

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	MA Filmmaking
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Film, TV & Media Production
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	MA Filmmaking
Pathways (if applicable)	N/A
FHEQ level of final award:	7
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
Accreditation details:	N/A
Length of programme:	1 Year (12 months)
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2019)
Other external reference points (e.g., Apprenticeship Standard):	N/A
Course Code(s):	MAFILMFT
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	
Date of last update:	

2. Programme Summary

This MA Filmmaking degree will enable you to gain key skills for employment in the film and media industries. Taught by experienced media professionals on state of the art equipment, you will be introduced to fundamental and advanced creative camera techniques and to camera peripherals. Creative and technical areas of advanced editing and post production will be explored, including software, and standards for media production delivery and workflows. You will have the option to study advanced lighting techniques for specific environments that include studio, greenscreen and location. Screenwriting, writing a professional treatment and freelance writing skills may be studied, with script and screen analysis. Other options include the in-depth practice-based study of leading industry roles, and with opportunities to focus on the creative and organisational roles of the director, the

producer and production manager. Studying techniques of virtual production will prepare you for a crucial, developing area of the industry. You will initiate and create a short film, and collaborate throughout on creative production work, as well as gaining cutting edge insights by guest speakers on this exciting course. You will study at our High Wycombe campus and at our teaching base at the heart of the UK Film Industry, Pinewood Studios, enabling you to develop the skills and knowledge for your future in the industry. The teaching team is hugely diverse with film academics, practitioners, scriptwriters and industry professionals. This is one of the key features of the MA Filmmaking programme, as their combined experience and ongoing professional practice will enhance the taught curriculum. The MA Filmmaking course will run for 12 months, and students will work together across 3 core modules and choose from a selection of optional modules.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

This programme aims to:

1. Develop practical skills, contemporary technical knowledge and problem-solving ability at a high level of proficiency and in creative ways, across a variety of practices in digital filmmaking and related media formats.
2. Facilitate the development of emotional intelligence over time via the communication and high level of teamwork skills required of collaborative practical production work, engendering professional responsibility and integrity.
3. Promote the ability to research and organise production projects, applying knowledge of organisational, financial, regulatory, and ethical considerations and informing work with independent research, contemporary professional practice and scholarship
4. Encourage critical engagement with and reflection on production across a range of film genres, considering aesthetic, legal, ethical and social aspects of film to enable students to be responsible and confident in their creative output.
5. Engender specialist knowledge of current and cutting-edge film technologies, producing professionals who are able to create innovative work and to exhibit flexibility in fulfilling industry briefs

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Critically employ a diverse range of film practices from pre-production to production to post-production
K2	Rationalize practical filmmaking decisions with clear, critical arguments, based on the systematic and critical organization of material and ideas.

K3	Demonstrate a critical awareness of issues at the cutting-edge of film and other screen-based practices and literature as a basis for initiating both practical and theoretical work.
K4	Evidence advanced knowledge of a range of theoretical approaches, histories, and contemporary developments in relation to film production and the implications for practice.
K5	Exhibiting sound judgement and personal responsibility in film research and practice.

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Explore original and innovative solutions to goals and problems in your production work, applying appropriate procedures and bringing to bear concerns of sustainability, ethics, inclusivity and cultural awareness.
C2	Exercise independent and informed critical judgement in reflecting on your aesthetic work and develop and exhibit a refined ability to consider critical, ethical, and analytical views other than your own.
C3	Construct clearly structured analysis of filmmaking processes and texts to convey sophisticated argument and debate.
C4	Differentiate, evaluate and apply established research techniques, discipline-specific and interdisciplinary practice-based and scholarly methodologies, in order to produce and critique film and other media.
C5	Categorise and demonstrate comprehension of contemporary knowledge relating to practice and theory in the fields of filmmaking and related digital or written media work.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Demonstrate originality in the application of film and media knowledge within production or critical work, to innovate and problem-solve through creative or critical practice.
P2	Apply research skills to critically analyse film and related media such as constructing research questions, and employing appropriate research methods, frameworks and data to inform filmmaking practice and its evaluation.
P3	Create distinctive screen and/or written work, deploying cutting-edge techniques and digital technologies.

P4	Arrange your practice in ways that show independence, self-discipline, resilience and reflexivity, to create for diverse platforms and audiences.
P5	Evidence standards of professional engagement, entrepreneurial skills and conduct interpreting a remit and designing creative, ethical solutions to a deadline.

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Act independently to design and manage supervised, self-directed projects to a professional or high academic level, using initiative to resolve problems, and demonstrate transferable skills of decision-making in complex contexts, including technical, crew-based, creative and managerial.
T2	Lead and collaborate productively in team contexts, demonstrating resilience and the capacity for development through evaluation by self and others.
T3	Support creative output by adhering diligently to the parameters of a set brief, and to appropriate citation methods.
T4	Use written, oral, and mediated forms of communication to express ideas with clarity and efficacy to specialist and diverse general audiences.
T5	Support your own independent learning, studying self-reflectively to advance your professional and academic knowledge and understanding and gain technical, creative and critical skills.

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. On this MA Filmmaking programme, attributes of knowledge and its application and creativity are developed as students gain key skills for employment in the film and media industries. Taught by experienced media professionals, students are introduced to fundamental and advanced creative camera techniques and to camera peripherals. Creative and technical areas of advanced editing and post production are explored, including software, and standards for media production delivery and workflows. Screenwriting, writing a professional treatment and freelance writing skills may be studied, with script and screen analysis. They may opt to study techniques of virtual production that will prepare them for a crucial, developing area of the industry (K1-5). Students apply their studies to initiate and create a short film among other practical and creative or critical briefs (C1-5, T1-2). Students collaborate throughout on creative production work, enhancing the attributes of leadership and self-development. These are also developed through option modules that include the practice-based study of creative and organisational roles such as that of the director. Research, practical decision-making and self-reflection contribute to social and ethical awareness and responsibility (P1-5, T3-5).

4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

Students must have a strong GCSE profile, including English and Maths at Grade C, or equivalent. Other qualifications, including overseas, may be considered. Applicants for whom English is a second language should have achieved IELTS 6 or equivalent for entry into Level 4.

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course. Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

Pathway 1 or stand-alone course [add further tables for each additional pathway]

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Level 7	<p>Core modules:</p> <p>MED7001 Advanced Technical Production Skills (20 credits) MED7002 Producing & Directing (20 credits)</p> <p>Extended Independent Work Module:</p> <p>MED7004A/B Major Film Independent Project (60 credits) – Constrained option module</p> <p>Option modules (Choose 4 of the following 20 credit modules):</p> <p>MED7012 Production Management MED7007 Feature Film Treatment & Script MED7008 Short Form Film Production – Drama MED7009 Short Form Film Production – Factual MED7005 Promotional Video MED7010 Entrepreneurship & Employability</p>	<p>Postgraduate Certificate Screenwriting</p> <p>Postgraduate Diploma Screenwriting</p>

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching approaches used throughout the MA Filmmaking programme will encourage you to be actively involved in your learning and to co-operate with other students. We aim to give you prompt feedback on your learning as well as opportunities to reflect upon and learn from that feedback.

You will be actively involved in a range of learning, teaching and assessment approaches as part of MA Filmmaking. Such active approaches aim to put you at the centre of your learning, so you are involved and engaged in all aspects of your assessment and learning. Your programme will require your active participation in learning activities and engagement with your fellow students both individually and collaboratively, working and learning with other students as part of a small group. Learning activities may also occur both within and outside the classroom.

Your learning will also be supported by technology. Increasingly your tutors will be using existing and emerging learning technologies to engage you in e-learning activities. Your programme will be facilitated using a variety of media and online tools (podcasts, wikis, etc) which will allow you flexible access to a diverse range of online resources, quizzes and learning materials as well as collaborative tools with which you can engage and learn with your peers. Not confined by the time and space associated with traditional teaching methods you may take part in online discussions and learning activities from wherever you are studying. Your tutors will provide any support you may need whilst learning online. By engaging with e-learning you will also be developing skills which are essential for your learning and are also highly valued by employers. These include but are not limited to working flexibly, communication, understanding of IT, team working and creating shared understandings based on quality resources and access to global expertise.

Assessment

As per the teaching and learning strategy, the specific assessment methods are determined at modular level, but are designed to reflect the course aims and learning outcomes, to equip students with industry knowledge and experience, academic and cognitive, and critical and transferrable skills, which will create culturally aware, prepared and responsive graduates for an inclusive and socially conscious film and tv industry. Assessments are based on practical and written assignments.

Assessment is an integral part of the education process, promoting learning by providing a focus for consolidating, applying, and demonstrating understanding of the subject matter. The MA Filmmaking summative assessment regime essentially measures and grades learner development and achievement in relation to the intended Learning Outcomes. It also generates feedback information for learners about the strengths and weaknesses in their work, with tutors affirming what learners have done well whilst giving constructive and encouraging advice about areas requiring reflection and further improvement.

In fact, tutor feedback on formal assessment elements is just part of the ongoing dialogue with learners about their learning and personal development. Tutors will offer learners

frequent opportunities to discuss their progress, where their work can be examined and reviewed, including the evaluation of plans and drafts for assignments – practical or written - prior to submission. This supportive engagement helps to clarify what “good performance” is, with reference to published criteria and expected standards; it also encourages, motivates, and directs learners towards achieving their full potential.

Different strategies for timely advice and effective feedback will be adopted, according to what is fit-for-purpose for learners and modules. For instance: good or bad examples of previous student work not only give learners clues about appropriate content, structure and presentation of assignments but also highlight common mistakes and omissions; coursework portfolios represent a collection of structured activities completed over a period of time with regular interactions with the tutor; individual and group tutorials; practising presentations and pitches with other learners can invite peer review; group discussions can promote reflection and collaborative learning; audio and video recordings can be used at various points to explain topics and to give guidance; other technology (such as the VLE) can facilitate information sharing, and support learning and collaboration.

Contact Hours

You can expect to receive up to 12 hours of scheduled learning activities per week. This may include lectures, seminars, workshops or work placement hours. A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- *Academic Assessment Regulations*, accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (<https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice>)

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on university regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling

- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on university processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies - https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-communication-media-film-and-cultural-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=28e2cb81_4 – see detailed mapping below.
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy, Impact 2022

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)				Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Benchmark / Standard requirement																			
Awareness of the history and context of their				X			X	X											X

particular objects of study																		
Knowledge of appropriate research practices, procedures and traditions, and some awareness of their strengths and limitations			X	X		X	X	X							X			X
Knowledge of a range of texts, genres, aesthetic forms and cultural practices, and the ability to produce close and informed analysis of these			X			X	X	X										
Engagement with forms of critical analysis, argument and debate, expressed through an appropriate command of oral, written and other forms of communication		X					X										X	
Understanding of production processes and professional practices within media, cultural and communicative industries	X	X				X		X				X	X	X				
Critically informed competencies in the management and operation of		X	X		X		X	X		X	X						X	

production technologies, procedures and processes																			
The ability to engage with and to advance creative processes in one or more forms of media or cultural production	X		X				X	X											X
Knowledge of a range of communicative situations and cultural practices, along with the ability to produce detailed analyses of these, and to make comparisons and connections			X	X			X		X		X	X		X	X				X
The ability to consider critical, ethical, and analytical views other than their own, and exercise a degree of independent and informed critical judgement in analysis					X	X	X				X			X					
The ability to work across a variety of group and independent modes of study, and within these to demonstrate flexibility, creativity and the capacity for	X				X						X					X			

critical self- reflection																			
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Option modules (Choose 3 of the following 20 credit modules):

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Module Code (Core)																				
Level 7																				
Advanced Technical Production Skills	x	x								x			x			x				
Producing & Directing	x	x			x	x	x	x			x		x			x	x		x	
Major Film Independent Project				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						x		x
Module Code (Optional)																				
Production Management	x	x			x		x			x				x	x	x	x		x	
Short Form Narrative Feature Film Treatment & Script	x		x	x		x				x	x		x	x		x			x	x
Short Film Production – Drama	x	x	x			x				x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	
Short Form Film Production – Factual	x	x	x			x				x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	
Promotional Video	x	x	x			x				x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Entrepreneurship & Employability		x	x							x				x	x				x	x