

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BA (Hons) Filmmaking

2017-18 (BAFLM)

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Record of Enhancement

No.	Detail of modification (Provide a brief description of the modification and where the Course Specification has been updated)	Date Effective (Indicate the academic year of entry and course level(s) to which the modification will apply)
1	Film Art: Change of assessment weighting from 70/30 to 90/10	From September 2017 onwards

**Faculty of Arts, Environment & Technology
School of Film, Music and Performing Arts**

Award and programme title: BA (Hons) Filmmaking

Level of qualification: Level 6

Interim awards available:

Award	Title	Level
CRTHE	<i>Filmmaking</i>	4
DIPHE	<i>Filmmaking</i>	5
BA	<i>Filmmaking</i>	6

Length and status of programme and mode of study

Programme	Length (years) Status (FT/PT/SW)	Mode (campus- based / DL or other)
BA (Hons) Filmmaking	3 Years FT	Campus-based
BA (Hons) Filmmaking	4-6 Years PT	Campus-based

Course Specification

Overview and Aims

This course is designed for students who want an intensive, creative and professionally-led three year study in Filmmaking with the opportunity of specialising in one skill that will equip them to work at entry level in the film industry in their chosen area. The course offers alternative pathways in which the student can pursue and explore filmmaking in experimental, documentary, commercial and/or drama genres.

The course has a strong production ethos. All students are encouraged to collaborate with each other, and the first two years have the opportunity to 'crew' on BA graduation films and to work on MA Filmmaking thesis productions. This encourages a 'studio' culture, with lots of opportunities to practice skills and techniques at all levels, as well as building relationships that are sustained after graduation and often lead to lifelong collaborations and partnerships.

The purpose of the course is to offer students a thorough grounding in the skills and experience of filmmaking, involving them in the processes of identification and negotiation of specific goals. Production activity is designed to reflect the recognised pattern of industrial team structures, to promote team productivity and creativity and to instil a culture of professional behaviour.

The course identifies core film production strands, as well as theoretical strands, which support the practical elements and develop the research skills that are required in all areas of the industry. Students focus their study around two specific strands from Level 4.

The core film production strands are:

- *Producing*
- *Directing*
- *Cinematography*
- *Editing*
- *Writing*
- *Sound*
- *Production design*
- *Animation directing*

They are delivered with a theoretical and critical, as well as practical, context. Students will:

- *Develop an informed, critical and creative approach to understanding media, culture and communications in contemporary society, and to their communicative and expressive practice.*
- *Combine a significant level of technological competence with demonstrable artistry and creativity, in addition to entrepreneurial and management skills.*
- *Demonstrate development of critical and creative independence, flexibility, sensitivity to audience, and self-reflectiveness, across individual and group work.*
- *Provide the theoretical understandings that will inform practice and develop students' intellectual and imaginative powers. Engage with creative, intellectual, analytical and research skills in supporting their employability in the field.*

These general aims are articulated by the course learning outcomes in relation to the personal, professional and educational development of the student.

On completion of the programme, students will be expected to have acquired and be able to demonstrate a variety of intellectual and personal skills which will include:

- *Communication;*
- *Problem-solving;*
- *Project management;*
- *Lead a team or work collaboratively within a team;*
- *Multicultural awareness*
- *Professionalism*

- Enterprise
- Self-awareness and confidence

In addition students will:

- be technically skilled in one area of production and have skills in at least one other from writing, producing, directing, cinematography, sound recording and design, production design, animation directing and editing.
- be experienced in all elements of technical and creative production from idea development, through pitching and pre-production, production, post-production, marketing and distribution.
- have a thorough understanding of contemporary industry practice in the UK and be able to apply their skills professionally.

Statistics over the last 5 years show a clear market demand for the course. In 2010-11 applications were at 735 for 63 places. In 2009-10 it was 748 for 44 places. In 2008-9 it was 774 for 77 places and in 2007-08 it was 833 for 77 places. Applications remain high in 2015 with 560 students applying for 160 places.

Course Learning Outcomes

1	<i>Demonstration of an understanding of traditional and contemporary film and moving image techniques and technologies</i>
2	<i>Recognition and critical awareness of the wider professional, legal, ethical and commercial structures and the processes linking production, circulation and consumption of film and moving image within a global context</i>
3	<i>Critical reflection on personal responsibility within the production process, with an ability to contribute technically and creatively to collaborative production processes</i>
4	<i>Demonstration of a range of clearly defined managerial and entrepreneurial skills appropriate for entry into the industry</i>
5	<i>Demonstration of an ability to adhere to the required and expected discipline and behaviour and professional standards in all areas of the moving image industry</i>
6	<i>Engagement in and a thorough knowledge of a chosen specialism and an ability to critically analyse work within this area of moving image</i>

Course Structure

Level 4
<i>Level 4 introduces students to collaborative working and project management through practical experience in Production 1 and Production 2 modules. Students participate in all specialisms and work in small groups making a series of short film exercises. Students develop essential subject knowledge through the Specialist Skills Workshops. In Documentary Filmmaking students form</i>

themselves into 'production companies', develop their ideas and pitch to a panel of professional practitioners from local industry, taking the project from pitch to finished film. In their first semester, students prepare for placements by building relationships and communication skills. Study skills, such as information literacy, are developed through Story 1, examining the theoretical nature of narrative, whilst Story 2 offers students the opportunity to put theory into practice by writing a short screenplay.

Semester 1	Core (Y)	Semester 2	Core (Y)
<i>Production 1</i>	Y	<i>Story 2</i>	Y
<i>Production 2</i>	Y	<i>Specialist Workshops 1</i>	Y
<i>Story 1</i>	Y	<i>Documentary Filmmaking</i>	Y

Level 5

At Level 5 students develop research and analytical skills from multiple perspectives, both orally and in their written work, in Film Art module. They continue to develop specialist skills, focusing on two specialisms in Specialist Workshops 2 & 3. Collaborative working, problem-solving and project management are developed in Filmmaking 2 where students form film crews, mirroring industry models, making productions using budgets allocated by the School. In semester 2 the Experimental Film module allows students to develop their creative voice whilst critically analysing their own and other's work. Professional Practice and Research guides students in identifying and researching areas of the industry to target for placements, whilst further preparing them by bringing in invited professionals to advise.

Semester 1	Core (Y)	Semester 2	Core (Y)
<i>Film Art</i>	Y	<i>Experimental Film</i>	Y
<i>Specialist Workshops 2</i>	Y	<i>Professional Practice & Research</i>	Y
<i>Filmmaking 2</i>	Y	<i>Specialist Workshops 3</i>	Y

Level 6

At Level 6 students are expected to be independent and self-directed. In Experiential Learning students are supported in collaboratively developing their final film proposals and scripts prior to building crews and pitching for an approval for production. The Dissertation module offers opportunity to apply research and written skills and experiential learning also requires time management and independence as students undertake work placements for a minimum of one week during the first semester. In the second semester students focus mainly on the production of their graduation films, requiring collaborative working, and critical analysis at every stage of the process, problem-solving abilities and project management skills.

Semester 1	Core (Y)	Semester 2	Core (Y)
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Specialist Workshop 4	Y		
<i>Dissertation (core)</i>			
<i>Experiential Learning (core)</i>			
<i>Film Project (core)</i>			

Learning and Teaching

Details relating to contact hours and other key information sets (KIS) are available on the course page of our Online Prospectus on our website.

Learning and Teaching Approaches

Our Learning and Teaching Strategy is based on the Vision, Values and Strategic Themes set out in the Strategic Plan 2010-2015. Our vision is: "to be acknowledged for our commitment to student success, our innovation and enterprise, our global reach and strong local impact". Our Learning and Teaching Strategy has strong connections with other strategies including; Widening Participation, Research and Enterprise, Schools' Partnership, Employability and Human Resources.

We are committed to the following values:

Inspiring

We share our values and ideas with passion, energy and commitment, supporting all to achieve their potential.

Creative

We stimulate innovation, imagination and discovery, generating challenging and original ideas.

Enterprising

We identify and maximise opportunities using our resources widely and building on our strengths.

Purposeful

We are clear as to our shared plan and committed to delivering this efficiently and effectively.

Respectful

We are inclusive, supportive and ethical in our behaviours and actions, actively valuing diversity.

Professional

We expect and uphold high standards, leading by example with integrity and responsibility

BA (Hons) Filmmaking is a highly collaborative learning environment where students are expected to be committed and professional and creative entrepreneurs. They will perform to a high standard and are supported in a number of confidence-building tasks to enable this to happen. By Level 6 it is expected that films will be of broadcast or exhibition standard and that students can confidently go out into industry with a strong knowledge of entry level requirements in the field and a clear understanding of the diversity of the sector and political and social issues of world that they are about to enter.

Students can expect a wide range of innovative methods of assessment including peer assessment and e portfolios.

Students will engage with industry professionals on all levels of the course.

Students will have access to a range of industry standard technologies and have opportunity to engage with local facilities houses such as Provision at ITV Yorkshire.

http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/files/Learning_and_Teaching_Strategy.pdf

Learning and Teaching Activities

At level 4 the course is delivered through practical workshops and lectures, reinforced with frequent small, supervised production exercises. The first semester has an average of 15 hours a week taught and supervised workshops and lectures, independent learning is supported by tutorials. The second semester comprises 15 hours of lectures per week with taught workshops, unsupervised production, tutorials, additional seminars and independent learning.

At level 5, lectures and taught workshops account for 9 hours a week, whilst seminars, tutorials and independent learning and production continue.

At level 6, there are less formal regular taught workshops, to allow the students time for work-based learning. There are short blocks of specialist workshops in all skills. There are several lectures on dissertation preparation followed by individual tutorials for all students. In the final graduation film modules, students undertake production as independent, practical learning; supported by tutors in tutorials and seminars.

Students studying on the Documentary filmmaking module can expect seminars led by industry visitors from companies including True North productions.

Staff from our Performing Arts courses join us to teach on the Experimental Film module encouraging students to approach film from a different perspective.

Level 6 students can expect dedicated tutorial support from a pool of visiting industry specialists.

Graduate Attributes (UG only)

All our undergraduate students will develop three graduate attributes. Students will be: Enterprising, digitally literate and have a global outlook.

Enterprise

To be enterprising as a personal trait is something that is expected from all students throughout the journey through levels 4-6. Creative thinking and a social, economic and political awareness is a necessary skill for those interested in a career in the Film and Moving Image industries. Students will develop confidence by pitching, presenting, collaborating and researching; these skill areas are all embedded deeply into the course. Students will be

specifically supported in the development of these skills in order to prepare themselves for the experiential learning module within the course and the various assessments that require students to be entrepreneurial in preparation for the outside world.

Digital Literacy

Graduates of the course need to display a high level of Digital literacy within the field of film and moving image in order to flourish. From day one, guided by staff, students will be exposed to complex technical set ups and various software packages that cover the development and production of filmmaking. As the student progresses, they will be expected to show a growing level of independence in this area. It is also important for students to leave the course with evidence that they are digitally literate so it is appropriate that they retain the relevant assessments to evidence this. (portfolios, show-reels, films.) As they progress through the levels students become more confident in applying the right tool for the job. Producers learn on industry standard software including 'Movie magic'. Editors mirror industry by learning to cut their films on Avid.

Research skills are developed using a wide range of technologies, e-databases and journals. Students are also expected to explore the world of social media and its growing impact on contemporary filmmaking.

Global Outlook

The course introduces students to film and moving image in its social, historical, cultural and political contexts, engaging them in discussion about contemporary global issues such as diversity and ethics. As the course progresses students are expected to make a significant positive contribution as a member of a multicultural/international team and to respond to global events in ethical, confident, and informed ways. As they develop their own professional identity students will be expected to consider questions such as what are the practical, ethical, social, professional and personal consequences of my work for a diverse local and/or global community?

Use of the Virtual Learning Environment

Timetables, Assessment Briefs, Handouts, Web Links, Reading Lists and AV material are available for every module within the virtual learning environment.

Where appropriate uses of discussion boards form a valuable part of module delivery, especially in the lead up to production.

Most written work is submitted via the VLE and a large portion of the Dissertation module is supported this way.

WRL opportunities and constantly updated extra-curricular activities are posted on message boards, this has been a successful way to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to participate.

We use Editshare to host student films throughout the production process. Students and staff can log in and view work in progress. Comments and feedback are also offered during this process and staff are able to use this resource to assess the final films.

Use of Blended-Learning

N/A

Assessment Strategy

The course includes a varied diet of assessment strategies.

Level 4 practice modules are assessed via the use of practical assessments. Story 1 and 2 are assessed via a mix of portfolio, course assessment and journal. The module documentary film is assessed via a film and a reflection of the project.

Level 5 is a mixture of portfolio, reflective journal, project work and a learning contract.

Level 6 is a mixture of portfolio, written assignment, PDP and reflection.

Practical assessments enable students to identify the basic elements of the technical fields helping them to work safely and correctly as they become more independent.

Portfolios enable students to take an individual route through the course depending on their chosen specialism. Also to focus on employability as they will have work to show to potential employers.

Journals enable students to reflect and build on weaknesses as well as identify areas for further research and study.

Professional Development Plan and Learning contracts are specifically designed to encourage the student to be industry facing and to tackle issues of employability, continually planning and developing the skills required for entry level jobs.

Projects enable students to be assessed on the final product.

Feedback on Assessed Coursework

Formative feedback is offered on a rolling basis as it is the nature of a Film Production Course. Feedback of this kind is often driven by the need to use technical facilities and equipment safely and correctly. Constant reflection is needed in order to problem solve in the field of sound, editing and camera for instance.

Summative feedback is given a four week turnaround.

Module Assessment Methods

Module Titles	Core (Y)	SYNOPTIC ASSESSMENT	PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT	COURSE ASSIGNMENT	PORTFOLIO / PRESENTATION	JOURNAL / SELF- ASSESSMENT	PROJECT	SPECIALIST PORTFOLIO	SPECIALIST PORTFOLIO	LEARNING CONTRACT	PDP
Production 1 (level 4)	Y					100					
Production 2 (level 4)	Y					100					
Story 1 (level 4)	Y			100							
Story 2 (level 4)	Y							100			
Specialist Skills Workshop (level 4)	Y		100								
Documentary Filmmaking (level 4)	Y				60		40				
Film Art (level 5)	Y			90 10							
Specialist Workshop 2 (level 5)	Y							50	50		
Filmmaking 2 (level 5)	Y							100			
Experimental Film (level 5)	Y					20	80				
Professional Practice and Research (level 5)	Y			30						70	
Specialist Workshop (level 5)	Y							50	50		
Film Project (level 6)	Y							100			
Experiential Learning (level 6)	Y										100
Specialist Workshop 4 (level 6)	Y							100			
Dissertation (level 6)	Y			100							

Employability and Professional Context

The course offers training for industry standard software such as Movie Magic, AVID, Final Draft.

At each level of the course students make films to an industry model involving:

- *forming production companies*

- *pitching to panels comprised of invited professionals*
- *producing work to clients' briefs*

The contacts and experience gained from applying their learning in this way culminates in the final year with a work-based learning module.

Work placements are supported by a dedicated member of the academic team and a Work-Based Learning Administrator who both have a number of years' experience of providing successful placements for upwards of 130 students over two year groups.

For a minimum of two weeks and up to a previously discussed designated time period, students can work and be credited for their work in industry. These sometime can take place locally, and sometime closer to the student's original domicile address area. In the past employer contacts made during these placements have resulted in career opportunities upon graduation.

Creative England and SkillSet also contribute to final year seminars and career planning whilst Leeds Beckett University offers support in Enterprise and Self Employment options.

As well as a wide range of industry specific skills, graduates from this degree will have evidence that they possess a wide range of transferable skills that are exactly what employers have identified as desirable:

- *commitment*
- *dependability/reliability*
- *teamwork*
- *communication skills (oral)*
- *co-operation*
- *communication skills (written)*
- *drive/energy*
- *self-management*
- *desire to achieve/motivation*
- *problem-solving ability*
- *analytical ability*
- *initiative*
- *adaptability (intellectual)*
- *adaptability (organisational)*

The Northern Film School at Leeds Beckett University runs an Alumni Production Scheme, which supports graduates into industry. We offer opportunities for freelance work, as well as offering equipment, expert support and guidance on graduate productions.

We enter student work into Film Festivals, ensuring wide exposure for their work and opportunities to network in readiness for graduation.

We keep in touch with a number of students who have gone on to enter the Film and Television Industry or into Further study in the field. Recent graduates include,

Daniel Lucchesi, BA Film and Moving Production graduate 2010 and co-director of the award winning WE ARE POETS, has just been green lit by the BBC to shoot a Paris based cookery show, entitled 'Little Paris Kitchen'.

Ann Marie Minty, BA Film and Moving Production graduate 2009: recent credits include Assistant art director on BBC Henry V produced by Neal St Productions, Assistant art director on ITV's Whitechapel 3 Produced by Carnival Film and Television LTD, and more recently working as a Props Coordinator for the new Star Wars movie

Hannah Gawthorpe (MA graduate, 2012) is now Art Dept Buyer on Feature "Swallows and Amazons" (currently shooting in the Lakes/Leeds).

Work-Related Activities

At every level, students are progressively introduced to challenging and authentic work and industry-based tasks. As soon as they arrive at Level 4, they undertake several film exercises, working in crew positions modelled on industry standard. In the second semester they are introduced to the concept of forming a production company and embedded within that exercise is the making of a documentary. The student production company team has to develop their idea and pitch to a panel, which includes industry professionals. In the second year, students progress to working on client briefs. This is work that has the potential for public use and can take the form of commercials, documentary, drama and animation. Students are also introduced to experimental film and video, and are encouraged to develop an awareness of the use of the medium in contemporary art and other art forms, such as dance and live performance, giving them a wider choice of direction for their final, graduation film. In the second semester of level 5, students are supported in researching for their industry placement or internship or work based learning that they can undertake on MA films. At level 6 they are encouraged to undertake a substantial, supported work placement which enables them to gain credits within the Experiential Practice module.

Placement or Work-Related Activity Level:

Work-related learning activity is situated across Levels 5 and 6.

Placement or Work-Related Activity Length in Weeks:

The work-related activity at Level 6 must be a minimum of one week (35 hours), which can be over of the whole of your summer before Level 6 or during Level 6 itself. The work-related activity can take place one half day or one full day a week at a time or whichever suits the employer's needs. Students may however, embark on a placement over a longer indefinite period provided that Dissertation and Graduation Film Development taught sessions and deadlines are met.

Type of Placement or Work-Related Activity:

The experiential Learning module is summatively assessed, supervised and taught through a development plan.

Reference Points used in course design and delivery

All our courses leading to Leeds Beckett University awards have been designed and approved in accordance with UK and European quality standards. Our courses utilise the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and relevant subject benchmarks (where these are available) and professional, statutory and regulatory body requirements (for professionally accredited courses).

We review our courses annually and periodically, responding to student feedback and a range of information to enhance our courses. Our University is also subject to external review by the Quality Assurance Agency. Our latest report can be found on the QAA website at <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews-and-reports>

We appoint External Examiners to verify that our University sets and maintains standards for awards which adhere to relevant national subject benchmark statements and the FHEQ (UK), ensure standards and student achievements are comparable with other Higher Education Institutions in the UK, with which they are familiar, and ensure that assessments measure achievement of course and module learning outcomes and reach the required standard. External Examiners may also provide feedback on areas of good practice or potential enhancement.