

ASSIMILATE PROJECT PORTFOLIO BRIEF

**(part of PACE 2 for BA Hons Journalism
2009/10)**

PACE 2 Module Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Comprehend and evaluate appropriate academic materials.
- Demonstrate personal and interpersonal effectiveness (in the context of overall development)
- Identify and appraise potential career and academic opportunities from a personal perspective
- Understand the nature of your contribution to relationships with the University (staff and fellow students) and the wider community

On successful completion of the portfolio element of assessment students will be able to demonstrate evidence of achieving the level 2 skills and competencies identified in the PACE Skills and Competencies grid (Oct 04) within the Faculty of Business and Law PDP programme.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The module is year-long and contains two strands. Part One is all about developing your shorthand skills. The industry requirement is that you gain a speed of 100wpm. To that end there will be shorthand tutorials scheduled every week throughout the year.

Using workshops, individual feedback tutorials, group work and independent study, Part Two will focus on newsroom practice, industry specific skills and career development.

Both these strands will run across the whole year. At the end of the year you will hand in a portfolio of work, which will include a CV; Cover Letter; News Project (to include news articles from the Assimilate project – see below); results of your Shorthand Speed Exam; and a Reflective Report (learning outcomes, marking criteria and feedback sheet included at the end of this document).

ASSIMILATE

The University has secured funding to carry out a project entitled **Assimilate**, which is concerned with researching the assessment of Masters degrees worldwide.

As journalism students, you have been chosen to carry out the research that will include interviewing and recording MA Course Leaders and H.E. practitioners. You will use this material to generate news stories or case studies. This material you gather will be used by the project team but, notably, you will be assessed on the stories and case studies that you produce.

Assimilate Project Portfolio is worth 20% of your overall PACE 2 mark.

It must include:

1. at **least two stories or news artefacts** generated by your Assimilate research. (These can be in print, online, radio or broadcast format.)
2. audio or video tapes of original recordings/interviews;
3. drafts or first cuts;
4. tutor's formative feedback on work submitted (i.e. documents with track changes/comments on radio/TV work).

The **Assimilate** project offers you a unique and exciting opportunity to apply and develop many of the professional skills associated with journalism for a real client on a real life project. Work you do here will give you added marketability. It will also contribute knowledge to a new area of research, which will be of benefit to a national and global community.

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How will it work?

During the second semester, you will work in pairs or small teams and be required to conduct interviews (face-to-face, via email, web, SKYPE etc) with MA Course/Programme Leaders and H.E. practitioners in institutions delivering taught

Masters Degrees. You will then create **individual** news stories/artefacts for either print, online, radio or visual platforms.

The Project lasts for three years and to this end, students who achieve grades above 60% for their Assimilate Project work will have the opportunity of going abroad to conduct interviews as part of PACE 3. Up to £250 per student, will be funded by the NFTS scheme. (Those students who achieve less than 60% will work on research and stories closer to home in Year Three.)

We cannot stress enough the importance of working on real life projects and of learning what is required to be a specialist working on research from a particular field.

Timescales

w/c January 4: Students will be given the names and contact details of their H.E. organisation.

Students are required to work in their teams to produce an Action Plan.

w/c January 25: Action Plan tutorials with PACE 3 tutors.

March 15: Students submit draft ASSIMILATE stories.

w/c March 22: tutors provide e-feedback on drafts

April 19: Deadline for the submission of Assimilate Project Portfolio.

Student support

Students are expected to work independently. However, tutors will offer feedback on work in progress and provide support through special one-off events, weekly PACE sessions and tutorials.