

## *School of Journalism – M.A. in Specialized Journalism* *Graduate Application Guidelines and Instructions for Summer 2010*

### **Program Description**

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The M.A. degree program in Specialized Journalism is designed to provide you with a highly customized course of study in a specific field of your choosing as well as an opportunity to develop an array of advanced reporting and leadership skills broadly applicable to a career in journalism. The required curriculum is designed to be completed in nine months (mid-August to mid-May) and is comprised of two parts:

- Within the School of Journalism: 18 units of advanced coursework including a master's professional project, exclusive seminars on research methods and decision making, and advanced journalism courses in several topic areas including demography, science, education, religion, and urban ecology.
- Outside the School of Journalism: 16 units of elective coursework that you choose from USC's highly regarded academic units, including the Rossier School of Education, School of Policy, Planning and Development, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and School of Communication. Specialized Journalism faculty and staff will assist you in selecting electives most appropriate to your fields of study and abilities.

### **Application Filing Period**

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Admission to the M.A. in Specialized Journalism is limited to the summer term. Applications will be accepted **January 4 – March 5** and admission decisions will be made on a rolling basis. Early applications are highly encouraged for best consideration in the selection of Annenberg Fellowships.

### **Application Process**

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- 1) Go to [www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply/](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/apply/) and complete the online USC Graduate Admission Application. You must upload the following materials before submitting your application:
  - Statement of Purpose
  - Portfolio of Professional Work
  - Professional Résumé
  - Non-refundable application fee
- 2) Request letters of recommendation
  - Two letters of recommendation required
- 3) Mail the following materials to USC Graduate Admission Office, University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0915:
  - Official transcripts from all colleges/ universities attended, including from study abroad programs
  - Confidential statement of financial support (international applicants only)
- 4) Request to have your admission tests reported electronically to USC (institution code 4852)
  - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test
  - TOEFL scores (international applicants only)

### **Admission Testing**

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All applicants must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores and the minimum required score is 1,000 (GRE-verbal subscore + GRE-quantitative subscore).

International applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency. If your bachelor degree was not earned at a U.S. or UK college/university, you may be required to submit TOEFL scores; the minimum recommended score is 114-115 (IBT). For more international admission information, refer to the USC Graduate Admission Web site at [www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html). Plan to complete all admission testing at least one month prior to the application filing period.

### **Statement of Purpose**

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The M.A. in Specialized Journalism is designed for journalists who believe they can enhance and elevate their work by developing expertise in a specific subject area. In your Statement of Purpose, discuss the reasons why you wish to pursue the specialized journalism graduate degree. Describe the field of study you intend to pursue and explain how you expect to apply the knowledge gained to your future work. This statement should be no more than 2,000 words (single or double spaced) and should be representative of your best writing.

## **Portfolio of Professional Work**

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Submit a portfolio that illustrates the depth and range of your work. Please submit 1) a bibliography of up to 20 published, broadcast, or online works in journalism and 2) samples of work in journalism that are the equivalent of either six news stories or three longer feature or magazine stories from one or multiple platforms. Upload both the bibliography and the samples as attachments to the online USC graduate admission application form. Any additional materials may be mailed to USC Annenberg Admissions.

## **Professional Résumé**

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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, spreadsheets, etc., Indicate your proficiency level for each skill and area of expertise (E = expert, C = competent, F = familiar).

## **Letters of Recommendation**

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Professional references are expected. If you are a recent college/university graduate, submit one academic and one professional reference. If you provide recommenders' e-mail addresses on the online application, they will receive online recommendation forms.

## **Fellowships**

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The USC Annenberg Fellowship Program will provide financial support to highly qualified admitted students who demonstrate exceptional potential for significant contributions in their field. Awarded on a competitive basis, fellows will receive full tuition remission, health and dental benefits, and a stipend. Fellows will be drawn from the pool of incoming graduate students at USC Annenberg, USC School of Cinematic Arts and USC Viterbi School of Engineering. To foster intellectual community and synergies across the participating programs, an annual forum will be offered. Visit [www.usc.edu/schools/GraduateSchool/current\\_fellowships.html](http://www.usc.edu/schools/GraduateSchool/current_fellowships.html) for more information.

## **Financial Aid**

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In addition to the USC Annenberg Graduate Fellowship Program, there are limited department scholarships which are awarded competitively to domestic and international applicants based on the completed graduate admission application. However, the vast majority of the incoming graduate class is self-funded. Plan to seek and apply for outside scholarships; begin researching opportunities at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). Visit the USC Financial Aid Web site at [www.usc.edu/admission/fa/applying\\_receiving/graduates/](http://www.usc.edu/admission/fa/applying_receiving/graduates/) for information about need-based federal financial aid.

International applicants must provide proof of ability to pay tuition and living expenses before an admission decision is released. For more information, refer to the USC Graduate & International Admission Web site at [www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html](http://www.usc.edu/admission/graduate/international/application.html).

## **Estimated Cost of Attendance 2009-2010**

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\$ 2,598	2-unit summer seminar
\$ 39,124	Tuition and fees (15 – 18 units fall and spring semesters)
\$ 15,842	Room and board
\$ 1,344	Books and supplies
\$ 1,828	Personal and miscellaneous
\$ 2,250	Transportation
\$35	USC Orientation Fee for your first semester
\$ 60,423	Total

## **Prospective Graduate Student Campus Visits**

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Graduate information sessions are held on campus throughout the academic year. In addition, the Annual Prospective Graduate Student Visit Day program will be held on November 6, 2009. For other dates and to make a reservation, visit our Web site at [www.annenberg.usc.edu/Prospective/VisitandSched.aspx](http://www.annenberg.usc.edu/Prospective/VisitandSched.aspx).

## **Questions**

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Contact Annenberg Admissions at [ascadm@usc.edu](mailto:ascadm@usc.edu) or 213.821.0770.