# Master of Arts (MA) in Strategic Communication & Public Relations

# Learning Outcomes: Knowledge and Understanding, Cognitive Skills, Practical Skills, Transferable Skills

# 1. Knowledge and Understanding

#### **Outcomes**

Upon completion of this program students should be able to demonstrate:

- 1. Acquisition of generic and specialist knowledge of theories, concepts and literature, together with empirical and case study material on media and communication practices.
- 2. Comprehensive understanding of strategic solutions to public relations issues and communication problems.
- 3. Awareness of the plurality of methods used in communication and cultural and media research.
- 4. Application of core and special area knowledge to a range of communication contexts and settings such as corporate affairs, the nonprofit sector, political communication, tourism and entertainment, in both local and global contexts.
- 5. A theoretically informed understanding of communication strategies and techniques used by a range of organizations to further their goals and objectives.
- 6. Appreciation of the diverse interdisciplinary nature of the practice of public relations.

# 2. Cognitive Skills

#### **Outcomes**

Upon completion of this program students should be able to:

- 1. Utilize and reflect critically upon particular theoretical and methodological approaches to the interpretation and analysis of specific topics and communication issues.
- 2. Provide realistic strategic solutions to public relations issues and communication problems in a variety of settings.
- 3. Formulate and justify a research design for the investigation of a specific area of inquiry.
- 4. Identify and critically assess the communication strategies and techniques utilized in the context of campaign planning.
- 5. Identify and select relevant sources of information.
- 6. Integrate and critically evaluate information and data from a variety of sources to assess the communication requirements of a specific organization.
- 7. Identify and analyze issues in the social, cultural and organizational use of new media.

#### 3. Practical Skills

### **Outcomes**

Upon completion of this program students should be able to:

- 1. Produce written pieces of work for a wide range of communication objectives.
- 2. Search for and retrieve data from data bases, published and electronic sources.
- 3. Produce communication artifacts appropriate to the professional contexts of the communications and public relations industries.
- 4. Produce a written research project and/or a communication plan on a topic within the fields of Communication and Public Relations.
- 5. Design and implement communication campaigns, multimedia and problem-solving techniques in a wide range of communications and organization contexts.

# 4. Transferable Skills

# **Outcomes**

Upon completion of this program students should be able to:

- 1. Communicate effectively, in written, oral, visual and combined formats.
- 2. Devise, manage and complete a professional public relations program.
- 3. Generate professional presentations using MS PowerPoint that include onscreen animations, graphs, tables and other graphical elements
- 4. Work effectively within a group.
- 5. Manage time and work to deadlines efficiently.
- 6. Practice independent work across a range of communication topics and issues.
- 7. Effectively use social media and digital technologies in professional projects.
- 8. Evaluate and reflect towards the career of communication specialist through continued work experiences and real-world problem solving.