



UKRAINE AT WAR: JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

16TH • 23TH FEBRUARY 2026

INTERNATIONAL
EXCHANGES

IHECS

Journalism & Communication

In the heart of Europe, Brussels is a crossroads of politics, culture, and humanity — the perfect setting for our **BIP** on **Reporting the War in Ukraine**.

Together with students from across Europe, we'll explore how to tell stories of conflict with empathy and precision, creating powerful narratives through words, images, and sound.



IHECS Blended Intensive Programme

During this week-long workshop, organised on the eve of the Russian invasion's fourth anniversary, students will be tasked with producing stories related to the war in Ukraine. Working in groups of two or three, they will write feature stories and portraits, put together video explainers, photo essays or radio reports, taking advantage of Brussels' position as an international hub to meet with experts, policymakers, humanitarians, diplomats, and Ukrainian civilians. The workshop will be taught by two journalists with intimate knowledge of the conflict.

TARGET STUDENTS

- Students in Communication or Social Sciences from European partner institutions (20 participants)
- IHECS: 20 Master 1 Press and Information students

IHECS PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

Wilson Fache, Toma Istomia & Inès Frère

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

- TU Dortmund University, Institute of Journalism
- Polytechnic University of Lisbon
- University of Gothenburg

PRACTICAL INFORMATION, ON-SITE WEEK, BRUSSELS

16TH • 23TH FEBRUARY

IHECS will cover all activities included in the programme (on working days only). All other expenses — such as accommodation, public transport, food, and drinks — are at the students' own cost but students will receive the *Erasmus+* grant from their home institution. Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation.

We recommend the following hostels:

- Hotel Bruxelles Meininger City Center (Quai du Hainaut 33, 1080 Brussels, Belgium), <https://www.meiningerhotels.com/nl/hotels/brussel/hotel-brussel-centrum/>
- Auberge de Jeunesse Jacques Brel (Rue de la Sablonnière 33, 1000 Brussels), <https://lesaubergesdejeunesse.be/fr/bruxelles-jacques-brel>



PROFESSORS IN CHARGE: WILSON FACHE AND TOMA ISTOMIA

Wilson Fache is a Belgian reporter with ten years of experience covering conflicts. A former correspondent in Iraq (2015-2018), and Palestine (2018-2019), he also covered the Taliban's return to power in Kabul, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. His work in the Gaza Strip was awarded a Bayeux Award for War Correspondents, and he is the 2023 Albert Londres Prize laureate for his reporting in Israel, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

Toma Istomina is the deputy chief editor of the Kyiv Independent, the leading English-language newspaper in Ukraine. She previously worked for the Kyiv Post from 2017-2021, first as a staff writer, later taking editor roles. For co-founding the Kyiv Independent, Toma was selected as one of the Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe in 2022. She holds a master's in international broadcasting from Taras Shevchenko University.

COORDINATOR



Inès Frère

International
project officer

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Over the course of this week, you will take part in a journalism workshop dedicated to understanding war reporting, with a focus on Ukraine.

Between expert encounters, practical exercises, and collective reflection, you will discover the challenges of reporting in conflict zones while building connections with students from all over Europe.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understanding the role of journalism in times of war.
- Analysing media coverage of the war in Ukraine.
- Identifying ethical and professional challenges faced by war journalists.
- Exploring different formats and narratives of war reporting.
- Learning how to communicate complex conflict-related stories clearly and responsibly.

CONTENT

This BIP is designed for students who want to understand journalism in times of war, with a focus on Ukraine.

You will take part in conferences with Ukrainian journalists, screenings of war documentaries, and visits to institutions such as the European Parliament. Meetings with humanitarian actors and discussions on topics like drone warfare will give you firsthand insight into the challenges of reporting and storytelling in conflict situations.

By the end of the week, you will have developed a deeper understanding of war journalism, ethical reporting, and how to communicate complex realities responsibly and effectively.

STATUS

Prerequisite: English B1 (CEFR)

Credits: 5 ECTS



ON-SITE WEEK, BRUSSELS 16TH · 23TH FEBRUARY 2026

[This schedule is provisional and subject to change]

INTRO – ONLINE

Intro to Teacher and Course.

MONDAY 16th

Welcome day and start of teaching activities, followed by masterclasses with two Ukrainian journalists :

- «The truth is not enough. Why facts need emotions to win the war» by Prof. Iryna Kuznietsova
- «The Digital Frontline: Evolution of Media Consumption in Ukraine (2022–2026)» by Prof. Kateryna Balabanova

TUESDAY 17th

Visit to the European Parliament to better understand the context of the Ukrainian war, followed by a workshop.

Screening of a documentary at IHECS.

WEDNESDAY 18th

Teaching activities and workshops in the morning followed by a meeting with humanitarian actors in Ukraine at MSF headquarters.

THURSDAY 19th

Workshops and activities, followed by a conference on «Ukraine in 2026: the year of peace?».

FRIDAY 20th

In-class exercises, group reflections, and workshops.

WEEKEND

Free weekend in Brussels, with suggested activities provided.

MONDAY 23th

Final reflections on the subject followed by a very belgian lunch.

PROGRAMME



We look forward to welcoming you to
our beautiful city and our institution!

If you have any question on the programme please contact

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Wilson Fache : fachewilson@gmail.com

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