



**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS (EXTERNAL MARKERS)
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF ARTS
COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES
(Ref: CHS/COM/MKR/08-2024BM)**

Assessment is an integral part of curriculum development as outlined in the Curriculum Policy. During curriculum development, an assessment strategy is developed that is aligned to the ODeL Policy and strategy of UNISA. Assessment can have different focuses, namely to:

- improve the quality of students' learning experiences by focusing on significant knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, and providing motivation to work through the material through tasks and feedback, known as assessment for learning.
- focus on the ability to transfer knowledge to new contexts and to apply knowledge in specific contexts in line with the NQF level descriptors and other taxonomies of learning.
- focus on programmatic and graduate attributes and critical cross-field outcomes in assessment of learning.
- make academic judgments related to diagnostics, placements competence, progression and/or qualification completion; and as a feedback mechanism to improve curricula, known as assessment of learning; and to
- create opportunities for students to engage with the content, with their context, with the lecturer and with fellow students (**Unisa Assessment Policy, 2011**).

The Department of Communication Science is inviting suitable applicants for providing assessment services to be appointed as independent contractors (markers) on a yearly basis. The purpose of this positions is to appoint competent and suitable candidates to complete and execute assessment task professionally and ethically align to the Assessment Policy and Guidelines.

Requirements:

- Applicable and relevant equivalent to **NQF level 9** (MA/MPhil/MTech/ OR **NQF level 10** (e.g. Ph.D/DPhil/DTech) Specialization in **Communication Science/Organisational Communication/Media Studies/Integrated Organisational Communication/Strategic Communication/Business Communication/Media Studies/Decolonized Communication Science modules or any related disciplines.**
- At least 5-years of teaching experience (primary or secondary) or relevant experience in the communication science field (TVET College /University of Technology/Online distance education institutions.)
- At least 3-years subject methodology teaching experience or 5-years relevant experience in the communication science field (TVET College /University of Technology/ Online distance education institutions.)

Duties:

- Complete and execute assessment task professionally.
- Comply and adhere to all Unisa tuition, assessment and examination and plagiarism policies and guidelines.
- Act in the ethical and professional manner dealing with all assessment tasks – assignments and examinations.
- Execute duties as stipulated in contract and task agreement – assignments and examinations.
- Marking of assessment tasks fairly and consistently – assignments and examinations.
- Meet deadlines of allocated assessment task for assignments and examinations.
- Attend markers meeting and submit marking reports timeously on assignments and examinations.
- Maintain confidentiality of all assessment tasks.

Knowledge, skills and abilities:

- Basic knowledge of the discipline applying for communication science.
- Basic knowledge of assessment and assessment practices.
- Basic knowledge of marking and procedures.
- Basic knowledge of constructive feedback on assessment tasks.
- Basic knowledge of academic dishonesty and plagiarism.
- Knowledge of teamwork/leadership skills.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing).
- Must be honest / ethical and show empathy when required to mark assessment tasks.
- Must have good problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Must be service orientated (Actively looking for ways to help and support lecturer or students).
- Must have good time management skills.
- Ability to resolve conflict and maintain confidentiality of all assessment tasks.
- Ability to work under pressure with adherence to deadlines.

Recommendations:

- Computer and Internet skills.
- Have own desktop computer or laptop and internet connectivity (no computers or data bundles will be provided).
- Advanced communication skills and proficiency in English.
- Digital literacy skills – competent in ICT and online learning environments.
- Experience in online marking tools or software or LMS (Moodle will be an advantage).
- Commitment to marking and meeting deadlines for all assessments and examinations.
- Friendly, patient, and sensitive to a diversity of students.

To apply please submit the following documents:

1. An application letter indicating willingness to mark assignments and/or exam scripts for any of the modules listed below.
2. Comprehensive **Updated** and signed curriculum vitae (most recent).
3. Within 6 months certified copies of-
 - Identity document/passport
 - **Highest** qualification as per requirement
 - SAQA verification of foreign qualifications (if applicable)
 - valid permit (foreign applicants).
 - UNISA reserves the right to authenticate all qualifications without any further consent from the applicant
 - The contact details of three contactable references must be provided
 - Unisa is not obliged to fill an advertised position

Note: The required documents should be submitted as a single file (**one PDF**) to the email provided below.

Applicants are expected to first complete the form on the **Portal** <https://forms.office.com/r/ipBBg1xwZj> and thereafter forward the supporting documents to the attention of chsmarkers@unisa.ac.za



We welcome applications from persons with disabilities.

Assumption of duty: The candidates will have to undergo **an interview (either face-to-face or Microsoft Teams)** and **online Moodle training sessions.**

Completion of the prescribed training on various aspects of Marking on the Moodle platform is compulsory.

Closing date: 24 September 2024

Applications sent to the incorrect email address will not be considered.

Late, incomplete and incorrect applications will not be considered.

Independent Contractor (MARKER) positions are available in the modules listed in the Department of communication science.

MODULE CODE	MODULE NAME	Purpose of module	Name of Department/School etc.	Number of markers needed to be advertised for
Name of Qualification: BA COMMUNICATION SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE				
COM3703	Media studies: Media content and media audiences	To analyse the content of the media and the specific research techniques that are available for researching media content, how to research the impact of the media on audiences, and how the audiences concerned are likely to respond to the media. Understanding the concept of a sign in relation to semiotics. Understanding the epistemological and the ontological assumptions of audience ethnography.	School of arts Department of communication science	2
COM2611	Applied organizational communication	The purpose of this module is to introduce students to a plurality of definitions and understandings of the transition of industry specialisations of organisational communication in a diverse, unequal and global context. The student will be able to identify and apply principles of Marketing Communication, Public Relations, Advertising, Corporate Communication, and Digital Media Communication in the context of an Integrated Communication perspective in transition.	School of arts Department of communication science	2
COM2612	Brand communication	The purpose of this module is to equip students with an understanding of brand communication and related theoretical concepts relevant to both media and non-media organisations. The qualifying student will be able to reflect on, discuss, analyse and demonstrate an understanding of brand fundamentals, types of brands, elements and techniques of brand communication as authentic creative spaces. This will enable students to see brand communication as meaningful brand experiences that build long-term relationships through ongoing conversations.	School of arts Department of communication science	2

COM2613	Communication campaigns	The purpose of this module is to equip qualifying students with a comprehensive knowledge on issues, such as health, political and government, protest, integrated communication campaigns including but not limited to public relations, as well as advertising and marketing. The qualifying student will be able to plan and evaluate different types of communication campaigns within the local, national and global context. The student will understand, gain skills and values of communication campaigns within diverse communities in different discourses. This includes understanding and integration of diversity in different cultural and technological public sphere settings, and social structures pertaining to for example justice, ethics, and morals	School of arts Department of communication science	2
COM2614	Decolonising communication studies	The purpose of the module is to counter-weight colonial communication frameworks of enquiry in order to promote qualitative transformations in the everyday lives and lived realities of Africans. Successful students will be able to invoke histories, worldviews, and indigenous knowledge systems to the praxis of Communication Studies that places the everyday worlds, needs and uses of Africans first. Successful students will also have acquired insight into the different definitions, approaches and practices of communication studies, and understand the influence and practice of cultural power, the negotiation of meaning and the importance of context when approaching and analysing communication situations.	School of arts Department of communication science	2
COM2615	Media audiences	The purpose of this module is to equip students with critical knowledge of media audience theories, methodologies, questions, issues and new approaches. Qualifying students will have (i) theoretical knowledge of the nature of media audiences, (ii) skills to analyse and interpret related theories, and (iii) skills to conduct media audience research.	School of arts Department of communication science	2
COM2616	Media content	The purpose of this module is to equip students with knowledge of media content theories, methodologies, debates, issues, as well as emerging and decolonial approaches. Qualifying students will gain (i) theoretical knowledge of the nature of media content, (ii) the ability to use theoretical knowledge to analyse media content, and (iii) the ability to apply methodologies in the analysis of media content	School of arts Department of communication science	2
COM3711	Communication for social change: Health, development and intercultural perspectives	The purpose of this module is to equip qualifying students with a comprehensive knowledge of the fields of health, development and intercultural communication perspectives. The student will be able to grasp different theoretical perspectives in relation to health, development, participatory and intercultural communication in the local, national and global context. The student will be able to apply different theoretical perspectives practically via a range of case studies in a critical manner to diverse communities. Analysis of different situations	School of arts Department of communication science	8

		will enable students to use new approaches in these fields.		
COM3712	Communication policy	The purpose of this module is to enable students to apply communication policy and regulation principles within the fast-changing field of communication. The module addresses communication policy from a decolonial point of view by using theories and practical examples from the global south. A strategic understanding of the implications of policy and regulation in the communication environment, including on the communication user is cultivated. The qualifying student will acquire a sound knowledge of and practical orientation to the wide spectrum of communication policy and regulation, including its purpose, history, implementation, and an awareness of the institutions mandated to implement such policy and regulation.	School of arts Department of communication science	8
COM3713	Organisational communication	The purpose of this module is to equip qualifying students with an understanding of critical approaches to organisational communication. This will enable students to reflect on power structures, identity formation, social constructivism and differences at work from a decolonial perspective.	School of arts Department of communication science	8
COM3714	Decolonising communication research	This purpose of this module is to introduce students to communication research with a focus on considering different ways of acquiring and producing knowledge. The emphasis will be on a variety of paradigms, perspectives and their assumptions, research methodologies, designs, and processes. The module will build on the foundation provided in other modules enabling emerging researchers to understand how the choices of paradigmatic assumptions can influence research. This module will enable qualifying students to progress to postgraduate research in communication studies and constituent fields.	School of arts Department of communication science	8
COM3715	Global communication	The purpose of this module is to understand the changing dynamics of global communication in the decolonial and technological age. Equally important to debate is the impact of these changes along with the reactions of various role players in the global community. Qualifying	School of arts Department of communication science	8

		students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of global communication theories and media technologies, such as television, radio, film and internet. The module will deal with global communication. Information and cultural flows, including dominant and emerging flows as well as the extent to which these flows are equal or unequal will also be addressed.		
COM3716	Media industries and institutional culture	The purpose of this module is to explore media industries and institutional cultures, and to investigate the processes involved in producing mediated texts. This includes a look at the social, cultural, political, economic and industrial contexts. The module will pay particular attention to the decolonial turn in media studies. It will also examine the challenges this imposes upon the applicability of Euro- American media theory as the basis for examining media systems and industries in countries outside the Euro-American context. The module content will involve a historical overview of media industries. A substantive review of various paradigms in the study of media industries and institutional cultures will be included. The qualifying student will be able to understand and critique issues and debates in media industries, media institutions and institutional cultures from an African and decolonial perspective.	School of arts Department of communication science	8
COM3717	Political and government communication	The purpose of this module is to equip students with critical knowledge of political and government communication and its theories, questions and issues within the local (South African) and global (Africa and the diaspora) contexts and "multiverses". Qualifying students will have (i) an in-depth theoretical knowledge of the nature of political and government communication and media institutions and audience reception; (ii) critical attitudes and skills to analyse and apply theories related to the media, political communication, and government communication.	School of arts Department of communication science	8
COM4801	Mass communication theory	In this module students can either specialise in mass communication theory or in film studies. The main purpose of the module is to provide you with knowledge and insight into recent developments in the field of mass communication theory and in the case of film studies, film theory. Such knowledge is indispensable for asking the right kind of research questions and approaching a research problem and for understanding the nature and functioning of media institutions, media content, media production and media audiences. Theme 01: Developments in mass communication theory. For this theme, students are expected to design a research proposal on a topic in the field of the media as an institution, or media content, or media audiences, or media production. A list of research topics is provided in the tutorial letter, but students are welcome to choose an own topic. The research proposal should stand	School of arts Department of communication science	2

		proof of the student's knowledge of media theory related to the research topic.		
COM4802	Media research	You will be required to recognise and interpret the role of media studies in everyday, social life by demonstrating a comprehensive, coherent, and critical understanding of the theory, research methodologies, and techniques relevant to media studies. Complex, multi-dimensional issues related to media studies are therefore identified in real-life scenarios. An integral part of this module is the rigorous review and debate regarding ethics in media research in order to provide unbiased and balanced perspectives on ethical problems within the framework of the different data-collection techniques and methods in the context of	School of arts Department of communication science	2
		media studies. You will therefore be required to demonstrate comprehensive and specialised academic knowledge; to demonstrate the application of research skills and techniques; and reporting on the latter in selected areas of media studies as specified in the themes below. The syllabus for this module was planned with two teaching aims in mind: To enable you to apply several media research methods (together with requirements such as the formulation of research problems, hypotheses or research questions, sampling, data collection, principles of measurement, data analysis, and the formulation of findings and conclusions); To function as a "service" module for Module 05 (Advanced Research Report) and to provide you with the research methods which you could apply in your areas of interest (such as ethics and media research; visual communication; print media and journalism; radio and television studies and/or film studies).		

COM4803	Media management: policy and regulation	The purpose of this module is for students to gain knowledge and skills regarding management of the electronic media and an understanding of the regulation of the media and formulation and analysis of media policy. Once this module has been completed students should have: . a theoretical knowledge of the nature of management in the media or policy and regulation of the media . the critical attitudes and skills to analyse and evaluate media management or policy and media regulation .an understanding of the various concepts associated with media policy, and associated professionalism in the media, including media ethics	School of arts Department of communication science	2
COM4804	International communication and political communication	Once this module has been completed, qualifying students will be equipped with critical knowledge, theories, issues, practices, research practices of international and political communication within the local (South African) and international (African and the diaspora) contexts. Qualifying students will have: (1) Specialised academic knowledge of interrelated disciplines of international communication and political communication as fields of studies. (2) Critical skills to interrogate theories, practices and research practices of international communication and political communication. (3) The understanding debates of international communication and political communication.	School of arts Department of communication science	2

