

Programme Specification

Every taught course of study leading to a UAL award is required to have a Programme Specification. This summarises the course aims, learning outcomes, teaching, learning and assessment methods, and course structure. Programme Specifications are developed through course validation and are formally approved by UAL Validation Sub Committee (VSC). They are available to prospective students through the course web page, and must be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency of information (for example, following any minor modification or local developments).

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London (UAL)
Teaching Institution	London College of Communication
Final Award	BA (Hons) Film Practice
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement	Film Practice
Date of production/revision	July 2016

BA (Hons) Film Practice has been developed for students with a passion for independent cinema, both documentary and fiction, who want a hands-on, industry-oriented programme and a syllabus with a strongly practical emphasis in digital production. Students will be introduced to professional models of practice in the various disciplines of production and gain insight into how those disciplines contribute to a shared cinematic syntax.

A compact theoretical programme underscores all the practical elements of the course and offers a context for creative minds to examine those forces that have shaped the world in which we live. By exploring the movements that have defined contemporary cinema, you will be better placed to re-define it as future practitioners.

The course places a heavy emphasis on teamwork and eschews the auteur model of production, in favour of a model better reflecting professional realities wherein all departments collaborate to realise a shared vision.

With work-placements (WBL) in the second year, a dedicated screenwriting / documentary development unit and a minimum of five productions throughout the course, the syllabus offers a generous practical bias.

The course has been designed to reduce the gap between professional and educational spheres and promotes 'story-telling' as a fundamental function for all disciplines within the shared endeavor of film production. In so doing reflects commercial realities within the wider industry.

Course Aims

This course aims to:

- Offer specialised study in the creative, theoretical and technical aspects of digital film production.
- Promote collaboration and a sense of shared endeavour in the production of original works of fiction and documentary film
- Promote the emergence of dynamic communities of practice dedicated to that shared endeavour and empower a new generation of filmmakers to make their mark on the world
- Develop transferable problem-solving, team-building and interpersonal skills through extended film projects.
- Embrace cultural diversity in all its' aspects.
- Develop intellectual literacy through creative and scholastic writing, debates and seminars and to develop original thoughts, views and ideas capable of challenging pre-conceived notions and hegemonic paradigms.
- Understand the role of moving image as a force for communication and the filmmaker's responsibility, both socially and ethically in contemporary society.

Course Outcomes

The outcomes that you will have demonstrated upon completion of the course, are (the applicable university marking criteria are in brackets at the end of each course outcome):

Apply a range of specialist creative technical and key skills, producing informed and considered solutions to specific problems in film production & criticism. **(Technical Competence); (Subject Knowledge); (Experimentation)**

Evaluate your filmmaking practice within a critical, historical, and aesthetic framework. **(Analysis)**

Work confidently and with ethical responsibility with culturally diverse crews from the UK and overseas. **(Independent and/or Collaborative Professional Working)**

Apply transferable skills relevant to a range of creative industries and produce work within given production constraints and with defined roles and responsibilities. **(Personal and Professional Development)**

Produce coherent written and verbal presentations based in research and argument, and engage in constructive and informed debate about both film practice and criticism, drawing on a wide range of film genres. **(Research);**

(Communication and Presentation)

Demonstrate an informed awareness of the contemporary context of film production and better appreciate the power of the medium as a transformative force for social change. **(Subject Knowledge)**

Progress to professional film practice or postgraduate study. **(Personal and Professional Development)**

Learning and Teaching Methods:

- Lectures/large group learning: the main areas of theory and its practical applications will be covered in a planned series of tutor-led sessions.
- Workshop & seminar learning: practical sessions that will enable the student to experiment with a skill or technique relevant to the area of study. Students will be able to share their understanding with others and obtain guidance from lecturers to identify solutions to practical or theoretical problems.
- Academic tutorials: individual assistance is provided by lecturers to assist students with difficulties in their understanding and practical application of theory and skills. This is important for clarifying the requirements for assessed work.
- Self-directed learning: independent study undertaken by the student to research, write and prepare assignments both practical and theoretical, and to extend their knowledge and understanding. This can be undertaken at home or using college facilities.
- Outside speakers and visits: these provide students with a perspective of contemporary issues and recent events.
- Assessed assignments: these assess the student's attainment of the learning outcomes and develop the key skills that will form an important aspect of their learning. The completion of assignment briefs are therefore regarded as a method.

Assessment Methods:

BA (Hons) Film Practice places a high emphasis on collaborative skills and practical assessment is designed to promote teamwork. We therefore employ a range of assessment activities and criteria to ensure that you have the opportunity to develop and demonstrate the broad range of skills and knowledge necessary to progress in the workplace.

To that end, staff will consider creative endeavour, technical achievement and collaborative qualities / professionalism (production skills) when marking your

practical work. We employ both weighted and holistic approaches to assessment where appropriate (see below).

Your theoretical work is assessed individually throughout, but practical work will be balanced between group output and your individual contribution.

First year

In the first year all practice is assessed in a formative 'crit' environment, whereby production teams present their films to staff and peers in the intimate screening facility in MLG06. The work generates debate and students receive immediate verbal feedback from staff and peers. Self-assessment and peer assessment forms further inform staff of individual strengths and weaknesses, but all work receives a group mark. The only exception to this is when an individual has significantly failed to contribute. Exceptional contributions will be recognised by both staff and students, but these achievements will be reflected in the overall mark awarded to the whole team.

Second year

In the second year your practical work will be marked through a combination of both group work and individual contribution, in recognition of your developing understanding of those individual technical, creative and production skills that lie at the heart of the collaborative process and those specific specialisms that you have undertaken.

Third year

In the third and final year, all work is necessarily marked individually, but general professionalism and those collaborative production skills that you have been developing, will still be measured (production skills).

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

- The College Learning and Teaching Strategy
- The College Assessment Strategy
- The College approach to Personal and Professional Development
- The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
- University of the Arts London Level Descriptors
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- QAA Film Production Benchmark statement
- Course forums whereby students on similar courses had direct input into course design and structure
- Industry panel feedback

Programme Summary

Programme structures, features, units, credit and award requirements:

In common with all courses at the University of the Arts London this course is credit rated. Each year of study requires the successful attainment of 120 credits.

To progress onto the following year, students must attain all 120 credits from the previous level.

A detailed summary of the units and their credit weighting is set out in the course diagram (below).

An award of Certificate in Higher Education may be awarded on successful completion of year 1 and Diploma in Higher Education at the end of year 2.

Distinctive features of the course:

- A highly vocational and hands-on programme of study in creative, technical, commercial and practical aspects of digital film production will enable students to develop and expand their potential as creative practitioners who can operate within a variety of disciplines and produce original work within a highly competitive sector.
- The pedagogical rationale that underpins the learning ethos of this course is expressed through the fostering of communities of practice (CoP's) engaged in practice-based learning on extended collaborative projects
- A contextual studies programme tailored to meet widening participation remits, engenders a genuinely diverse student cohort. The syllabus is not cine-centric, but also offers an introduction to a wide range of historical, philosophical and social thinking, offering HE progression opportunities to candidates without a previous academic profile.
- Core cinematic theory in the second year with students enjoying a century of cinema from across the globe.
- All practical teaching staff maintain a professional profile, reducing the gap between educational and professional spheres.
- Visiting industry professionals teach and mentor students in every aspect of production from development to distribution. This will go well beyond the classical cinematographers, editors, etc. associated with undergrad film schools, and include screenwriters, development executives, talent agents, exhibitors, etc.
- A work based learning programme celebrated as an exemplar of good practice at both IoE and DoE encourages second year students to establish links and develop close working relationships with future employers. While a wider ongoing programme of placements within organisations such as The Metropolitan Police Film Unit and the Southwark Film Office, offer unique opportunities to develop professional practice for location filming nationally.
- A dedicated screenwriting and documentary development programme in the second year offers ALL students the chance to develop stories with professional script-editors and documentarists.

- Practical workshops delivered to no less than half the cohort at any one time preserving a distinctive course identity and cohesive sense of purpose.
- Curriculum synergy with both BA (Hons) Live Events and Television and BA (Hons) Sound Arts courses, encourage students to collaborate on productions in year two and three, whereby students on sister courses support Film Practice productions through art department and musical score.
- Major Projects in the final year may be commissioned within a unique scheme whereby students could work with a range of non-commercial companies within the sector, community organisations and charitable trusts, on a commission-led final film. This non-commercial commission would provide budgets for grad films in a genuinely professional environment.
- Industry panel of contributing individuals and participating companies will meet regularly to develop the programme through minor modifications in line with contemporary realities within the sector, ensuring that the course continues to offer a rigorous and focused curriculum that reflects the strategies, disciplines and realities of contemporary professional digital film production.
- Classes in specialist disciplines including directing, assistant directing, producing, production design, cinematography, editing, VFX, sound design, screenwriting, documentary research.
- A Central London location near the BFI/NFT, Tate Modern, Cinema Museum and Kubrick Archive within the UAL Special Collections Centre.
- Industry standard HD digital technologies throughout using current industry standard software.
- Finishing suites including picture grading, audio mixing and foley studio and weekly use of a high-end surround sound projection theatre.

Recruitment and Admissions

Admission Policy/Selection Criteria

The course is expected to appeal to students with a strong interest in film production who may want to pursue a career in the independent sector or further study in the field at post-graduate level.

Entry Requirements

For admission to the BA (Hons) Film Practice course, applicants normally need a combination of any of the following:

- 80 UCAS tariff points or above which equals two (or more) A-Level/AVCE passes with two at grade **B** or above, with at least three GCSE passes (A-C).
- An Edexcel GNVQ at advanced level (or equivalent) at merit level
- Alternatively, you will be considered if you have achieved 1 subject at GCE Advanced level and Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, supported by passes in three other subjects at GCSE Grade C or above. In addition, the University of the Arts London Awarding Body Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design will be considered
- We also accept people with the equivalent qualifications obtained through a National Diploma, Access, NVQ and a variety of other pre-University level qualifications including International and European Baccalaureate. Other qualifications, including overseas, may be considered;
- We also accept those with relevant professional and vocational qualifications
- Exceptionally, applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered if the course team judges the application demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might be demonstrated for example by related academic or work experience, the quality of the personal statement, a strong academic or other professional reference or a combination of these factors
- The subjects the Course Team will be looking for in your application are wide ranging: your A levels (or equivalents) may include English, History, Media, Business, Art and Design or other Social Science/Art related subjects

Language requirements (International/EU)

- International and EU Students: In the case of Applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) is required overall with a minimum of 5.5 in each of the four skills
- If your first language is not English you should check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English. Further information is available on the Language Requirements page: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/language-centre/language-requirements>
- International Applicants – visit the Support for International Students page: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/lcc/courses/support-for-international-students/> for contact details for International Admissions

Study Abroad Applicants

- International undergraduate students can apply to join this BA course for a period of up to three terms as a Study Abroad student. Please visit the [Study Abroad website](#) details on how to apply or contact the Study Abroad office:

T: +44 (0) 207 514 2249

E: studyabroad@arts.ac.uk

Or for further information on Study Abroad and Erasmus schemes, please follow the links below:

UAL Erasmus and Exchanges: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/erasmus--non-erasmus-exchanges/>

Study Abroad: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/study-abroad/>

Deferred entry

For Home/EU applicants, the Course Leader will determine whether deferred places are available for the course. If you wish to defer your place, it is advisable to indicate this on your application form and/or discuss this with the admissions team and course leader before/after applying at the earliest opportunity. In all cases, deferred places will only be held for one year.

International applicants are normally permitted to defer entry to any programme of study for one year only, after which they will be asked to re-apply.

Minimum UAL Entry Requirements

To see the University's Regulations on Admissions, please go to the following link: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/academic-regulations/course-regulations/1-admissions>

Admission Procedures

The selection procedures for the course adhere to the Equal Opportunities policy of the University of the Arts London.

- Applications are normally made through UCAS.
- All applicants will be sent an application pack and asked to complete two short exercises and a short personal statement.
- Suitable candidates will be invited for interview where they will have the opportunity to show examples of film work.

Student Selection Criteria / what do we look for?

All applications will be considered by the course team and offers will be made based upon the following selection criteria.

- 1) The quality of an applicant's work to date.

- 2) Originality within the two application exercises and evidence that an applicant has some appreciation of both character and narrative.
- 3) The applicant's suitability as evidenced in their personal statement
- 4) The applicant's qualifications (or projected results).
- 5) The applicant's academic or personal reference.
- 6) The applicants knowledge and understanding of the course (a visit to an open day is recommended).

The personal statement is a very important part of your application and should demonstrate to the team that you are genuinely engaged in documentary and/or fiction film production and that you have thought very carefully about why you want to study on this course.

You should take great care when writing your personal statement to ensure that it is well written, clear and free of any spelling mistakes. It is your biggest chance to impress the team by demonstrating your appreciation of what the course can offer you and how you feel it might help you in the future. It is also an opportunity for you to state what you feel you would bring to the course.

Portfolio Advice

When coming for interview, students must bring examples of their work on USB and/or in portfolio form. This can consist of photographs, sketchbooks and other two dimensional work. It may be records of sculpture or set design and students with an interest in sound design, should bring examples of their audio work. However, students are very rarely considered without examples of their film work to date. They should prepare up to 3 minutes of footage for interview, and are advised to show sections of completed film, rather than a specially edited show reel.

Interview Advice

Students will be expected to demonstrate a strong interest in and appreciation of the subject area; an understanding of the need for a critical and analytical approach to the area of study, an approach suited to the demands of the course and the projected career futures. You will be expected to be able to refer to films that you love and that have inspired you.

If you are invited for interview you can prepare yourself in advance by thinking of questions that you may have for the course leaders. The interview will be relatively informal and will take place, at the LCC.

Students are admitted to the course having fulfilled the necessary entry requirements and on the basis of their potential to benefit from the programme.

Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered if the course team judges the application demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might be demonstrated by, for example, related academic or work experience.

Course Diagram | BA (Hons) Film Practice

		Autumn Term (Term 1 11 Weeks)											Spring Term (Term 2 10 weeks)										Summer Term (Term 3 10 weeks)									
		week 1	week 2	week 3	week 4	week 5	week 6	week 7	week 8	week 9	week 10	week 11	week 12	week 13	week 14	week 15	week 16	week 17	week 18	week 19	week 20	week 21	week 22	week 23	week 24	week 25	week 26	week 27	week 28	week 29	week 30	week 31
Year 1	Freshers Week	Introduction to Film Practice (20 credit)										Sound Design (20 credits)										Digital Production (40 credits)										
		Contextual Studies 1: Modernism (20 credits)										Contextual Studies 1 cont'd										Contextual Studies 2: The Global Village (20 credits)										
Year 2	Induction Week	Development (20 credits)										Development cont'd										Story (20 credits)										
		WBL										Collaborative Unit (20 credits)										Work Based Learning (20 credits)										
												Contextual Studies 3: Creative Intent & Genre (40 credits)										Contextual Studies 3: Creative Intent & Genre cont'd										
Year 3	Induction Week	Major Project (80 credits)										Major Project cont'd										Major Project cont'd										
		Dissertation (40 credits)										Dissertation cont'd										Dissertation cont'd										

S = Summative Assessment Point (Your Assignment Brief will give you details on the deadline date, time and how to hand in your assignment)

Formative assessment points will be indicated by your tutor in your unit handbooks or assignment brief