

MSc in Digital Media

Roadmap of the Thesis Process

Semester 1

Students undertake the following compulsory modules:

- Mass Communication in the Digital Age (3 credits)
- Digital Media Policy Law, Ethics and Regulations (3 credits)
- Digital Media Structure: Technological Perspective (3 credits)

Semester 2

Students undertake the following compulsory modules:

- Communication Theories and Digital Media Effects (3 credits)
- Digital Media Research Methods (3 credits)
- Digital Media Delivering and Distribution (3 credits)

Semester 3

Students undertake two of the following three modules:

- Film Industry in the Digital Age (3 credits)
- Advertising and Digital Marketing (3 credits)
- Reporting for Converged Newsroom (3 credits)

Students also undertake the compulsory module:

- Thesis Proposal Designing and Writing (3 credits)

As part of this, the student develops a **full thesis proposal**, according to the guidelines in the MSc Digital Media Thesis handbook. This is assessed by the module leader at the end of the module.

The Faculty Dean, Vice Dean for Teaching and Learning, Vice Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies and Director of the Programme meet to discuss the proposals and allocate a main supervisor, plus possibly a co-supervisor.

The student must complete all the taught modules with a minimum GPA of 2.7 before starting the thesis registration process.

Semester 4 onwards

- The student presents their idea in **Thesis Registration Seminar** in Week 2 of Semester 4, taking questions and feedback from staff and peers.
- The title and supervisor(s) of the thesis are formally registered by the Faculty Council and are noted in the minutes of the relevant meeting.
- The student writes the thesis with the aid of the supervisor(s)
- Partway through developing their thesis research, the student gives a presentation on their work so far in a **Follow-Up Seminar**.
- Prior to the completion of the thesis, the student is expected to have attended at least two research seminars, two MA seminars and two doctoral seminars – according to the Faculty By-law, these could be in governmental, national, private or international universities which specialise in Mass Communication or any interdisciplinary field

Completion of Thesis

Work Completion Seminar

- When the student and supervisor(s) have agreed that the student is ready, the student should fill in the ‘Request for Work Completion Seminar’
- A **Work Completion Seminar** is held in which the student presents their main research findings
- The Seminar is attended by the student, the supervisor(s) and one or two academic staff members (who could be Faculty lecturers)
- Following this, the Work Completion Seminar Examiner Report form is completed
- If the Seminar is successful, the student is then permitted to proceed to the main Thesis Defence, following a gap of at least two weeks

Thesis Defence

- A formal Thesis Defence Committee is assembled – this will constitute:
 - The supervisor(s), who have one voice on the committee
 - Two External Examiners – these could be a Professor or Associate Professor from governmental, private, national or international universities, or a professional from a relevant industry, as per the bylaw
- The Research Project Defence Committee Formation form needs to be completed, shared with the Research and Enterprise Office and signed by Vice President for Research and Enterprise. The Faculty of Communication and Mass Media will hold the Defence Committee at least two weeks from acquiring this signature.
- In advance of the Committee, the Vice Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies will share the relevant documents with the Examiners – these are:
 - Thesis Approval Report
 - Collective Report
 - Supervisors' Evaluation Form
 - External Examiner Evaluation Form
 - Final Collective Thesis Evaluation Form
- The student completes the thesis according to the shared format required by the Faculty
- The Thesis Defence Committee is held
- The student implements any corrections required by the committee and makes the final submission

Completion and Graduation

- The entire process should be finalised at least three weeks before the Module Exam Board in either February or July (i.e. there are two opportunities in the year)
- The Final Collective Thesis Evaluation Form should be shared with LSBU before the board
- The student graduates at the graduation ceremony following the exam board