

Module: Radio Journalism
(BAJH-RJ)

Allocation of Marks: 100% Continual Assessment

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

1. Exhibit a technical and journalistic understanding of news, sports, arts and light entertainment and current affairs coverage.
2. Exhibit intermediate working knowledge and proficiency in the radio studio environment.
3. Produce radio news programmes to commercial industry standards.
4. Produce a radio documentary to commercial industry standards.
5. Produce content to be aired on temporary BAI licensed radio station, Griff FM, to commercial industry standards.
6. Record, edit, prepare and research audio and content to professional commercial broadcast industry standards.
7. Write, plan, prepare and organize programme content to broadcast commercial industry standard.

Module Objectives

This module aims to:

- Advance knowledge of the essential tools required to enter the field of radio journalism, applicable across all areas of the radio industry.
- Further enhance the technical skills relevant to radio journalism, including cutting, pasting, continuity, fading, music bedding and mixing, as well as advanced skills such as multi-tracking and advanced manipulation of effects and audio.
- Implement the skills required to write material to a commercial broadcast industry professional standard.

Module Curriculum

Indicative Syllabus

Advanced Radio

This section will set out the professional commercial broadcast industry standard skills necessary to work in the industry and deliver quality radio programming, it will focus on advanced programme genres, effective running orders and in-depth and integrated programme teams roles, responsibilities and functions.

Industry Analysis

This topic looks at the fundamental business structure and advancements in the Irish radio industry. It examines the emerging technologies and initiatives in the industry, with particular focus on social and new media as well as interactivity in the medium. In this section learners will also be made aware of the awards, listenership models and funding schemes available in the industry, examples of these include, JNLRs PPIs, BAI Sound & Vision etc.

Advanced Editorial Theory

This section has an in-depth focus on getting learners to critically analyse the methods and ways to approach and develop stories for broadcast. It also requires learners to cite and be aware of how they source and reference research material, through the use of web searches, aural analysis, checking and verifying sources, understanding of libel, defamation and privacy issues.

Technical Production

This topic focuses on the commercial industry production skills necessary to use the studio production facilities proficiently, learners will be taught advanced mic techniques, desk skills, advanced editing skills in Cool Edit, including multi-tracking, advanced use of portable recording equipment, the importance of superior sound quality and the effective use of audio clips.

Studio Production

In this section learners will make programmes across three genres, namely, Sport OR Arts & Light Entertainment and Current Affairs. The learners will be required to focus on Dublin City Council issues and stories as part of their current affairs programme assignment. This will require them to attend council meetings and report on the proceedings. This assignment will run in conjunction with the Feature Writing assignment in Print Journalism as an integrated model of deciphering the pre requisites necessary to adapt council proceedings to both the medium of radio and print journalism. This will greatly enhance the real world experience of making programmes for broadcast and will contribute to the real world experience of radio broadcasting on location.

Documentary Production

This topic will examine the skills needed to construct radio documentaries for broadcast, learners will make a documentary as part of their assignment and will utilise their own voice, delivery, editing, audio drop ins and will be made aware of the required commercial broadcast standards expected in the industry. Learners will be taught how to structure a documentary and how to effectively use storyboards and planning to bring the project to fruition for commercial broadcast standard.

Standards and Ethics in the Media

This section is proposed to replace the current examination that learners undertake as we feel the learners are actually doing the topics they are being examined on, in effect they are repeating in the examination, what they have practically implemented through their assignments. As the majority of the course is very practical and 'hands on', we propose replacing the examination with an essay on Standards and Ethics in the Media, as this is such an important and relevant area in radio production at present. Issues pertaining to the delivery and dissemination of information through the medium of radio are paramount in the current landscape and the emergence of social media has made this even more relevant. This topic would centre around examination of recent libel, privacy, decency, standards and ethical issues that have impacted in real terms on radio stations.

Griff FM Broadcasting

This topic will enhance the real world experience of learners, who will be in charge of their own learner radio station for a nine day period under a temporary BAI license. The learners will produce, present, research, report and broadcast to the learner body and

within a five-mile radius. This real world experience will prepare for the challenges faced in the commercial broadcast industry.