What is the purpose of graduate school?
Different from undergraduate education, which gives you a broad and general education, the graduate education offers you a specialized knowledge and advanced learning concentrated in specialized disciplines or sub-disciplines. It teaches you advanced skills in such areas as problem solving, decision-making process, writing, oral presentation and technology. It provides you with certain intellectual skills such as advanced analysis, reasoning and arguing persuasively, and requires active participation and application of knowledge to current issues.

When should I go to graduate school?
You can decide to go to graduate school at any age and stage of life. You can decide to go directly after finishing your undergraduate education or after having been out of school for some period of time. You should go to graduate school when you feel ready to get the most out of the experience and knowledge, and such experience and knowledge to provide you with professional advancement and personal satisfaction.

What is the Spanish-language Master’s Program in Journalism?
This program is designed for those who want to work at the professional level in the Spanish-Language media in the U.S., Latin America, or Europe. The focus of the program is the development of the writing, critical thinking, technological, and analytic and ethical skills necessary for a professional career in journalism.
**Who is the program for?**

The program is for three groups of people:

- People with undergraduate degrees in a communications field and related work experience who want to prepare themselves to move up in their job.
- Journalists who have inherited communications departments or responsibilities and want to enhance their practical experience with theoretical knowledge and research skills.
- People who want to prepare to enter the communications field from another career.

**What are the program entrance requirements?**

- Must have a bachelor’s degree or equivalent from a nationally accredited institution or, in the case of foreign students, an institution recognized as an institution of higher learning.
- Minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (last 60 credits of your baccalaureate degree)
- EXADEP Exam or GRE. (there is no minimum requirement:) Please visit http://www.ets.org/exadep for more information.
  - For testing dates and times, please visit https://www.ets.org/exadep/english
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)/ international students only. A minimum score of 500 on the written exam or a minimum score of 213 on the computer based, or a minimum score of 80 on the internet based TOEFL.  **A 6.3 on the IELTS exam is also accepted.**
  - For testing dates and times, please visit http://www.ets.org/toefl

For a checklist of the requirements go to: http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/Graduate_Student_Checklist.pdf

**What is the deadline for application to the program for the fall and spring semester?**

The fall semester application deadline is June 1st for US citizens and residents, and February 15 for international students. The spring semester application deadline is October 1st for US citizens and residents; and August 1st, for international students. For more information for admission and application deadlines, please visit http://gradschool.fiu.edu/deadlines.shtml

**What documents do I need in order to apply to the Spanish Journalism Program?**
• FIU on-line application:  http://gradschool.fiu.edu/admissions.shtml
• Official transcripts (must be received in a sealed envelope from the University)
• Proof of Degree/Diploma
• Official EXADEP or GRE scores
• Official TOEFL scores (certain international students only)
• Resume
• Essay (500-700 words in length) * Title: “¿Por qué quiero ser periodista?”
• Three recommendation letters

I am applying as an international student:
Besides the general required documents for applying to the Spanish Journalism program, the additional documentation required is:
• Declaration and certification of finances
• Bank letter
• Sponsor letter

Where do I send the application documents?
University Graduate School
Florida International University
Modesto A. Maidique Campus, PC 230
11200 S.W. 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199
Phone: (305) 348-2455 (305) 348-2455
Fax: (305) 348-3433
Email: ugs@fiu.edu

I have international credentials, how do I handle those?
If the transcripts are not in English, they must be submitted along with a certified translated document recognizing the courses, grades, and the degree earned. All this is typically handled by the company below:

Josef Silny and Associates

Address
7101 SW 102 Avenue
Miami, FL 33173

Telephone (305) 273-1616
FAX (305) 273-1338
(305) 273-1984 (translations)

Also, students must submit original documentation to the translation agency and Florida International University. Please retrieve from your institution two (2) copies of the official sealed transcripts. FIU will not accept copies of these documents. The lack of them will delay your admission’s process.

**How much is the application fee and how do I pay?**
You will be asked to pay the application fee of **$30.00** online using a major credit card (Visa, Master Card, American Express, or Discover) or you may pay the application fee by using a Personal Check or Money Orders in U.S. Dollars. Please be mindful that no application will be considered until the application fee is paid.

Mail payment to: Florida International University Graduate Admissions Office PO Box 659004 Miami, FL 33265-9004

For Overnight/Courier Services mail to: Florida International University Graduate Admissions Office 11200 S.W. 8 St. PC 231 Miami, FL 33199

**I don’t satisfy the entrance requirements… Are there any Admissions Exceptions?**
A limited number of admissions exceptions are available for students who do not meet the minimum requirements. Go to [http://jmc.fiu.edu/admission.htm](http://jmc.fiu.edu/admission.htm) for details.

**How long does the admission application review process take?**
Applicants can check their application status on-line by logging in to PantherSoft. When a decision is reached on your file, you will be notified by mail/email.

**What is the cost of the Master’s Program?**
The program includes 36 credits.
For the most up to date information, please visit:

**Are there scholarships available?**
You may be eligible for the Latin American and Caribbean Graduate Fellowship
Please, visit the following link for detailed information:

You may also qualify for The Fulbright Fellowship Program
A U.S. government sponsored program designed to increase mutual understanding and the exchange of ideas between the United States and other countries. International students interested in studying at FIU apply for a fellowship through a participating Fulbright agency (IIE, LASPAU, AMIDEAST, etc.) and then apply to FIU as a part of the Fulbright placement process. Fulbright Foreign Fellows that attend FIU have their out-of-state tuition fees waived. For more information visit the Fulbright Foreign Student Website: http://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/fulbright-foreign-student-program

**Out-of-State Tuition Waivers**
The Latin American and Caribbean Center awards, offers out-of-state tuition waivers annually to international graduate and undergraduate students from the Caribbean and Mexico to help mitigate the cost of studying in Florida as an international student. Other countries, may also qualify. For more information, please visit: https://lacc.fiu.edu/academics/financial/

Also, please visit this website for more information on Funding your education:
http://gradschool.fiu.edu/current-students-graduate-funding.shtml

*Can I work full time and still manage to pursue the Spanish Journalism program?*
If you are a U.S. citizen or resident, you can work full time and still manage to pursue the Spanish Journalism program. This program is also tailored for full time employed students.

International students can only work 20 hours maximum during Fall & Spring and it must be on-campus.

**What is the usual class schedule?**
Most of the classes are held once a week starting from 6:25 p.m. to 9:25 p.m. There might be few exceptions for certain classes to be held on Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon.

International students on a F1 visa must take at least 9 credits in Fall & Spring. Students with conditional admission will have to comply with specific numbers of credit per semester.

**Who do I contact for class advising?**
For class advising, you may contact the Graduate Program Chair, Teresa Ponte at pontet@fiu.edu to be assigned a faculty advisor.

**Housing Information:**
Please visit this website for more information on Residential Life at FIU: [http://www.housing.fiu.edu](http://www.housing.fiu.edu)