

# Journalism



The TRU Bachelor of Journalism program was established in 1998 as the province's first undergraduate degree program in journalism. Both the degree and the diploma options are career-oriented, aimed at preparing students for employment with community and daily newspapers, magazines, government agencies, corporations, and non-profit and advocacy organizations.

## Program Overview

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### Journalism

Technological change has profoundly affected the practice of professional Journalism, allowing for nearly instantaneous dissemination of information to a theoretically global audience. Fortunately, the basics of good journalism remain: the capacity to think independently, critically, and on your feet; the research skills to dig for the relevant facts; and the ability to write well on deadline – all fundamental to the Journalism program at TRU.

### Journalism at TRU

TRU's Bachelor of Journalism degree program offers a wide range of required and elective courses (including Writing and Editing; Reporting for the Media; Mastering Multimedia; Online Journalism; Media Law and Ethics; Public Relations; Literary Journalism; Freelance Writing; and Photojournalism). Entry into the degree program is at normally at third year, after completing 60 credits of university courses. Diploma graduates from college journalism programs are also welcome to apply. To be admitted, applicants require 60 credits and a minimum GPA of 2.33 (or C+). Journalism students also have opportunities for international exchanges.

### Post-Baccalaureate Diploma

The TRU Journalism program offers two options: the Bachelor of Journalism Degree (for undergraduates) described above, and the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Journalism (a one-year program of journalism studies designed for those who already hold a bachelor's degree and who would like to complete a concentrated program in a single year. Both programs blend theory and practical skills under the direction of experienced journalists and use state-of-the-art equipment to produce print, online and multimedia publications.

### Career Options

The Bachelor of Journalism degree program prepares students for career opportunities in journalism (working for newspapers, magazines, online publications, or as independent freelancers) as well as in communications and public relations work in government agencies, corporations, and non-profit and advocacy organizations. The focus throughout is on strong writing and critical thinking in addition to the technological skills required to function in the new global multimedia environment.

### What Our Graduates Say

"TRU not only gave me the practical skills to advance my career in journalism, but also the scholarly understanding of real-world issues that helped me to land my current job."

-- Ed Henczel, Copy editor, *Vancouver Province*

"The combination of academic study and hands-on learning in a small classroom setting was what led me to choose TRU for my journalism degree. The skills I developed there gave me the confidence to take on positions in settings as diverse as a one-person small-town weekly paper to the bustling newsroom of a daily newspaper."

-- Christina Myers, Reporter  
*Burnaby Now*

I graduated from the Bachelor of Journalism program in 2001. The hands-on experience, faculty help, and internship opportunities provided were a major stepping stone towards a career."

-- Neco Cockburn, Reporter  
*Ottawa Citizen*

Faculty of Arts  
*start smart*

# Admission Information

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## Academic Requirements

### Admission

- Bachelor of Journalism Degree program: 60 university credits and minimum GPA of 2.33 (C+)
- Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Journalism: A Bachelor's Degree (120 credits)

### Transfer Courses

Normally a maximum of 60 undergraduate credits

### Block Transfer Courses

TRU is currently negotiating block transfer agreements with a number of institutions in British Columbia and Alberta. Please see the website for updates.

### Additional Requirements

A brief entrance essay (no more than 500 words) on why you want to study Journalism at TRU and a minimum GPA of 2.33 (C+)

We recommend that students select a pre-journalism program that includes a wide range of topics, depth in Canadian content and several writing-intensive courses. In particular, we recommend at least 6 credits of English and Composition (including at least one second-year course); 6 credits of history and/or political science and a range of other courses drawn from the humanities and social sciences (Canadian studies, languages, geography, philosophy, sociology, psychology, anthropology), economics, business, math, science and visual and performing arts. For students lacking the requisite breadth of courses, or fewer than 60 credit hours, admission may be approved conditionally, but no student will be admitted with fewer than 54 hours of course work, normally drawn from a range of liberal arts disciplines. Depending upon the student's interests, other course mixes may be allowed.

### Program Requirements

48 credits of journalism courses

12 credits of liberal arts electives, of which 6 may be additional journalism courses

### Journalism Students Newspaper

Digital Times: [www.tru.ca/news/](http://www.tru.ca/news/)

## The Digital Times

Kamloops News Online • Produced by Thompson Rivers University Journalism Students

### Admission to TRU

TRU is a unique, comprehensive university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees and two-year professional diplomas, along with certificates, trade-entry and apprenticeship training and university preparation courses.

Applications for Admission to most programs are accepted starting Oct. 1 each year for programs that begin in August or September of the following year. Check the website for application deadlines, program start dates, and detailed admissions processes.

Applications to the TRU Bachelor of Arts program are available from:

Academic Admissions Office  
Thompson Rivers University  
900 McGill, PO Box 3010  
Kamloops, British Columbia V2C 5N3  
Tel: 250.828.5251  
Email: [kjago@tru.ca](mailto:kjago@tru.ca)

## Program Costs

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**Tuition fees:** see current TRU calendar for details

**Student fees:** see current TRU calendar for details

**Student union fees:** see the current calendar for details

## Program Contacts

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## Additional Information

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Please visit our web pages for more information: [www.tru.ca/arts/journalism](http://www.tru.ca/arts/journalism)