Graduate Diploma in Journalism (GradDipJour – 120 points)

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the General Regulations for the University.

1. Version

(a) These Regulations came into force on 1 January 2026.
(b) This qualification was first offered in 2021.

2. Variations

In exceptional circumstances the Amo Matua, Toi Tangata | Executive Dean of Arts or delegate may approve a personal programme of study which does not conform to these regulations.

3. The structure of the qualification

To qualify for the Graduate Diploma in Journalism, a student must pass courses totalling 120 points, including all courses listed in Schedule C to these regulations.

4. Admission to the qualification

Entry to the Graduate Diploma in Journalism is limited and by special application. To be admitted to the Graduate Diploma in Journalism a student must have:

(a) either
    i. qualified for a New Zealand bachelor's degree
    ii. been admitted with Academic Equivalent Standing as entitled to enrol for the Diploma, and
(b) been approved as a student by the Tumuaki Tari | Head of Department on the basis of a written application and interview; and
(c) been approved as a student by the Amo Matua, Toi Tangata | Executive Dean of Arts or delegate.
(d) A student for whom English is a second language must provide evidence of IELTS (Academic) 7.5 with no score less than 7.0 or equivalent.

5. Subjects

The subject for this qualification is Journalism.

6. Time limits

The time limit for the Graduate Diploma in Journalism is 18 months.

7. Transfers of credit, substitutions and cross-credits

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University with the following stipulation:

(a) students who have completed one of the required courses, or an equivalent course, as part of their undergraduate degree, or have professional experience equivalent to COMS332 or COMS233, may substitute another course approved by the Tumuaki Tari | Head of Department and the Amo Matua, Toi Tangata | Executive Dean of Arts or delegate.

8. Progression

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University with no additional stipulations.

9. Honours, Distinction and Merit

Honours, Distinction, and Merit are not awarded for this qualification.

10. Exit and Upgrade Pathways to other Qualifications

(a) A student who has completed the requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Journalism but has not yet graduated, may apply to the Amo Matua, Toi Tangata | Executive Dean of Arts or delegate to be admitted to the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Communication and have credits transferred.
(b) A student who has graduated with the Graduate Diploma in Journalism from Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury, may apply to the Amo Matua, Toi Tangata | Executive Dean of Arts or delegate to be admitted to the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Communication and to have their Graduate Diploma in Journalism subsumed in accordance with the General Regulations of the University.

(c) A student who has not met the requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Journalism and wishes to transfer to the Certificate in Arts, the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Communication or the Graduate Diploma in Arts may apply to the Amo Matua, Toi Tangata | Executive Dean of Arts or delegate for admission, provided they meet the requirements for entry to that qualification.

11. Transition Regulation

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University with no additional stipulations.

Schedule C: Compulsory Courses for the Graduate Diploma in Journalism

For full course information, go to courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz

Group 1

Students complete all courses from this group.

Course Code	Course Title	Lvl	Pts	2027	Location	P/C/R/RP/EQ
COMS233	Media Law for Journalists	6	15	S2	Campus	P: Limited Entry: Subject to admission to the Journalism Major and permission from the Head of Department. R: LAWS396
COMS330	Communication in Context	7	30	S1	Campus	P: 30 points COMS 200-level or 60 points BC Schedule V. HoD mandatory.
COMS331	Researching and Reporting News	7	30	S1	Campus	P: Limited Entry. (i) COMS231, COMS232, COMS233. (ii) Permission from the Head of Department.
COMS332	News Production	7	30	S2	Campus	P: Limited Entry. (i) COMS331 (ii) Permission from the Head of Department.

Group 2

Students complete one course from this group.

Course Code	Course Title	Lvl	Pts	2027	Location	P/C/R/RP/EQ
COMS232	Risk and Crisis Communication	6	15	S2	Campus	P: Any 15 points at 100-level from COMS, or either ENVR101 or GEOG106, or any 60 points at 100-level from the Schedule V of the BA.
DISC213	Editing and postproduction	6	15	S2	Campus	P: DISC211 or DISC241; or COMS331