduate admissions committee is looking for samples of current work. The samples may be news stories, blog items, or press releases. Samples must not exceed 10 pages.

How many letters of recommendation are needed, and from whom?

Two online letters of recommendation are required, and professional recommendations are expected. If you are a recent college/university graduate, submit one academic reference and one professional reference.

You must provide recommenders’ names and e-mail addresses on the online application and they will receive online recommendation forms. Your recommenders must submit a letter of recommendation online in addition to completing the digital recommendation form.

What test scores must I submit to apply?

This degree program application requires valid GRE score, and TOEFL or IELTS scores from international applicants (when required). Please see the USC Annenberg Graduate Application Checklist on the right for more information on required graduate test scores.

How much does the program cost?

The M.S. in Journalism requires 36 graduate units. For the 2015-2016 academic year, the estimated tuition cost is $1,666† per unit.

†Actual tuition, mandatory fees and living expenses may be higher or lower depending on your course load and living situation. The estimate should not be considered a bill of expense for USC. Estimated costs only; refer to USC Financial Aid for more details.

Departmental scholarships, assistantships, and project associate assignments are awarded competitively to domestic and international applicants based on the completed graduate admission application. No additional forms are required for departmental awards. However, you must complete your application by the stated deadlines for full consideration.

For more information on financing your USC education, visit the USC Financial Aid Website: http://www.usc.edu/admission/fa/