

Study Guide:

International Semester Programme: *International News Reporting*

at The Danish School of Media and Journalism - Aarhus

Spring semesters: January (week 5) - June (week 24)

Autumn semesters: August (week 34) - December (week 51)

The semester in Denmark combines journalistic training with intensive studies.

In the course of a one-semester programme you will learn about foreign affairs and global news, you will practice international and EU reporting, you will learn modern research tools and gain skills in multimedia storytelling, and you will expand your views on world politics.

Your semester concludes with a multimedia project based on your own research as a journalist in Denmark or another European country.

The objectives of this semester:

- To master basic methods in foreign news journalism, and know specific methods in international newsgathering
- To experience the work of a foreign correspondent
- To increase your knowledge of EU affairs and EU reporting
- To enhance your knowledge about the dynamics of European integration, and about EU's institutions and processes
- To attain knowledge of media's working conditions in areas of crises and conflict, and to understand important aspects of the media's role in modern conflicts
- To know the main theories of international affairs and the main developments in world politics
- To enhance your expressional journalism skills by adding elements to your multimedia toolbox
- To develop your journalistic skills by working and studying in an environment that combines practical teaching with academic studies
- To establish lifelong professional and personal bonds by being part of an international group of students from all over the world

The programme

The international semester programme runs every semester. Course contents and teachers may change from semester to semester. The following gives an overview of the semester.

Media platform: *Multimedia journalism*

Throughout the semester we are working on different media platforms, enabling the students to choose and mix text, audio, video and photos in their journalistic output.

All students are offered introduction to basic principles of e.g. photography, video and sound recording, video and sound editing, infographics, data visualisation. The main journalistic assignments are made public via the DMJX online publishing platform.

Overall theme, aims and outcome:

The overall theme of the international news reporting semester in Denmark is "reporting the world with a closer view; journalism with a local, European and global perspective. The semester allows you to combine journalistic training with intensive study and field reporting.

Aims

- Acquire a transnational perspective on issues that are of critical importance in today's local and global society
- Enhance awareness of national versus international reporting, and of the journalist's role in a global society
- Get inspiration to work internationally
- Strengthen the professional and personal foundation for a future career in journalism

Skills

Students will be able to:

- structure, plan and carry out journalistic research at an international level
- identify new and critical angles in traditional stories, and obtain and verify information from a wider range of sources
- understand and apply methods and practices in key areas of journalism
- utilise state of the art methods for the production of journalistic stories
- manage own resources and time effectively
- work in a self-organised way, individually and in groups

Courses

	ECTS credits
Introduction Programme /	
International Newsgathering Workshop	10
EU Workshop – Reporting the European Union	10
People & Politics: Semester project	10

TOTAL	30 ECTS

Introduction programme

Lecturers: Head of International Department Inger Munk and guest lecturers
Graded: Graded as part of the Newsgathering workshop

Outline:

This course provides students with an insight into political, financial, social and cultural aspects of the Danish society through introductions to different institutions, structures, stereotypes and media. The introductions aim at making both Danish and international students familiar with their new study environment as quickly as possible.

International students will also be offered a Danish language course.

Topics

- Introduction to the semester programme
- Introduction to teaching methods, library and equipment at DMJX
- Introduction to Danish language courses at different levels
- Cultural event introducing all nationalities participating in the international programmes
- Introduction to Danish politics and the welfare system including an excursion to the City Hall
- Introduction to Danish media
- Introduction to Studenterhus Aarhus (The Student House Aarhus) and student associations
- Introduction to basic video, photo and web publishing (part of the Newsgathering course)
- Lectures on media and politics

Literature

See <http://www.denmark.dk/en> for a general information about Denmark.

See <http://www.kl.dk/English/> about the Danish Local Government System

See <http://www.aarhus.dk/da/omkommunen/english.aspx> and <https://businessregionaarhus.com/> for general information about Aarhus.

International Newsgathering

Lecturers: Foreign correspondent Susanne Sayers; Ass. Professor Asbjørn Slot Jørgensen; and guest lecturers

ECTS: 10

Graded: Grading by the Danish grading scale, transferred to ECTS scale

Study tour: To Copenhagen 3 nights/ 4 days. Travel and accommodation to be organised individually, and **at students' own expenses.**

Aims

- Enable students to master basic methods in news journalism. The focus will be on breaking international news, foreign news in national contexts, and local news with international perspective.
- Give an overview of the global news circle, and the factors influencing the dissemination and selection of foreign news
- Let students combine text with video, photos and infographics as platforms in international news journalism

Learning outcomes

- Know the key methods in foreign news reporting, and the key elements of different news story structures
- Know major international actors in the global news circle, and how they work
- Know the International Press Centre in Copenhagen, and how newsrooms work with international news
- Understand news criteria, news values and news judgement

- Understand the working conditions in news journalism, as well as the specific methods of international newsgathering
- Understand the key concepts and dilemmas concerning disinformation, propaganda, and news media in an international perspective

Skills

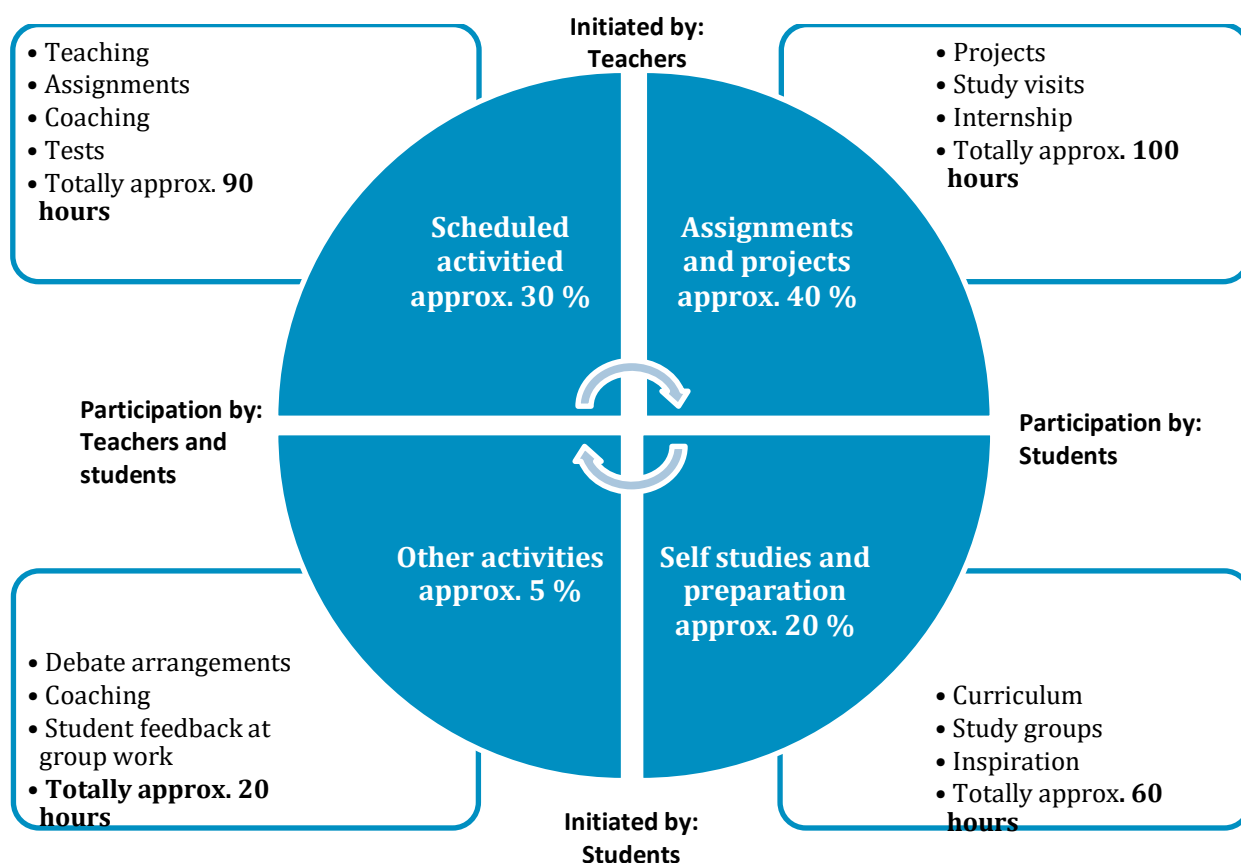
Discipline specific

- To be able to choose and produce foreign news stories by using relevant news criteria and story structures
- To master methods in gathering news, facts and statements in and from foreign countries
- To know how to find, select, and use international news agencies and other sources for the collection of information, as well as how to contact people sources around locally and abroad
- To know how to produce news video sequences, infographics, visualisations and online stories for a multimedia environment

Transferable

- Good understanding of how to work with breaking news at the news desk
- Good understanding of the work as foreign correspondents, with different journalistic tools.

Working load for this course shown in the Study Activity Model:



Reporting the EU

Lecturers:	Foreign correspondent Staffan Dahllöf; and guest lecturers
ECTS:	10
Graded:	Grading by the Danish grading scale, transferred to ECTS scale
Study Tour:	Five days to Brussels, Belgium (or Strasbourg, France). Group accommodation of DKK 1800/person (compulsory; covers 4 nights at hotel in city centre with breakfast, and local transportation in Brussels). Travel expenses to/from Brussels at students' own expenses.

Aims

The primary aims of the workshop are:

- To provide the inspiration to work journalistically with the EU and to study selected areas within Europe
- To learn how to integrate European (and international) perspectives into national/local stories, and vice versa
- To train the students' ability to analyse the driving forces behind the European integration process
- To introduce the main institutions and decision-making processes in the EU
- To learn how to practise the elements of EU-reporting

Learning outcomes

- Know how to develop ideas and how to plan an EU-story
- Know how to identify, find and use sources for EU-reporting, in Brussels as well as nationally
- Know what you can do as a journalist inside and outside Brussels
- Understand the skills needed to practice the elements of investigative EU-reporting
- Understand the main decision-making processes in the European Union
- Know the relations between the EU, the member states and the European citizens
- Understand the relations between the EU and other countries
- Know about European history and the main theories about European integration
- Identify the role and the competence of the main EU-institutions
- Identify the role of European institutions versus member states in legislation and jurisdiction
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Skills

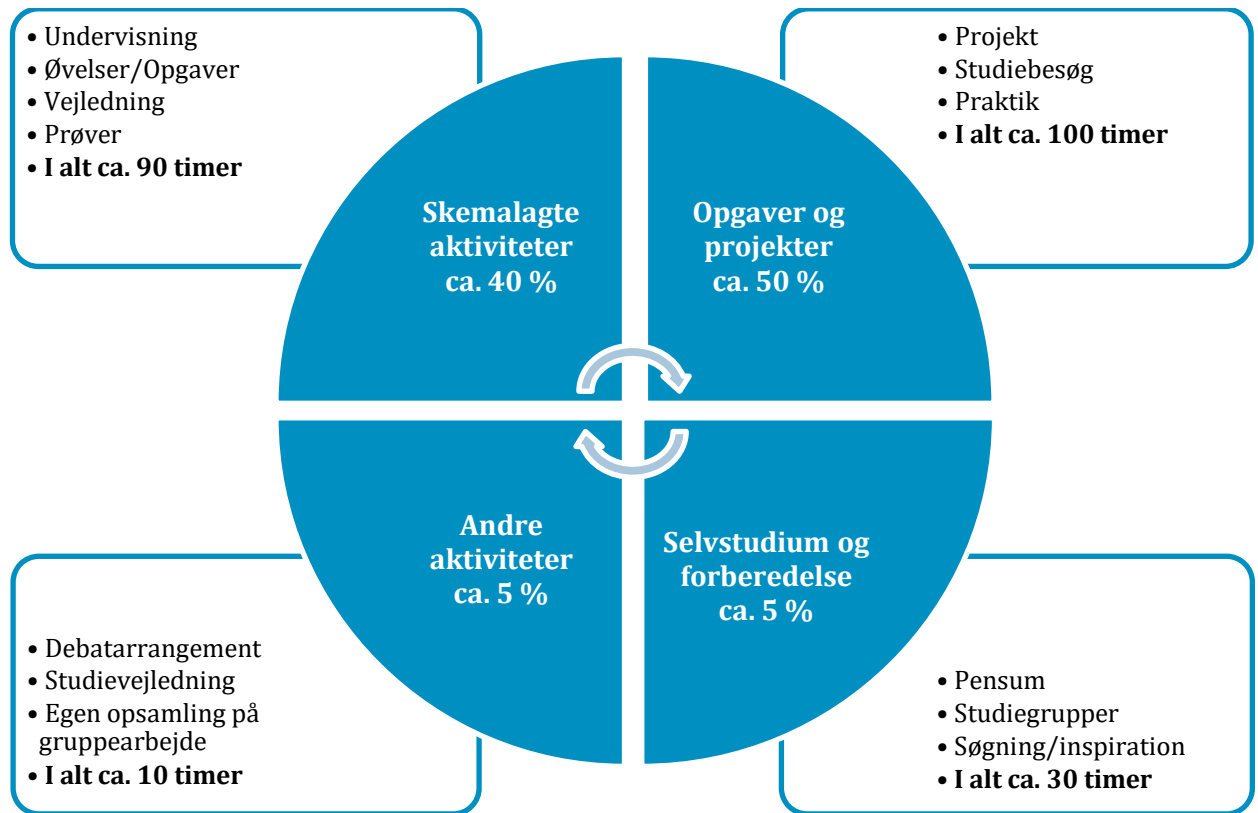
Discipline specific

- To be able to develop ideas and to plan a specific research process on complex topics
- To be able to identify, find and use sources in the EU system, as well as from other stakeholders
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Transferable

- The students will gain a good understanding of EU-reporting as well as of the importance of being able to work in a team when performing as journalists

Working load for this course shown in the Study Activity Model:



People & Politics: Semester project

Supervisors and lecturers:	John Frølich, Roger Buch, Asbjørn Slot Jørgensen and other staff. Guest lecturers from Aarhus University and other external partners
ECTS:	10.
Graded:	Grading by the Danish grading scale, transferred to ECTS scale

The "People & Politics: Semester project" course comprises of two integrated components:

1. A series of activities, mini-workshops, lectures and events in the "People & Politics" component; events and topical focus change each semester but may cover issues like: Populism and fake news; climate change reporting; migration and xenophobia; disaster and crisis reporting; event based journalism and realtime reporting.

These activities are leading up to the production of:

2. The Semester project production, an individual or group project including a research period in Denmark or another European country (3 weeks with no scheduled classes/appointments at the school).

Framework:

Rapid changes in society, in economics and in politics reshape the conditions for ordinary people in Europe and beyond. "People & Politics" introduces some of these major changes in order to make them understandable and prepare journalists for communicating the changes to audiences. The relations between society, politics and media are an underlying theme throughout the course.

Headlines for this course may include:

- Disinformation, fake news and populism – what to do?
- Stereotypes - an introduction for journalists
- The World Agenda; the major issues in World Politics
- Globalization and foreign policy
- The Middle East, and the impact of media
- Terrorism, media and publicity
- Sports and media, a happy couple
- Conflict and Christianity; the role of religion in world politics
- Military intervention and the soldier's perspective
- European media – media law, media freedom, plurality
- What is democracy – and where is "the public sphere"?
- Safety first – journalists, sources, stringers
- Climate change – the biggest story untold
- Reporting the United Nations' development goals

Aims

The primary aims of the course are:

- To introduce the theoretical and conceptual building blocks necessary for understanding rapid change
- To prepare students to analyse and communicate these changes
- To introduce the debate on public spheres in national and international contexts
- To prepare students to practice different elements of foreign reporting
- To present trends and developments in the role of mass media in international affairs
- To introduce and train different reporting techniques in real-life settings.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course students will be able to:

- Identify major change processes in both the international society and Europe
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of the media in an international perspective
- Identify disinformation and know the principles of factchecking dubious claims (verification)

- Identify concepts of globalization and assess their importance
- Know about sources, source critique and research possibilities in foreign affairs
- Develop ideas and plan stories relevant for audiences in other countries.
- Understand the skills needed to execute such story plans
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Skills

Discipline specific

- To be able to develop ideas and to plan a specific research process on complex topics
- To be able to identify, find and use sources in other countries
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Transferable

- The students will gain a good understanding of how to work with complex topics
- The students will know the dynamics and requirements of intense group and newsroom work
- The students will know the basic requirements for and have experienced publishing for a broader audience

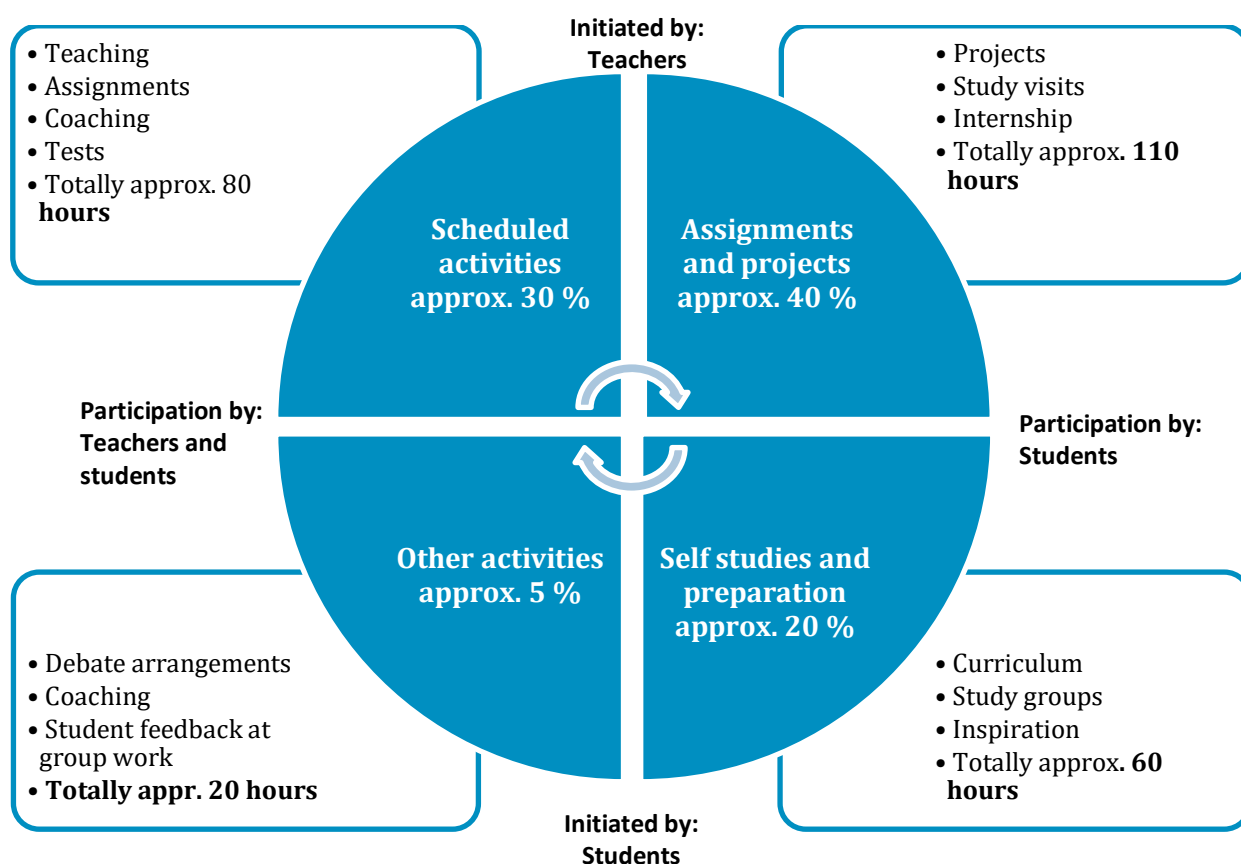
Outline of the project:

The semester project concludes in a multimedia production. The project consists of

- a journalistic product
- a list of sources
- a reflection report and analyses

The details and deadlines of the semester project are described in an assignment guide.

Working load for this course shown in the Study Activity Model:



Grading and attendance

The programme is a full course load semester programme run in English.

Group work and coaching are given high priority.

Students are expected to attend all classes, group work, lectures, and other scheduled activities. If for some reason students can't attend, they are expected to notify the school in advance. In case of illness they may be asked to hand in a medical certificate (for further information see the Student Handbook).

All workshops will be graded based on

- activity in classes and group work; preparation; respect for deadlines and requirements.
- quality of submissions (journalistic products, analyses/presentations, other assignments).

The semester project (People & Politics: Semester Project) is graded based on the submissions (including the project package and the written and oral analyses). Students must actively participate in the People & Politics activities and have related submissions accepted in order to have their project package approved.

The Danish 7 point grading scale is used. The grade is transferred to the ECTS grading system. Translation to the national grading system of the individual student is handled by the student's home university.

Rules for resits and grading

Workshop teachers may ask students to redo or adjust specific tasks or assignments, in case of these being insufficient, or to improve them.

No student who has received a passing mark for an assignment will be permitted to resubmit in order to gain a better result; the first result stands.

Each student has three chances to obtain a passing mark for each course. Special regulations apply for the final project.

Examination rules and regulations:

<http://moodle.dmjx.dk/course/view.php?id=101§ion=10>

Here you can read about rules for participation, deadlines, re-examination and assessment.

Programme Policy

At the Danish School of Media and Journalism we strive to uphold the standards of excellence in Journalism.

We require the students to uphold the IJF standards of journalism in all their work according to The IFJ Declaration of Principles on the conduct of journalists adopted by the 1954 World Congress of the IFJ, and amended by the 1986 World Congress (see www.ifj.org and Student Handbook).

Additional lectures

Guest lectures at the Danish School of Media and Journalism and other institutions will be offered during the programme.

Excursions and travels

There will be time for individual excursions and travelling for reporting projects (at students' own expenses).

Alumni

See the LinkedIn alumni site [Danish School of Media and Journalism alumni for journalists](#) of present and former participants in the school's different international programmes. Please remember to mention Danish School of Media and Journalism in your own LinkedIn profile, and link in for the alumni.

Facilities at the Danish School of Media and Journalism

(Please consult the Student Handbook for more details about the facilities.)

Phone:

We expect that you have a mobile phone, and that you buy credits for your phone upon arrival. For long distance calls, we advise students to buy global cards/other cards or use Skype.

Video and audio - DMJX equipment:

For your multimedia productions you can borrow the school's video cameras, microphones and editing computers. If you have your own equipment, we do recommend that you also bring that along (laptop, photo camera).

Computers and email:

The school has computers (Mac) for the use of students, upon availability. You can use the school's wireless network for free with your own laptop, smartphone, tablet.

You will be granted an email address at the school, to be used during your stay in Aarhus. The email address is needed in order to receive relevant messages, access course material, and submit assignments. We expect you to check your DMJX email at least on a daily basis. The email address also allows you access to the school's computers, printers and wifi.

The school email account will be closed one month after the programme has ended.

Access to DMJX evenings and weekends

If you want to work late or during weekends at DMJX you need an access cards. Each department requires a separate card (printed media, tv, radio departments). A 200 DKK deposit is required; see Student Handbook for details.

Photocopiers and printers:

Each student gets a certain number of free prints. Extra credits for photocopies and additional prints can be purchased.

Library:

The school's library containing the Danish Media Archives is at your disposal. There are also computers specially set up for international wire services and databases. The State and University Library at Aarhus University is also open for use with a Danish cpr-number. Books from the State Library and other libraries can also be ordered through the DMJX library.

Electronic classroom and publishing:

The school uses a Moodle-based intranet (virtual classroom) for study related material and communication. For online publishing purposes (internal and external), the school's WordPress-based Mediajungle-sites are used. Some productions are published online and/or in collaboration with external partners.

Staff

John Frølich. jf2@dmjx.dk

Journalist, Ass. professor, DMJX

Educational background: Journalist, the Danish School of Journalism.

One year Diploma Course in foreign news reporting.

European Studies at Aarhus University.

Course: EU Workshop and Semester Project

Asbjørn Slot Jørgensen. asbo@dmjx.dk

Journalist, Ass. professor, DMJX

Educational background: Journalist from DMJX

Course: International Newsgathering and Semester Project; programme coordinator

Sausanne Sayers. susanne@susannesayers.dk

Journalist, editor and author

Educational background: Journalist from DMJX.

Course: International News Gathering

Staffan Dahllöf. staffan@freelancekontoret.dk

Freelance journalist, foreign reporter specialised in European affairs.

Educational background: Journalist from Journalisthögskolan, Gothenburg.

Course: Reporting the EU

Inger Munk. imu@dmjx.dk

Head of International department, DMJX

Educational background: MSc. Geography, Aarhus University.

Course: Introduction and institutional coordinator

Anna Nejrup. anna@dmjx.dk

International coordinator, DMJX

Educational background: MA in French and English from the Aarhus School of Business

Course: Student coordinator for international students

Hans Bromand Nørgård. hbn@dmjx.dk

Technical lecturer, DMJX

Specialist in HD Camera and Final Cut Software

Course: Video

Semester overview

Spring semester 2020

TENTATIVE CALENDAR as per 15 October 2019.

Spring 2020:

Week 4: Arrival for international students.

Week 5: Introduction (27-29 January).

Weeks 6-11: News Workshop (with Copenhagen Study Tour).

Weeks 11-18: EU Reporting Workshop (with Brussels Study Tour)

Week 15: Easter break

Weeks 18-24: People & Politics: Semester Project.

12 June 2020: Last day with scheduled classes; farewell reception.

15 June 2020: Holiday period starts.

June + July: Re-sit deadlines.

Fall semester 2020

TENTATIVE CALENDAR as per 15 October 2019.

Fall 2020:

Week 33: Arrival for international students.

Week 34: Introduction (17-19 August).

Weeks 34-39: News Workshop (Copenhagen Study Tour week 37).

Weeks 39-43: EU Reporting Workshop (Brussels Study Tour week 42).

Weeks 44-51: People & Politics: Semester Project.

17 December 2020: Last day with scheduled classes; farewell reception.

18 December 2020: Holiday period starts.

December + January: Re-sit deadlines.
