

JMS POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ECONOMICS JOURNALISM (PG DIP EJ)



PG DIP EJ YEAR CO-ORDINATOR

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THE PDEJ IS A PART-TIME COURSE TAUGHT OVER TWO YEARS.

The Post-Graduate Diploma in Economics Journalism (PGDip EJ) builds on the journalistic skills of the participants by giving them the intellectual tools to report on issues and events in the Economics arena in a way that improves their career prospects and deepens their understanding of business journalism. Because it is a part-time course, it is ideal for working journalists who want to switch to business journalism or any professional who wants to study business journalism part-time.

TIMES AND VENUES

The course relies heavily on self-driven assignments, though two one-week-long periods of intensive course-work at Rhodes University in each of the two years of the course is obligatory.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The programme consists of five modules. Four of the modules are subject-specific and each revolves around week of lectures/seminars at the Rhodes University campus in Grahamstown. The capstone module is a self-driven, journalistic assignment.

The four modules are:

ECONOMICS FOR JOURNALISTS (MACRO AND MICRO)

This will focus, in particular on the national accounts, gross domestic product, money and inflation, fiscal and monetary policy, and unemployment. In addition, students will explore ways of dealing journalistically with numbers and statistical data. The module will examine in particular the price mechanism and markets, demand and supply, consumer behaviour, production and costs. The course will explore the interplay between macro-economics and micro-economics,

in particular the way companies, industries and consumers are affected by macro-economic conditions.

COMPANIES AND MARKETS

The purpose of this module is to introduce students, firstly to companies and business and how to report on them, and secondly, financial markets and the securities that operate in them. Inter alia the students will learn how to interpret company accounts and annual reports, and to understand the details and implications of corporate actions

such as mergers and acquisitions. The module also examines stocks, bonds, money-market instruments and currencies, as well as indices tracking price changes in those instruments. It encompasses issues of empowerment, labour and skills.

GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this module is to enable participants to understand how to report on the particular development challenges South Africa faces in the context of both the domestic political and economic environment and

international economic relations that affect domestic politics and economics; the module equips students to write about poverty and inequality, and development, within the broad area of international economic relations, and reflect on how theories and practices should be reported.

ECONOMICS, MEDIA AND SOCIETY

This module introduces students to theories about the role of media in society, with particular reference to economics and business media. It also examines issues of business media ethics.

MARKS AND OBLIGATIONS

In total over the two years of the course there will be a number of major and minor assignments plus the capstone assignment. The assignments for each of the five modules will count 20% towards the final mark. All assignments MUST be completed in order for the candidate to pass.

A comprehensive, locally published text which covers the requirements of what will be taught and which will be supported by readers is *Economic Indicators* by Philip Mohr (R238, ISBN 9781868886586).