MA Screenwriting

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	University of the Arts London
Programme	Film and Television (L043)
Course AOS Code	05057
FHEQ Level	Level 7 Masters
Course Credits	180
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	1 year
Valid From	September 1st 2019
QAA Subject Benchmark	Communication, media, film and cultural studies
Collaboration	N/A
UAL Subject Classification	Animation, interactive film and sound
JACS Code	W900 - Others in creative arts & design
UCAS Code	N/A
PSRB	N/A
Work placement offered	N/A
Course Entry Requirements	Applicants are expected to demonstrate a clear and passionate commitment to the medium of screenwriting together with their intent to extend their knowledge in this subject matter. Detail of prior experience and/or study are required to indicate a clear desire to write for film, television and radio and to successfully complete this programme of study. An applicant will be considered for admission if they have already achieved an educational level equivalent to an honours degree. It is preferable that you have a previous degree, but it is not essential. We also accept students

based on their writing talent and the work they submit during their application.

Educational level may be demonstrated by:

- Honours degree (named above);
- Possession of equivalent qualifications;
- Prior experiential learning, the outcome of which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required;
- Or a combination of formal qualifications and experiential learning which, taken together, can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required.

APEL (Accreditation of Prior Learning)

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:

- Related academic or work experience
- The quality of the personal statement
- A strong academic or other professional reference
- OR a combination of these factors

Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.

Language requirements

All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language, we strongly recommend you let us know your English language test score in your application. If you have booked a test or are awaiting your results, please indicate this in your application. When asked to upload a CV as part of your application, please include any information about your English test score.

	• IELTS 7.0 (or equivalent) is required, with a minimum of 6.0 in each of the four skills. • If your first language is not English, you can check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English on the [Language Requirements page.](#) For further details regarding international admissions and advice please visit the [International Applications page](#).
Selection Criteria	• A clear and passionate commitment to the medium of screenwriting, together with your intent to extend your knowledge in this subject matter. • Detailed prior experience and/or study required to indicate a clear desire to write for film, television and radio and to successfully complete this programme of study.

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	21
Awards	**Credits**
Postgraduate Certificate	60
Postgraduate Diploma	120

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Provide you with the opportunity to develop as a professional practitioner within the expanded field of scriptwriting.
Aim	Develop your screenwriting knowledge, skills and distinctive writing style in the creation of original screen work from conception through to a finished draft screenplay.
Aim	Develop a critical awareness in the use of story, character, structure, genre and theme in narrative development.
Aim	Provide you with the opportunity to produce a portfolio of work that uses critical ideas to develop innovative and original practice.
Aim	Provide you with the opportunity to write across various mediums i.e. film, television and radio.
Aim	Develop your skills and knowledge of writing detailed analytical reports to industry standard plus develop skills to produce industry marketing / pitching documents.
Aim	Develop and build advanced self-directed and brief-led research strategies, methodologies and an academically rigorous approach to facilitate completion of a Major Project and to purse research into areas of special screenwriting interest.
Outcome	Demonstrate an understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of multi-medium advanced professional practice - namely writing for television, radio and film. (Enquiry, Knowledge, Process, Realisation, Communication).
Outcome	Demonstrate creative ability to take an initial idea and develop it through draft stages to a finished screenplay. (Realisation, Knowledge, Process, Enquiry, Realisation)
Outcome	Demonstrate the ability to evaluate your own and others work through the process of peer-review, critical analysis and evaluation-taking into account collaborative relationships and market needs. (Enquiry, Process)
Outcome	Demonstrate the ability to write a portfolio of treatments, proposals and screenplays and present these in a professional manner and form

	to agents and producers in identified markets. (Communication, Knowledge, Process, Realisation)
Outcome	Demonstrate a comprehensive critical understanding of industry needs and practice. (Enquiry, Knowledge, Communication, Process)
Outcome	Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements and present coherent arguments and advocate for particular creative decisions and directions. (Enquiry, Realisation, Process)
Outcome	Contextualise and critically evaluate screenwriting practice within the screen industry, analysing current and future developments. (Enquiry, Realisation, Process)
Outcome	Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level, demonstrating self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems in planning and executing a professional approach to screenwriting. (Realisation, Process)
Outcome	Plan and conduct detailed research for a fully developed Major Project, (a full length feature screenplay or pilot episodes for an original series or serial) which reflects a rigorous academically informed approach. (Enquiry, Knowledge, Realisation, Process)
Outcome	Understand the potential of a range of industry standard software to communicate, present and deliver narrative content. (Realisation, Communication, Process)

	Distinctive Features
1	The reputation of UAL - LCC, MA Screenwriting staff, the course and its alumni helps us to maintain strong links with industry, which allows many benefits for graduates. This takes the form of visiting speakers and strong links with production companies including Wall to Wall, Sky, Working Title, ITV, Tiger Aspect, Feelgood Fiction, BBC Film, BBC Drama, Trademark, Red Planet, Red Productions, World Productions and many more. MA Screenwriting are also in regular contact with high-end industry personnel such as David Parfitt, Timothy Burrell, Mark Burton, Jed Mecurio, John Yorke etc. plus many talent agencies e.g. The Agency, United Agents, Blake Friedmann, David Higham, Berlin Associates etc.
2	The course team is committed to exploring and maintaining professional business contacts - essential for the industry's awareness of the course and our students, and to ensure the success of MA Screenwriting events such as our 'Pitching to Producers' and 'Agents meet our Writers'. At these events many of the students are offered representation and some of the students' work is regularly picked up for future development.
3	As part of the course's industry knowledge, skills and methodologies there is active student participation with regard to industry contact. Each year the student cohort, with the Course Leader's guidance will organise an industry networking event 'Masterclub', where high-end industry personnel meet with current students and past alumni. The cohort team will also produce a newsletter 'Screenworks' for the industry, current students and alumni. These opportunities within MA Screenwriting to pitch projects to producers and agents within both TV, Film and Radio with the potential for projects and writers being picked up for development and representation.
4	The success and employability of MA Screenwriting's graduates speaks for itself with writers working in all aspects of film, television, radio, stage and also novel writing. Graduates are employed not only in the UK but also in Europe, around the world and even in Hollywood. Our current and past students are also regularly nominated for national and international awards and have indeed won critically acclaimed awards such as the Emmy Award, Page Award and the Palme d'Or. There has also been a recent Oscar nomination. The reputation of the course is based on the credentials of our alumni and is enhanced further by the level of past students' continued commitment to the course throughout their professional careers. A high percentage of students who have obtained commissions return as industry guest speakers or to teach on the course and thus ensure that there is a continual open channel between the ever-changing industry and our students. This in turn increases the graduates' career prospects.

5	The unique approach of the course lies in its combination of a theoretical framework, which is used to structure, develop and analyse screenworks, the use of workshop-based peer review, the analysis of contemporary practice and the process of developing and writing a number of scripts. This combination at postgraduate level ensures that you challenge contemporary theory and practice whilst engaging with the needs of current productions.
6	As an MA Screenwriting student you will develop and apply scriptwriting, script editing and script reading skills to a series of projects – which open many future career opportunities. In conjunction with this work you will develop a number of research and analytical strategies that can be applied to all future writing or creative projects. The course engages with the strongest point of entry into the industry for a new writer and this is focused on in writing for television and in particular writing for radio.
7	Another distinguishing feature of this postgraduate course is that all project work is practice based, with workshops embedding collaborative skills such as how to engage with other writers' work and engage with a diversity of opinions and cultural voices. For many, one of the most lasting impressions of the course will be the experience of the peer-to-peer review workshops, learning to engage with other writers' work and engage with a diversity of opinions on your own work. This set of skills opens many alternative career choices for graduates.
8	Working at postgraduate level you will be expected to timetable and manage your own learning. Your success or failure on the course will depend to a great extent on how rigorously and responsibly you take this self-direction and how well you respond to tutorial and workshop advice. The level of self-management required of you will increase throughout the course.
9	You will develop a portfolio that matches that of industry expectations. The aim is to keep this level of achievement to maintain MA Screenwriting's reputation within the creative industries.
10	MA Screenwriting's workshop programme is run by a team of highly qualified tutors, comprising of practicing screenwriters, script editors and industry practitioners, many of who have won critical acclaim, national and international awards.

Course Detail

The Master of Arts course in Screenwriting is a full-time practice led course that mirrors the industry closely as it explores both the theory and practice of scriptwriting across a range of principles. The course will provide you with the passion and opportunity to develop the abilities, knowledge and skills you will need for a career in scriptwriting. You will be able to articulate these creative strengths at a professional level with a strong understanding of industrial needs and process.

The course is aimed at writers with ambition to write for film, television and/or radio. The design of the course meets the terms and conditions for the award of Master of Arts in Screenwriting as approved by The University of the Arts London. MA Screenwriting embraces diversity and will enable you to discover your individual writing voice, whilst allowing you to understand and engage with the strengths and needs of diversity in both opinion and cultural background. MA Screenwriting students have the ability to bring international stories to an international stage.

MA Screenwriting has been at the forefront of developing careers in screenwriting since 1992 and is one of the longest standing postgraduate programmes in this subject in the UK. The standard of our students' work places the course as one of the top in the field and is well known throughout the industry.

Based upon theoretical and practical frameworks it is one of the most successful screenwriting courses in the U.K. On joining the course you will develop and apply craft skills to a series of projects. In conjunction with this work you will develop a number of research and analytical strategies that can be applied in all your future projects. At each stage of development, your work will be reviewed by your peers in a structured workshop programme. This includes the reading of each other's work and the writing of analytical reader reports. The combination of workshops-based peer review, reflective analysis, research and the study of film, television and radio writing provide the course with a distinctive approach and profile. This combination at postgraduate level ensures all students engage with and challenge contemporary theory and practice while engaging with the creative process of writing a number of screenplays. As a result, the course has helped students win numerous UK and international awards and has established an outstanding position as a source of professional scriptwriters for film, television and radio.

As a student on MA Screenwriting, you will develop your original creative voice with an emphasis on critical engagement with both the discipline and your potential worldwide audience. You will investigate different forms of narrative and you will use critical analysis to produce self-directed work. You will engage with the essential process of writing, rewriting, peer-to-peer review and the sounding out of ideas with experts in their field. Our aim is for you to use the course as a steppingstone towards your chosen career path.

Professional practice is further supported through the development of a strong portfolio of work that places you in a position to work as a scriptwriter across film, television and/or radio. The course supports you in progression to research at MPhil / PhD level as well as to advanced self-directed original practice.

The course has been designed to progress students through the various stages of scriptwriting from initial ideas, application of research, the parameters of production, to the preparation of proposals to industry standards. It also provides skill-building sessions in approaching and pitching to commissioning executive producers and agents, who you will have the opportunity to meet in your final term to pitch your major project.

On joining the course you will become a part of a community of writers with various levels of skill and proven ability who share a passion to communicate their ideas and recognise the need to embrace a theoretical and practical process of development as a screenwriter. You will acquire a body of theoretical knowledge and a set of creative, analytical, reflective and strategic skills. This course has been designed to closely replicate industry practice and ensure that all of these skills are developed and you will be able to engage at a professional level in your chosen areas of creativity and production. You will interact with tutors who are practicing screenwriters, engage in a programme of theory and analysis, and utilise research methods in the creation of individual pieces of work. You will also learn and practice the art of pitching, this is a major part of being a working screenwriter. The course also offers multi and varying writing exercises to support the theoretical side of the course. Putting your theory into practice is a great way to hone skills and imbed knowledge.

This combination of theoretical and creative practice, combined with contemporary experience of industrial practice, recommend the Master of Arts in Screenwriting as a unique postgraduate experience.

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.

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Course Units

Each course is divided into units, which are credit-rated. The minimum unit size is 20 credits and the maximum is 60 credits.

The MA Screenwriting course structure involves 7 units, totalling 180 credits. If you are unable to continue or decide to exit the course, there are two possible exit awards; a **Postgraduate Certificate** will be awarded on successful completion of the first 60 credits and a **Postgraduate Diploma** will be awarded on successful completion of the first 120 credits.

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.

For more detailed information regarding your course's contact hours please check Moodle and 'My Contact Hours', which can be accessed through http://mycontacthours.arts.ac.uk/

In addition, your own personal timetable will be available each year from the beginning of term via your Moodle page https://mytimetable.arts.ac.uk/timetable_navigate/

Learning and Teaching Methods

• Workshops (involving critical peer-to-peer review of students' work in progress),
• Practical exercises (to test and support an in-depth understanding of the discipline relevant to the area of study)
• Lectures (on the craft elements of scriptwriting and these are delivered by the course

team and visiting speakers),
• Independent study (allowing students to engage in research, writing and other activities related to the course)
• Screenings
• Seminars and Tutorials (group or one-to-one sessions)

Assessment Methods

The above programme outcomes are assessed using the following assessment methods:

• Term 1 - Assessment will include a 10-minute screenplay, analytical reader reports, a theoretical analysis, industry knowledge, skills and methodologies.

• Term 2 - Assessment will include a 30-minute screenplay or radio play, analytical reader reports, a theoretical analysis, a collaborative unit.

• Term 3 - Assessment will include your original Major Project (Film or TV), reader reports, an industry pitching 'sales' documents, a critical reflection, research report/ dossier and a Major Project proposal documents.

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

• The Learning and Teaching policies of the University of the Arts London
• The College policies and initiatives
• Level descriptors
• Benchmark statements

Course Diagram

Course Diagram | MA Screenwriting

Autumn Term (Term 1 | 11 Weeks)	Spring Term (Term 2 | 10 weeks)	Summer Term (Term 3 | 15 weeks)	Undergraduate Summer Period (14 weeks)	Autumn Term (Term 4 | 10 weeks)

Week 0, 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, week 32, week 33, week 34, week 35, week 36

Week 37, Week 38, Week 39, Week 40, Week 41, Week 42, Week 43, Week 44, Week 45, Week 46, Week 47

Freshers Week — Start of Undergraduate Year

Christmas Break

Easter Break

Freshers week — Start of Undergraduate year

PG Shows

Autumn Term units:
- 1.1 Short Film: Process & Practice (20 credits) — S
- 1.2 Industry Knowledge/Skills and Methodologies (40 credits)

Spring Term units:
- 1.3 TV/Film/Radio: Adaptation - Existing Format - Process & Practice (20 credits)
- 1.4 TV/Film/Radio: Adaptation - Critical Analysis & Research Methodologies (20 credits)
- 1.2 Industry Knowledge/Skills and Methodologies cont'd
- 1.5 Collaborative Unit (20 credits) — S

Summer Term units:
- 1.3 TV/Film/Radio: Adaptation - Existing Format - Process & Practice cont'd — S
- 1.4 TV/Film/Radio: Adaptation - Critical Analysis & Research Methodologies cont'd — S
- 1.2 Industry Knowledge/Skills and Methodologies cont'd — S
- 1.6 Major Project: Applied Research (20 credits)
- 1.7 Major Project: Process and Practice (40 credits)

Undergraduate Summer Period:
- PG Summer Break Independent Study / Writing Up Period

Autumn Term (Term 4):
- PG Overlap Period with new year intake
- 1.6 Major Project: Applied Research cont'd — S
- 1.7 Major Project: Process and Practice cont'd — S

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

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