

BA (Hons) Film Practice

Programme Specification 2020/21

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	Screen
Programme	Film and Television (L043)
Course Credits	360
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	3 years
Valid From	September 1st 2020
Course Entry Requirements	<p>Home/EU/International</p> <p>The course team welcomes applicants from a broad range of backgrounds from all over the world. The course attracts students who apply direct from A-level (or equivalent) or from Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, or other art or design courses, as well as mature students who may have previously worked in industry.</p> <p>The standard entry requirements for this course are as follows:</p> <p>80 UCAS tariff points, which can be made up of one or a combination of the following accepted full level 3 qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Levels at grade C or above (preferred subjects include: English; History; Media; Business; Art and Design, or other subjects within Social Sciences). • Pass at Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (Level 3 or 4) • Merit, Merit, Pass at BTEC Extended Diploma (preferred subjects: Art and Design, Media). • Merit at UAL Extended Diploma. • Access to Higher Education Diploma (preferred subject: Digital and Creative Media, Film and Production). • OR equivalent EU/International qualifications, such as International Baccalaureate Diploma at 24 points minimum <p>And 3 GCSE passes at grade 4 or above (grade A*-C).</p>

	<p>APEL - Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</p> <p>Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered in exceptional cases. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related academic or work experience • The quality of the personal statement • A strong academic or other professional reference • A combination of these factors. <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p>English Language Requirements (International/EU)</p> <p>IELTS level 6.0 or above, with at least 5.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Please check our main English language requirements page for more information.</p> <p>All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language you will be asked to provide evidence of your English language ability when you enrol.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>The portfolio/body of work, along with the details on your UCAS application (including the academic reference and your personal statement) will be assessed against the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence of an informed interest in and appreciation of the subject area ▪ An understanding of the need for a critical and analytical approach (through research and practice) to this area of study ▪ Evidence of research and development of ideas through practice to achieve specific outcomes ▪ Quality of ideas and thought processes in the approach to and production of your finished work
Scheduled Learning and Teaching	<p>During your course you will engage with learning and teaching that includes both online and face-to-face modes.</p>

The advertised scheduled activity for the course will be delivered through a combination of live, synchronous and asynchronous on-line learning. This is often described as blended learning.

Definitions of our learning and teaching modes can be found [here](#).

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	22
Awards	Credits
Certificate of Higher Education	120

Year 2

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	17
Awards	Credits
Diploma of Higher Education	240

Year 3

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	13
Awards	Credits
Bachelor of Arts	360

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Offer specialised study in the creative, theoretical and technical aspects of digital film production.
Aim	Promote collaboration and a sense of shared endeavour in the production of original works of fiction and documentary film
Aim	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
Aim	Develop transferable problem-solving, team-building and interpersonal skills through extended film projects
Aim	Embrace cultural diversity in all its' aspects.
Aim	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.
Aim	Understand the role of the moving image as a force for communication and the filmmaker's responsibility, both socially and ethically in contemporary society.
Outcome	Apply a range of specialist creative technical and key skills, producing informed and considered solutions to specific problems in film production & criticism. (Realisation, Knowledge, Enquiry, Process)
Outcome	Evaluate your filmmaking practice within a critical, historical, and aesthetic framework. (Enquiry)
Outcome	Work confidently and with ethical responsibility with culturally diverse crews from the UK and overseas. (Process)
Outcome	Apply transferable skills relevant to a range of creative industries and produce work within given production constraints and with defined roles and responsibilities. (Process and Realisation)
Outcome	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. (Enquiry, Communication)
Outcome	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. (Knowledge)
Outcome	Progress to professional film practice or postgraduate study. (Realisation)

	Distinctive Features
1	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.
2	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
3	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.
4	Core cinematic theory in the second year with students enjoying a century of cinema from across the globe.
5	All practical teaching staff maintain a professional profile, reducing the gap between educational and professional spheres.
6	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
7	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.
8	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.
9	Curriculum synergy with a number of courses within UAL encouraging cross collaboration
10	Classes in specialist disciplines including directing, assistant directing, producing, production design, cinematography, editing, VFX, sound design, screenwriting, documentary research.
11	A central London location near the BFI/NFT, Tate Modern, Cinema Museum and Kubrick Archive within the UAL Special Collections Centre.

Course Detail

The BA (Hons) Film Practice course 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 Film Practice 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. Assessment weighting reflects this, with a ratio of 70:30 practice to theory.

We are committed to teaching, learning and assessment designed to enhance, nurture and recognise your employability, individuality and entrepreneurship.

Enterprise and employability within a creative education in arts, design and media is about the integration of practice, behaviours and qualities that enable you to develop and sustain a rewarding professional life.

The curriculum is designed to communicate and open up the possibilities of your own creativity by developing your career aspirations and professional awareness for enterprise and employability, whether for the creative and cultural sector or beyond.

Enterprise and employability is about more than getting a job, it is about enabling you to find, make and take opportunities and to meet your aspirations in a changing world, whether as a successful creative professional, innovator, practitioner, employee and/or entrepreneur in the UK and globally.

Course Units

Each year of your course represents a different level of study (Year One = Level Four; Year Two = Level Five; Year Three = Level Six). The years are divided into units, with a maximum of five units and a minimum of two units per year.

Each unit is credit-rated, the minimum unit size is 20 credits. There are always 120 credits per year, and 360 credits make up the BA (Honours) degree.

Each unit descriptor indicates the number of learning hours associated with that unit. The proportion of hours devoted to types of learning will vary according to the purpose and nature of the unit.

Initially emphasis is placed on guided learning, experimentation and gaining understanding of the multifaceted nature of the subject. The emphasis shifts as you take responsibility for directing your own learning, moving towards the ultimate goal of being an independent learner and a practitioner.

The years are divided into units, which expand with each progressive year.

Year 1: 5 units

Year 2 : 5 units

Year 3: 2 units

In the first year, the emphasis is placed on directed learning and you will receive a higher proportion of contact hours with staff. As you progress, the student cohort develops its own distinct communities of practice (CoP), this emphasis shifts towards directing your own learning and moves towards graduation, when you achieve the ultimate goal of being an independent learner.

However as you progress into specialism(s) of your choice, there is more specialist training in small groups and so though you may be taught less in overall hours, contact is more focussed and staff hours are more intensive.

Under the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications the Levels for a BA are: Level 4 (which is stage 1 of the course), Level 5 and Level 6.

There is a progression point at the end of each level and in order to progress, all units of the preceding level must normally be passed.

If you are unable to continue or decide to exit the course, a Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE) will be awarded following the successful completion of Level 4, or a Diploma in Higher Education (Dip HE) following the successful completion of Level 5.

In order to be awarded a BA (Hons) you must successfully complete 360 credits. The final award is either comprised of the marks from Level 6 units only, weighted according to their credits, or the highest graded 100 credits from level 5, at a weighting of 30%, and all 120 credits at level 6 with a weighting of 70%. Your classification is based on the highest result.

Learning and Teaching Methods

Lectures/large group learning: the main areas of theory and its application will be covered in a planned series of tutor-led sessions.

Workshop & seminar learning: 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.

Outside speakers: 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 practice 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 endeavor, technical achievement and collaborative qualities / professionalism (production skills) when marking your practice work. We employ both weighted and holistic approaches to assessment where appropriate (see below). Your theoretical work is assessed individually throughout, but practice 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. 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 practice 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

Course Diagram

Autumn Term (Term 1 9 weeks)									Spring Term (Term 2 11 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
Level 4 – Year 1																													
Introduction to Film Practice																				Digital Production (40 credits)									
Contextual Studies 1: Classical and Modernist Film Forms (20 credits)									S																				
									Sound Design (20 credits)											S									
																				Contextual Studies 2: Contemporary Film and Ideology (20 credits)									
																				S									
Level 5 – Year 2																													
Development (20 credits)									Development Cont'd											Story (20 credits)									
									S											S									
									Collaborative Project (20 credits)											S									
									Work Based Learning (20 credits)											S									
									Contextual Studies 3: Creative Intent and Genre (40 credits)											Contextual Studies 3: Creative Intent and Genre Cont'd									
																				S									
Level 6 – Year 3																													
Major Project (80 credits)									Major Project Cont'd											Major Project Cont'd									
Pathway A: Dissertation (40 credits)									Dissertation Cont'd											S									
Pathway B: Dissertation (40 credits)									Dissertation Cont'd											S									
																				S									

The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable

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