

USC Annenberg

School for Communication
and Journalism

DEGREE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The M.A. degree program in **Specialized Journalism (the Arts)** is intended for 1) professional arts journalists who work in any medium, 2) recent college graduates holding bachelor degrees in journalism or in one of the arts, and 3) experienced arts practitioners. The degree program is designed to provide a highly customized course of study that builds upon the subjects and area expertise you already have in the arts. Students complete the program in nine and a half months (July to mid-May) and it is comprised of courses within the School of Journalism (18 units) and across USC's six arts schools (16 units): School of Architecture, School of Cinematic Arts, School of Dramatic Arts, Roski School of Fine Arts, Thornton School of Music, and Kaufman School of Dance. The M.A. Specialized Journalism (The Arts) begins at the end of July 2016.

When is the application deadline?

Admission to the **M.A. Specialized Journalism (The Arts)** is limited to the summer term. Ensure that summer 2016 is selected from the drop-down menu. Applications received by **January 29, 2016** will be reviewed for scholarship consideration. Applications received January 31 – April 29, 2016 will be reviewed for admission consideration only.

All official transcripts (original language and English translation for International students) and test scores must be sent to USC Graduate Admission by February 12. Admission decisions will be made on a rolling basis.

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?

The **M.A. Specialized Journalism (The Arts)** is designed for professional and aspiring journalists (this includes artists who have never done journalism before) who seek to become leaders in the arts and communication through a rigorous study of reporting techniques and at least two of the arts in graduate-level courses. While a strong emphasis is placed on your writing skills, the program also prepares you to think creatively and be an active part of experimentation in a changing cultural landscape. The digital revolution has sparked major disruptive change and most arts organizations, artists and journalists are struggling with how to make the best of it. How do you foresee the future of arts journalism? Imagine the role you will play in the new arts ecosystem. How did you become interested in pursuing this specialized journalism degree? What's most important to you, and why? How will you make a difference? In this spirit, write a Statement of Purpose -- of no more than 1,500 words (single-spaced or double-spaced) -- that addresses the reasons you wish to pursue the specialized journalism degree.

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
- Professional Portfolio (for Specialized Journalism and Specialized Journalism the Arts only)
- 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 pieces should comprise the professional portfolio?

For professional journalists, please submit 1) a bibliography of up to ten – and no fewer than three -- 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 the bibliography to the online USC Graduate Admission application. Plan to include live links to current work within the bibliography. If live links are unavailable, please upload the samples as attachments. For experienced arts practitioners and recent graduates, please submit five recent (within the past two years) examples of your writing, each being no less than 550 words and no more than 1,100. Written work unrelated to the arts is acceptable, but there should be no more than two of these. Blogs are considered published work. Indicate the viewership of the blog and the frequency with which you post. Academic papers will also be considered. Upload the samples as attachments to the online USC Graduate Admission Application. Plan to include live links to samples when available.

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.A. in Specialized Journalism (The Arts)** requires 34 units to complete the program. 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.*

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

Pay the \$85 non-refundable application fee with a credit card or request an application fee waiver. Fee waiver requirements may be found at www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/faq/index.html

Submit your online application before or on the stated application deadline for your degree program(s). USC Graduate Admissions will send your USC ID via email 2-3 days after you submit your online graduate admission application.

After receiving your USC ID, mail the following materials to:

University of Southern California, Office of Graduate Admission, 3601 South Flower St., Room 112, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0915

- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended, including any study abroad programs. Original language and English translation are required.

All supporting documents must be submitted online with the application in English; limit each document to 1 MB in .pdf or .doc format. Once the application has been submitted, you may not correct or change any supporting documents. Once submitted, all materials and documents become the property of USC Annenberg. Incomplete applications may not be reviewed.

Remember to include your USC ID on all correspondence sent to USC Graduate Admission.

Once your complete application is submitted and processed, it will be released to the faculty admission committee for review.