**UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD**

**Faculty of Engineering and Informatics**

# MA Filmmaking Programme Specification

| Academic Year: | 2021-22 |
|---|---|
| Degree Awarding Body: | University of Bradford |
| Final and interim award(s): | [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]<br><br>MA<br><br>Postgraduate Diploma (exit award)<br><br>Postgraduate Certificate (exit award) |
| Programme duration: | 1-year full time, 2 year part-time |
| Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board | March 2020; September 2020 |

**Please note:** This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

## Introduction

The MA Filmmaking programme, located in the Department of Media, Design and Technology in the Faculty of Engineering and Informatics will engage students in the production of advanced digital film products. Students will take modules in the production and technology of videography (shooting, editing, postproduction), together with specialist modules in film industry practices, short form commissioning (music video for example) and film history and context. Students will also be taught theoretical and historical/contextual analysis and creative processes. As graduates of this programme students will have the tools of critical analysis, ideas-generation and industry understanding and they will have begun the journey to produce successful practical projects and enter them for film festivals. The inter-relationship between theory, creativity and practice is increasingly valued by employers, and this programme builds on a strong Department tradition of integrating theory and practice. This programme will enable students to produce cinematic projects that will be technically effective whilst being strong on content.

Throughout the programme, students will produce films of varying length in a diverse range of media to be exhibited in an equally broad range of settings. Available facilities range from low-budget formats to digital broadcast standard formats and the latest

industry editing software. The Department's Technical Support services provide excellent new facilities for production within the Department.

Developments in digital film/videography technologies—films on the internet, films in club spaces, new film clubs and films on telecommunications networks—have expanded the possibilities for the distribution and exhibition of cinematic material. The programme will offer students the opportunity to engage with these types of cultural activities in a positive and creative way. The Department is well placed to deliver this programme, having a long tradition and evident track record in producing graduates in film and video production. Our graduates have gone on to set up their own film companies, had their work screened at major film festivals (e.g. Cannes), and won awards for their short films. The strong and long-lasting links with the National Science and Media Museum and UNESCO City of Film (now based on campus) offers students of this programme added-value in high quality research, conferences, screenings and exhibitions.

The MA Filmmaking programme is not a 'conventional' film programme and is not about training for narrow specialist skills nor the production of 35mm feature films. Rather, it will fully prepare students as an independent creative individual for the 'brave new world' of film and video production in the digital age.

"It isn't the studios who will discover how the new medium is going to work. It is the independents—the indie film-makers, and artists, and games designers—who will create and discover it".

—Alex Cox (filmmaker)

The Department of Media, Design and Technology has strong links with the BBC through which students will get regular opportunities to work on "live briefs" and win BBC placements. Students may also have opportunities to gain paid work experience through our Digital Working Academy and enjoy the benefits that come with Bradford being UNESCO's first City of Film.

The programme has been designed with the University's Curriculum Framework to be a stimulating and creative experience. This creative, open, collaborative and professional course is enhanced by the industry links it offers students.

The University of Bradford values "creativity and innovation" and has at the heart of its strategy the use technology for the advancement of society. This programme will help develop the filmmakers of the future, who help shape our understanding of the world around us, with this vision in mind.

## Programme Aims
The programme is intended to:

Enable students to develop a deep understanding of the development and current status of the film industries and institutions, the products they make, and their audiences.

Enable students to develop an advanced range of knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of film production through practice and critical engagement with film industries.

Enable students to develop an original portfolio of appropriate transferable skills and attributes.

Enable students to develop lifelong independent learning skills.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

LO1    Show a systematic and an in-depth knowledge of what is required in the production and delivery of digital film output.

LO2    Use complex theoretical tools and critical analytical skills in the interpretation of film texts.

LO3    Utilise professional skills in the production of content for the contemporary film market and an advanced understanding of the cinema industries including distribution and exhibition of film products

LO4    Explain the wide range of attributes required to be an independent film practitioner


Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

LO5    Produce project work to high technical and aesthetic standards.

LO6    Make informed judgements in the context of rapidly developing and converging film industries.

LO7    Research and present information; interpret and transform information; solve problems creatively and systematically; and learn effectively as part of a team and through feedback from peers

LO8    Demonstrate effective skills in teamwork, project management and personal management in the development of a strong film project.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

LO9    Show Leadership in teamwork, project management and personal management with regards to the creation of a short film project as the culmination of the programme.

LO10  Conceive, design, plan and produce a piece of digital filmmaking to a standard that is capable of entering for a UK film festival.

LO11  Articulate the specific aims of their final project in the context of contemporary UK short form film.

## Curriculum
## Postgraduate Certificate

| FHEQ Level | Module Title | Core/ Option/ Elective | Credits | Study Period | Module Code |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Cinematic Language | Core | 20 | Sem 1 | FAM7002-B |
| 7 | Independent Filmmaking | Core | 20 | Sem 1 | FAM7029-B |
| 7 | Film Industry Practices | Core | 20 | Sem 1 | FAM7027-B |

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## Postgraduate Diploma

| FHEQ Level | Module Title | Core/ Option/ Elective | Credits | Study Period | Module Code |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Post Production | Core | 20 | Sem 2 | FAM7010-B |
| 7 | Screen Realism | Core | 20 | Sem 2 | FAM7008-B |
| 7 | Short Form Commissioning | Core | 20 | Sem 2 | FAM7028-B |

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

## Degree of Master

| FHEQ Level | Module Title | Core/ Option/ Elective | Credits | Study Period | Module Code |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | MA Project | Core | 60 | Sem 3 | FAM7003-E |

Students will be eligible for the award of Degree of Master if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

## **Learning and Teaching Strategy**

The MA Filmmaking programme uses a variety of learning and teaching strategies, all of which are intended to facilitate to development of independent learning. After some initial theoretical, research and creative modules, practice will be facilitated through a set of modules that help students to develop their own project ideas in partnership with tutors and supervisors. A great deal of autonomy is integrated into this programme whilst maintaining as much of a taught component as is necessary for theoretical and contextual studies.

Learning and teaching strategies include formal lectures, practical workshops, seminar and tutorial work. The types of assessment that these strategies involve (discursive essays, oral presentations, assessment of practical video graphic and photographic/still image projects etc.) will allow students to effectively and independently integrate theory, creativity and practice, a key aim of the programme. As is common practice in arts and media education, and due to the creative nature and negotiated aspects of the programme, formal examinations are not used as assessments.

Our lab spaces and suites (24-hour access) offer students on the MA Filmmaking good resources for producing the highest quality creative work for both print and screen.

Members of the programme team have experience of film and video work and music production, have written and/or edited papers, book chapters and books on the history

and interpretation of film, and curate film seasons and run successful film symposia for the Bradford Film Festivals. We will also have a significant number of talks given by external industry speakers relating to jobs in the film industry continuing the School's current strong programme of external speakers.

Students are required to commit 200 hours of time for each 20-credit module. The weighting of how this time is managed varies; some modules will involve many formal contact hours (time spent with the tutor), while others will require more independent study (self-managed under the guidance of the tutor).

In addition to 120 credits of taught modules, candidates for the Masters award will be expected to complete a 60-credit project, which will be developed from the student's own interests and passions but overseen by an individual supervisor.

## Assessment Strategy

A variety of Assessment Practices are used throughout this programme including: film Project review, written essays, presentations, small-scale and large-scale film project work, master classes delivered by industry experts, study visits (for example to film festivals and industry events), collaborative workshops and peer feedback. Students begin the programme learning about pre-production/preparation and rapid turnaround production together with a review of the current film industry and the role of independent filmmaking in relation that industry. In the second semester students undertake post-production work (editing) while an understanding of independent practices, promotion and short form commissioning is developed. Finally, the student applies this learning into a final self-directed film project that is the culmination of the programme. Students collaborate in their learning through shared practices in production and post-production work and group 'crits'. While the focus is on independence, students learn together and are encouraged in assisting each other where relevant with project work, ideas and suggestions.

## Assessment Regulations
This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:  www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations

## Admission Requirements
We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond.

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme.  Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

- All applicants are required to have an Honours Degree 2:2 or above in:

- An area relevant to their proposed programme of study from an approved degree-awarding body; OR

- Any subject, together with skills and experience in a relevant area.

- For international students, minimum IELTS at 6.0 or the equivalent.

- Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience. Offers are made following detailed consideration of each individual application. Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

## Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

## Minor Modification Schedule

| Version Number | Brief description of Modification | Date of Approval (Faculty Board) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Minor modification to curriculum structure | March 2019 |
| 2 | Minor modification to text | October 2020 |
| 3 | Specification reformatted and made accessible | December 2020 |
| 4 | Annual changes for 2021 academic year | May 2021 |