



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MA

Global Media and Politics

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

Join us at our Postgraduate Open Events

Meet us on campus or online in March 2026 to find out more about master's degrees and research opportunities at Liverpool.

[Register now](#)

About this course

The Global Media and Politics MA is a fantastic opportunity for you to engage with current debates about the constantly evolving role of media in national and international political life.

Introduction

Study in a department currently ranked within the world top 75 and 5th in the UK for Communication (Shanghai Global Rankings of Academic Subjects 2025).

The course explores different forms of communication in their social, political, and economic contexts, focusing in particular on the relationship between news media, social media, and politics in contemporary societies. It also uncovers the ways in which journalists and politicians attempt to set the political agenda or influence public opinion and also explores the ways in which the audiences, as public and as citizens, are involved in media as consumers and producers.

The programme focuses on theories and debates surrounding:

- The relationship between the mass media, politics and society
- The role and function of the media in a democracy
- The impact of mass media on global political processes
- Research methods used in media and communication research.

Who is this course for?

This course is designed for graduates from relevant fields, such as Politics, International Relations, Communication and Media, Sociology, History, Law, or Journalism. This programme is for you if you want to enhance your career prospects in professional areas like government, media, journalism and public relations, or want to go onto further academic study (PhD).

What you'll learn

- Different forms of communication in their social, political, and economic contexts
- The relationship between news media, social media, and politics in contemporary societies
- Employability skills, including applying critical reviewing skills, giving presentations, plus data analysis, problem-solving, team-working and research design and implementation.

Departmental support:

- dedicated to small group teaching
- an international student community
- a vibrant and active research environment linked to The Centre for Digital Politics, Media and Democracy (DigiPol) and other department-based research centres
- an interdisciplinary teaching and research environment.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Alongside your two compulsory modules, you will choose two options.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>RESEARCH METHODS IN MEDIA & POLITICS (COMM747)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA AND POLITICS: THEORIES AND CASES A (COMM764)</u>	30
Optional modules	Credits
<u>FUNDAMENTALS OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION B (COMM517)</u>	15
<u>STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION IN PRACTICE: PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES (COMM522)</u>	15
<u>SCREEN CULTURES B (COMM744)</u>	15
<u>BIG DATA AND SOCIETY: FOUNDATIONS, POLITICS, AND POLICY B (COMM752)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA AND CULTURAL CHANGE B (COMM757)</u>	15
<u>INTRODUCTION TO DATA SCIENCE B (COMM767)</u>	15
<u>THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST (POLI130)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>MODERN SLAVERY, FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS (POLI521)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Semester 2 consists of one compulsory module and two optional modules. This is followed by the 60-credit dissertation, which will be carried out over the summer/semester 3.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>MEDIA AND POLITICS: ECONOMY AND SOCIETY A (COMM762)</u>	30

Optional modules	Credits
<u>INFLUENCING STRATEGIES IN DIGITAL MEDIA (COMM520)</u>	15
<u>BRANDING STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATION (COMM521)</u>	15
<u>ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND COMMUNICATION B (COMM718)</u>	15
<u>DIGITAL MEDIA AUDIENCES (COMM739)</u>	15
<u>DATA VISUALISATION (COMM740)</u>	15
<u>SCREEN INDUSTRIES B (COMM746)</u>	15
<u>GLOBAL JOURNALISM AND POLITICS (COMM748)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>REDEFINING TELEVISION (COMM750)</u>	15
<u>BIG DATA AND SOCIETY: ALGORITHMS AND PLATFORMS B (COMM754)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA PRACTICES AND EVERYDAY LIFE B (COMM759)</u>	15
<u>VISUAL CULTURES: INSTITUTIONS, EXHIBITIONS, INTERVENTIONS (COMM761)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE PEACE PROCESSES (POLI133)</u>	15
<u>CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION (POLI135)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>DISSERTATION (COMM716)</u>	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching on the MA Global Media and Politics (MPEM) is delivered through weekly workshops held in person on the Liverpool main campus. These usually last for two to three hours per module and week. Class sizes for Master's programmes in

the Department of Communication and Media tend to be small, but numbers can vary from module to module and from year to year. A typical class in the MA Media and Politics usually includes between seven and 15 students.

The programme is centred on two 30-credit core modules, taught in semester one and semester two, respectively. Also mandatory is a 15-credit module on Research Methods in semester one. Students will select three optional 15-credit modules. We recommend choosing one optional module for semester one and two optional modules for semester two. Students can choose from all postgraduate-level modules offered by the Department of Communication and Media as well as a selection of modules run by the Department of Politics.

How you're assessed

You will be assessed mostly by coursework. This will take a number of different forms, including essays, academic posters, group reports, a research proposal, and a master's dissertation. In addition, students will be assessed by presentations in certain modules. Other assessment formats, such as written or oral exams, may also apply depending on the optional modules selected by the student.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The MA Global Media and Politics will provide you with rigorous academic training in the broad interdisciplinary field of political communication studies with a particular focus on the complex relationships between politics, news media, and social media in national and international political life. The professional skills that you will develop will prepare you for a wide range of potential employment areas.

Given the strong focus on the application of critical reviewing skills, presentation skills, data analysis, theory and data-driven problem solving, teamwork, as well as research design and implementation, the MA is particularly well matched for you if you're looking to pursue career in social scientific research, professional political communication, news journalism, as well as advocacy and consultancy work.

If you wish to continue your academic studies you will find a supportive and nurturing research environment that prepares you well for doctoral-level research activities. Career pathways that follow this route include employment in higher education (teaching and/or research), or teaching at secondary and further education levels.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies.**

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Politics, International Relations, Communication and Media, Philosophy, Sociology, and Law.

On a case-by-case basis, we can also consider degrees in Business, History, English, Criminology, Cultural Studies (including Film and Screen Studies), Anthropology, Journalism, and similar Humanities/Social Science degrees, but only if the degree covered sufficient theoretical, critical, and/or methodological aspects of the respective subject.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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