

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR:

MA FILMMAKING: DOCUMENTARY

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19]

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	Filmmaking: Documentary		
Course Location and Length	Campus: Farnham	Length: Full-time - 1 year	
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			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good Honours degree (normally 2:1 or above) or equivalent qualification in the subject or a related discipline or a related discipline, and/or; • Relevant work experience, demonstrating your ability to study at postgraduate level • Consideration will also be given to applicants who present a degree with a lower classification, but can make a strong case for admission in relation to a particular project and can demonstrate their potential to satisfactorily complete the course. 			
<u>Minimum English language requirements:</u>			
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>			
Overall methods of assessment ³	Written exams:	Practical exams:	Coursework:
Course	0%	0%	100%

¹ Regulated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England

² This should be the standard University Criteria unless otherwise approved by the Academic Board and include UCAS entry profile for undergraduate courses.

³ As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

Overall Learning & Teaching hours ⁴	Scheduled:	Independent:	Placement:
Course	13.3%	86.7%	0%
	240 hours	1560 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?
FFDO7001 Research and Critical Approaches: Documentary	7	30	Core	
FFDO7002 Skills and Development: Documentary	7	30	Core	
FFDO7003 Production	7	60	Core	

⁴ As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data. Expressed as a percentage of total learning hours per stage.

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

FFDO7004 Project Delivery and Professional Context: Documentary	7	60	Core	
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Section B - Course Overview

Established on the success of BA Film production the MA programme will enable you to develop your ideas and skills as a documentary filmmaker through a series of rigorous workshops and seminars. This is supported with a dynamic programme of visiting speakers and festival trips.

The course offers a creative and stimulating environment in which students can pursue a personal project of self-directed study with the aim of producing a for high quality film for festival distribution.

You will have access to HD cameras and Avid post-production facilities with unique support from practitioners and experienced technical staff.

The course encourages you to respond to new trends and discourse within the field and to deepen your knowledge and expectations of the nature of contemporary documentary practice. Throughout the course students place their own documentary project within the context of current and future practice and acquire skills in managing a career in a freelance industry. Within this framework you are provided with the opportunity for extended critical debate, a high degree of critical reflection and integration of theoretical and practical concerns as part of the realisation of an ambitious body of work.

Within the skills and development unit you make a short film to a specific brief and develop your technical and creative aspects within your practice. Through a series of practical workshops you cover research techniques, finding subjects and documentary storytelling, budgeting and scheduling. The course encourages authored approaches to documentary storytelling and you will develop your self-shooting, sound recording and interview skills. This unit you will also introduce to editing techniques and Avid.

Research and Critical Approaches investigates the conceptual development of a film idea, its specific and contextual research. Students will be challenged to undertake a depth of critical thinking in relation to their own film proposals. A detailed and practical exploration of the different forms of writing for screen is central to this unit.

The production unit creates an opportunity for a major production period; research, filmmaking and editing. This period enables students to spend a significant time filmmaking subjects and stories, which are often abroad.

The final unit, Project Delivery and professional context aim to situate your documentary project and practice in a professional context of documentary production, exhibition and distribution. Alongside your documentary project you will develop a career plan and festival pack.

Section C - Course Aims

The course aims to:

A1 To offer a creative and intellectual environment in which students can rigorously pursue a project of self-directed study and the systematic production of a body of documentary practice work

A2 To enable students to develop the necessary intellectual, technical and business skills in order to accomplish their project work

A3 To support students with the means for establishing and understanding the place of their own documentary project work within the context of current and future practice and develop skills in managing a career in a freelance industry

A4 To provide students with the opportunity for extended critical debate, a high degree of critical reflection and integration of theoretical and practical concerns as part of the realisation of an ambitious body of work

Section D - Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students are able to:

Knowledge

LO1 Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the documentary film genre and its developing forms and contexts

LO2 Demonstrate a critically and in depth awareness of the institutions and organisations that support documentary production

Understanding

LO3 Apply systematic knowledge of the historical and cultural significance of key documentary texts in your evaluation of your own and other' documentary material.

Application

LO4 Develop an advanced understanding of all stages of production and demonstrate an advanced understanding of the various stages of production from research to pitch, filming to post-production and exhibition to distribution.

LO5 Develop a framework for self-directed study that can be used to reflect on practice with a clearly identified and coherent set of intellectual and practical concerns relevant to your practice.

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. In general, students will find that the level of structured teaching is greater in the early stages of the course, with increasing self-directed study and project work as they develop their knowledge and understanding.

Students will undertake a number of projects which combine guided learning and independent study. Within the MA students will have the opportunity to further explore their medium or work across other media. Students can attend lectures and workshops within Documentary, Filmmaking and Animation. This cross-disciplinary approach will give students deeper insights into contemporary practice and further enrich their own research, insights and aspirations. They will also be encouraged to attend screenings, festivals and conferences nationally and internationally.

The use of information technology, including dedicated software packages, is built into the course where appropriate. Projects are monitored through the online platform MyUCA and Edmodo. Lynda.com is also available for online learning.

Students will be invited to attend screenings and lectures offered to BA students where appropriate. Recent examples include a special screening of 'Notes on Blindness' by Peter Middleton and James Spinney with a Q and A session led by Simon Aeppli at the Farnham Maltings (October 2016), a presentation by our graduate Danielle Clarke whose graduation project 'Britain's Young Soldiers' (2010) with director Joe Martin won the National RTS award for student documentary and who has since gone on to produce documentaries for Channel 4 and a screening and talk of 'The Hard Stop' by George Amponsah.

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 are supported through a series of tutorials in which students discuss their general academic progress and agree future courses of action.

In the final unit of study students work with practising filmmakers to situate their careers and their projects in a professional context.

Assessment Strategy

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.

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 Representatives