UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR:

MA ANIMATION

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20]

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each unit can be found in the Unit Descriptors.

Section A – Material Course Information

Validating Body	University for the Creative Arts[1]
Teaching Body	University for the Creative Arts
Final Award Title and Type	Master of Arts
Course Title	Animation

Course Location and Length	Campus: Farnham	Length: Full-time: 1 year Part-time: 2 years

Mode of Study	Full-time	✓	Part-time	✓

Period of Validation	2017/18 to 2021/22
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Not Applicable
Type of Accreditation	Not Applicable
Accreditation due for renewal	Not Applicable

Entry criteria and requirements[2]

A good Honours degree or equivalent qualification in the subject or a related discipline and/or relevant work experience, demonstrating an ability to study at postgraduate level.

Consideration will also be given to applicants who can make a strong case for admission in relation to a particular project and can demonstrate their potential to satisfactorily complete the course.

Minimum English language requirements:

If your first language is not English a certificate is required as evidence that you have an average IELTS score of 6.0 or equivalent. If you are applying as an international student from a country outside the EU and require a visa to study in the UK, you will also need a minimum of 5.5 in each individual component.

You may be offered a place on a course on the condition that you improve your English language and study skills. We offer pre-sessional English language courses which can improve your IELTS score by a maximum of 1.0 and 0.5, or equivalent.

	Written exams:	Practical exams:	Coursework:
Overall methods of assessment[3]			
Course	0%	0%	100%
	Scheduled:	Independent:	Placement:
Overall Learning & Teaching hours[4]			

Course	13.4%	86.6%	0%	
	242 hours	1558 hours	0 hours	

General level of staff delivering the course[5]	The University's current recruitment policy for Lecturers and Senior Lecturers states that they must have either an MA or equivalent professional practice in a relevant discipline or field. All lecturing staff are encouraged to work towards a teaching qualification or professional Recognition by the Higher Education Academy and this is a requirement for Senior Lecturers. Senior Lecturers are required to be professionally active or engaged in research in their discipline. All Lecturers and Senior Lecturers undertake scholarship in their disciplines. There are also Sessional Staff to link courses with professional practice and Technicians to provide technical support.
Language of Study	English

Subject/Qualification Benchmark Statement: QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

The course structure

The structure of all of the University's awards complies with the University's Common Credit Framework. The Common Credit Framework includes information about the:
- Rules for progression between the stages of a course;
- Consequences of failure for reassessment, compensation and exit awards;
- Calculation and classification of awards;

Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	Most popular student choice of optional elective units or elective options in core units?
FANI7013 Research and Critical Approaches: Animation	7	30	Core	
FANI7009 Skills and Development: Animation Practice	7	30	Core	
FANI7010 Animation Production	7	60	Core	
FANI7011 Project Delivery and Professional Context: Animation	7	60	Core	

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[4] As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

[5] Include general information about the experience or status of the staff involved in delivering the course, for example Professor, Course Leader, Senior Lecturer

Section B - Course Overview

Building on the long-established and internationally renowned BA Animation degree at University for the Creative Arts at Farnham, the MA Animation course aims to support the advanced critical study and practice of animation. It will focus on the production of a body of work which is both creative and critical.

The course will support students wishing to advance their practical skills and knowledge and encourage critical and reflective approaches to animation practice and research.

The course is designed to develop the ability to structure and extend the study of animation at an advanced level. It encourages creativity and individuality through a broad definition of animation, which includes any technique that is created 'frame by frame'.
We respect all well-established traditional approaches to animation whilst fully integrating all of the digital techniques and standards of a rapidly evolving industry.

The course will enable students to advance and deepen knowledge and understanding through sustained study of meaning, making and mediation within the subject and context of animation.

The outcome of the course will be an advanced single piece of practice based research work which explores narrative strategies in animation and is supported by a reflective critical text.

Section C - Course Aims

The Course aims to

A1   offer a creative and intellectually stimulating environment in which students can produce a self-directed, single piece of ambitious, practice based work

A2   undertake in-depth research which enables you to contextualise your own work in relation to the wider animation industry

A3   further develop a range of general, specialist and transferable skills and competencies relevant to employment or further study

A4   help you to understand the contexts of your own project in relationship to the theoretical ideas and contemporary debates related to animation and film.

A5   help you to develop an understanding of the professional contexts that your work exists in.

Section D - Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students are able to:

Knowledge of

LO1   the contemporary debates and theoretical ideas within animation and film (A4)

LO2   appropriate research skills and methods used to plan and implement a self-directed piece of practice based work (A2)

Understanding of

LO3   the practical and professional contexts in relation to your work (A5)

LO4   of the inter-relationship of theory and practice in broadening your own practice (A4)

Application of

LO5   articulate ideas, concepts and creative processes in the production of a self-directed piece of practice based work (A1)

LO6   specialist skills and competencies in your chosen field of specialism within animation and the wider creative arts industries (A3)

Section E - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Courses at The University for the Creative Arts are founded on the principle that the most effective educational experience combines structured teaching and independent study. Courses are designed to give students maximum responsibility for the management of their own learning.

Lectures are used for the presentation and discussion of theoretical issues and are supported by seminars which allow students to discuss and examine the issues raised. Seminars are also used to support the delivery of practice.

Students will undertake a number of projects, which combine both guided learning and independent study. The Animation MA will require students to write a treatment of their project proposal with focus on their own particular interests and aspirations.

Self-managed independent study forms an essential part of the course. This includes work on projects and supplementary research such as screenings, festivals and conferences. MyUCA also provides an extensive online resource of teaching materials and video tutorials.

Students from both the MA and BA course will be invited to attend the visiting guest lecturer programme which gives students an insight into some of the animations world's leading practitioners.

Recent examples of these high profile lecturers have included Oscar- winner and alumni Michael Dudok de Witt, Creative Director of Aardman, Merlin Crossingham, BAFTA winning alumni and creator of Hey Dugee, Grant Orchard, alumni Pete Saunders founder of

McKinnon & Saunders (puppet makers for Fantastic Mr. Fox, Corpse Bride etc.), Oscar nominated film maker Joanna Quinn and multi award winning Moth Collective.

Students also have the chance to attend presentations by artists, critics, industry professionals and academics from other institutions which are open to all students at UCA.

Throughout the course, students work with practising animators and filmmakers to situate their projects and future careers in a professional context.

<u>Assessment Strategy</u> (of the course)

A range of assessment methods are used, which provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of a range of skills, as well as subject-specific and technical knowledge. For each unit a timetable for assessment will be published, together with a clear statement of assessment requirements, criteria and assessment methods.

Whilst assessment is the way in which the University measures performance and determines suitability for progression to the next stage of the course, it is also used to provide feedback to students and to enable them to identify strengths and weaknesses, and hence ways in which performance might be improved.

The assessment scheme is designed to enable students to develop and demonstrate a sound understanding of central principles and technical procedures in the early part of the course, with an increasing level of research and independent study required in the later stages. These later assessments usually build on the knowledge and skills acquired in the early units.

Written and oral communication skills are assessed through a range of written assignments and oral presentations.

Section F - Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

All courses are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:
▪ External Examiner's Reports
▪ Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
▪ Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
▪ Feedback from Student Course Representative