**Simon Alexander Bennett**

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**Professional Profile**

I am a recent journalism graduate, from Ulster University, with a master’s degree and a 1st class bachelor’s degree in journalism. I have excellent oral and written communication skills, as well as great research and leadership skills. I am also a conscientious worker, and I am not afraid to get stuck into any role. I have also gained shorthand skills, winning the Belfast Telegraph Helen Scott Memorial trophy for the highest speed in my class. In the next two years, I would like to move from just a freelance journalist role to having a full-time role in a broadcast newsroom.

**Employment History**

Journalist, Belfast Telegraph [Freelance] (May 2023- present)

* Multiple different articles published including business, human interest, music/entertainment.
* Other work included election coverage.
* Skills included teamwork, interviews, shorthand and creativity to find own content.

Salesman, Shoezone (September 2019-May 2023)

* Responsibilities include selling shoes, customer services and working refunds.
* Skills include customer service, communication and IT skills to use tills.
* Salesman.

Journalist, Ulster University Student’s Union (April-May 2022)

* Responsibilities include researching and interviewing guests.
* Skills include written and oral communication, IT, and teamwork.

Production Crew, Higher Education Today (May 2022)

* Responsibilities included being floor manager.
* Skills included teamwork, camera operating, and communication.

**Education**

MA (Hons) Journalism, Ulster University (September 2022-August 2023) [Includes full NCTJ Journalism Diploma]

Key modules include - English Media Law (NCTJ exam), Public Affairs (NCTJ exam), Essential Journalism (NCTJ exam), Dissertation, Audio/Video Editing (NCTJ exam), Shorthand.

NCTJ Diploma in Journalism [including 80wpm shorthand].

BA (Hons) 1st Journalism, Ulster University (September 2019-May 2022)

A-Levels (September 2017-May 2019)

Ballymena Academy

Classical Civilisation- D

Media Studies- B

**Publications/Work Experience**

* NI Policast (Political Podcast) (February 2024-)
* White Ribbon N.I. Website Editor (February 2024-)
* Late Night News/Late Night Learn [TikTok] (November 2023-)
* Radio Cracker Presenter and Technician (November 2023-)
* Belfast Telegraph (May 2023-)
* Interviewee on Radio Ulster as a Manchester United/football fan (October 2023-)
* The Elevate Podcast (October 2023-)
* Underscore Media (May 2022-)
* Ulster University Student’s Union (May 2022)
* The Underscore Podcast (December 2021-June 2023)
* Ballymena Guardian (September 2021-April 2022)
* Ulster University Video Host (August 2021)
* Women’s Aid White Ribbon Podcasts (March 2021-)
* MUFC Latest (December 2018)

To view these, please click this link: <https://simonbennettjournalist.blogspot.com/2023/11/links-to-my-previous-work.html>

**Key Skills**

* Communication skills- Throughout my time at Ulster I have gained fantastic communication skills. This included vox pops, internal and external telephone calls and interviews. As well as this, through various programmes I have taken part in, I am able to adapt my communication skills to suit various age groups, including children.
* IT skills- During my two degrees and my work experience, I have been able to learn many different Adobe products. My work on The Elevate Podcast has helped me to improve my audio editing skills using Adobe Audition. I am competently able to use Adobe Audition for audio editing, InDesign for poster design, Photoshop for photo editing and Premiere Pro for video editing. Alongside this, I can confidently use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.
* Representation skills- While I was studying my MA degree, I was offered the opportunity to become a course rep for my class. This also gave me the opportunity to become an NCTJ student councillor. Taking on these two roles allowed me the chance to take feedback from classmates and bring problems forward to be resolved by lecturers or people in higher positions.
* Research skills- During my time at Ulster University, I had to do academic research for two dissertations. This taught me critical thinking, as well as helping to improve my budding academic research skills. Due to my improved academic research skills, I was able to make it onto the university’s prestigious Dean’s List for the 2020-21 academic year.

**References:**

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