

MA Screenwriting

Programme Specification 2020/21

Full-time | 15 Months | September 2020 enrolment

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	Screen
Programme	Film and Television (L043)
FHEQ Level	Level 7 Masters
Course Credits	180
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	15 months
Valid From	September 1st 2020
Course Entry Requirements	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Educational level may be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Offers will be made based on the following selection criteria, which applicants are expected to demonstrate:

- 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
Scheduled Learning and Teaching	<p>During your course you will engage with learning and teaching that includes both online and face-to-face modes. 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.</p> <p>Definitions of our learning and teaching modes can be found here.</p>

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	20
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 pursue 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	<p>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, DLT and many more. MA Screenwriting are also in regular contact with high-end industry personnel such as David Parfitt, Jed Mecurio, Philippa Boyens, Eleanor Green etc. plus many talent agencies e.g. The Agency, United Agents, Blake Friedmann, David Higham, Berlin Associates etc.</p>
2	<p>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. These events create opportunities within MA Screenwriting for students to pitch their Major and Minor projects to producers and agents within both TV and Film with the potential for projects and writers being picked up for development and representation.</p>
3	<p>As part of the course's industry knowledge, skills and methodologies there is active student participation with regard to direct industry contact. Each year the student cohort will engage with industry personnel through one of the following: 'Masterclub' - with guidance from the Course Leader students will organise an industry networking event, where high-end industry personnel meet with current students and past alumni / 'Screenworks' - students will produce a newsletter for the industry, current students and alumni / 'Database' - students will produce a detailed database of current production companies, agents, competitions, writing opportunities in TV, Film, Radio, Theatre etc. / 'The Masters' - students will interview high level industry personal to get a greater understanding of how the industry works, especially around the world of writing for TV, Film, Radio, Theatre etc. These opportunities within MA Screenwriting to connect directly with high level industry personnel within TV, Film and Radio etc. will create greater opportunity to gain access into the industry.</p>
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	<p>detailed database of current production companies, agents, competitions, writing opportunities in TV, Film, Radio, Theatre etc. / 'The Masters' – students will interview high level industry personal to get a greater understanding of how the industry works, especially around the world of writing for TV, Film, Radio, Theatre etc. These opportunities within MA Screenwriting to connect directly with high level industry personnel within TV, Film and Radio etc. will create greater opportunity to gain access into the industry.</p>
5	<p>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.</p>
6	<p>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.</p>
7	<p>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.</p>
8	<p>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.</p>
9	<p>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.</p>
10	<p>MA Screenwriting's workshop programme is run by a team of highly qualified tutors, comprising of practicing screenwriters, script editors and industry</p>

practitioners, many of who have won critical acclaim, national and international awards.

Course Detail

MA Screenwriting at London College of Communication is one of the UK's leading film and TV scripting courses, with a strong reputation in the industry.

Graduates of MA Screenwriting have gone on to win numerous awards, both UK and international, work on major film projects in active development and are writing for a wide range of programmes currently being screened on UK television.

Leading the field, this industry-focused screenwriting course is aimed at developing writers for film, television and/or radio industries. The course will provide you with the opportunity to develop the abilities, knowledge and skills you will need for a career in scriptwriting.

What can you expect?

MA Screenwriting introduces you to the foundations of contemporary scriptwriting practice in a theoretical context.

You'll develop research methodologies that will become the foundation for future practice and analysis.

The course offers you the opportunity to study feature film, television and radio narrative, the development of a script from a short story and research, which lays the foundation for your major project.

You will also complete a collaborative unit that reflects your specialist interests in scriptwriting and related topics, whilst engaging with the need to understand and communicate with the industry you wish to work in.

In the last term of the course, you'll undertake a major project that allows you to focus on a specialist area of interest that you identified during your previous study.

You will write several drafts of an original screenplay for film or TV or a TV pilot episode(s) with format documents. In addition, you'll engage in peer-to-peer review and the writing of reader reports.

Mode of Study

MA Screenwriting is in Full Time mode which runs for 45 weeks over 15 months. You will be expected to commit 40 hours per week to study.

Course Units

Each course is divided into units, which are credit-rated. The minimum unit size is 20 credit and the maximum 60 credits. The MA course structure involves 5 units, totalling 180 credits.

Autumn, Term 1

Short Film: Process and Practice (40 credits)

Spring, Term 2

Industry Knowledge, Skills and Methodologies (20 credits)

TV / Film / Radio: Adaptation - Existing Format – Process and Practice (40 credits)

Collaborative Unit (20 credits)

Major Project - Process and Practice (60 credits)

Summer, Term 3

Industry Knowledge, Skills and Methodologies (continued)

TV / Film / Radio: Adaptation - Existing Format - Process and Practice (continued)

Major Project - Process and Practice (60 credits)

Autumn, Term 4

Major Project - Process and Practice (continued)

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.

Learning and Teaching Methods

- Workshops
- Practical exercises
- Lectures
- Independent study
- Screenings
- Seminars and tutorials

Assessment Methods

- Screenplay/radio play
- Analytical reader reports

- Theoretical analysis
- Collaborative unit
- Major project (film or tv)
- Industry pitching 'sales' documents
- Critical reflection, research report/ dossier

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

Level 7	
Week	Unit
1	Unit 1 Short Film: Process and Practice (40 credits)
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	Unit 2 Industry Knowledge / Skills and Methodologies (20 credits)
12	
13	
14	
15	Unit 3 TV / Film / Radio Adaption (40 credits)
16	
17	Unit 4 Collaborative Unit (20 credits)
18	
19	Unit 5 Major Project (60 credits)
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	PG Summer Break
26	
27	Freshers Week
28	
29	PG Overlap Period with new year intake
30	
31	
32	
33	
34	
35	PG Overlap Period with new year intake
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	PG Overlap Period with new year intake
42	
43	
44	
45	

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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