

Review

BA International Journalism programme

Uzhhorod National University

It is no coincidence that the location of the International Journalism BA programme at Uzhhorod NU in Transcarpathia, a region of Ukraine bordered by four EU countries, is reflective of a fundamental characteristic of the programme as a whole.

This is a programme that offers a comprehensive range of the learning and teaching content to be expected on a credible journalism degree course. It features a strong balance between the delivery of practical and technical skills, opportunities to think critically about the broader professional field and the role of the journalism practitioner in the contemporary media environment.

Furthermore, the programme places significant emphasis on the ability of students to look outwards. This has never been more important and central to normative media practice as it is today – and arguably should be at the heart of any consideration of the existential challenges faced by Ukraine as a sovereign nation state.

Bearing in mind the range of programme competencies – both general and specific, learning outcomes and credited mandatory and selective components, the scope of course content is as extensive and detailed as it should be challenging to any student undertaking this course.

And while greater emphasis has now been placed on the more practical elements of the programme, the value of, and opportunities to, develop critical thinking skills must continue to compliment all students' navigation of the field of practice at undergraduate level.

There are a number of elements of this course that stand out as reflective of its overall strengths as academic programme, but two aspects appear to epitomize it particularly well. The first, is General Competency GC12 – the ability to communicate in a foreign language and the other, is the selective components - subject to change every year following consultations between teachers, employers and students.

These characteristics demonstrate this is a programme not content to stand still and rest on its laurels but is always seeking to improve and evolve in order to remain relevant to the communities and wider world it seeks to serve. And at its heart, it seeks to produce journalists who would reflect that ethos throughout their subsequent careers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ato Erzan-Essien'.

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