

Nottingham Trent University
School of Art & Design
Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1. Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2. School/Campus:	School of Art & Design/ City & Clifton
3. Final Award and Course Title:	BA (Hons) Filmmaking
4. Mode of study and normal duration:	FT 3 years SW 4 years
5. UCAS Code:	W600

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

With creative authorship at its heart, the BA (Hons) Filmmaking provides you with a creative and challenging environment designed to allow you to explore the visual and narrative elements of this dynamic art form. The course will enable you to create a vibrant portfolio of work that will prepare you for employment in this dynamic and demanding industry. Whilst appreciating the importance of technical and production skills, the crucial aspect of modern commercial production is the quality and originality of content and it is this that will determine real success in professional practice, and this is the major focus of this predominantly practical course.

The course aims to:

- develop your screenwriting, directing and producing skills to encourage you to initiate and produce original, entertaining and engaging content
- develop filmmakers who can combine technical knowledge with creative authorship, visual confidence, technically innovative storytelling
- inspire you to engage in reflective practice and research through practice
- develop collaborative working
- inspire you to be ambitious about your work

You will be taught by staff who are active practitioners and researchers and experience a collaborative filmmaking environment that encourages you to be imaginative, intellectually agile, provocative, and to use these methods to determine a clear creative direction for when you enter the industry upon graduation.

The filmmaking industry is by its very nature international in its scope and the curriculum reflects this so you will study worldwide cinema and assignment briefs will have international scope. Optional field trips to film capitals, for example, Rome, Berlin, Los Angeles; and exchange visits to international universities provide additional learning opportunities.

You will work closely with industry, allowing you to experience real work situations and reflect contemporary industry practice. You will work both in teams and individually as determined by the brief. Projects are designed to inspire work for submission to local, national and international filmmaking festivals aimed at raising your profile in readiness for entry into this dynamic and competitive field.

Attention has also been paid to the British Film Institute's (BFI) strategic aims and the course is accredited by the International Moving Image Society. when designing your course and the expectation is that, after studying this course, you will leave NTU with the ability and skills to initiate and author creative film content.

7. Course outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Sophisticatedly implement your creative and technical filmmaking skills within your film projects **(B)**
- Evidence your knowledge of critical, ethical, historical, economic, socio-cultural, technological and aesthetic contexts through the production of appropriately informed work **(B)**
- Evidence your ability to manage complex film production processes within given constraints **(B)**
- Execute effective filmmaking skills through visual, written and verbal forms **(B)**
- Evaluate the power of film as a medium and its impact upon audiences **(B)**
- Critically reflect upon the transferable skills developed within your filmmaking practice **(B)**
- Develop your professional practice with regard to Health and Safety, legal, ethical and sustainable responsibilities **(B)**
- Evaluate your ability to work collaboratively as part of a team, within a variety of defined roles **(B)**

8. Learning and teaching methods

Your learning will take place by undertaking filmmaking projects that encourage an enquiring mind, a capacity for learning independently and collaboratively and a sophisticated capacity for creative storytelling and problem-solving. In years' 1 and 2, you will undertake a mixture of given briefs and self-initiated briefs. You will undertake the three key roles of the course, Writer, Director and Producer, gaining practical, experiential and theoretical knowledge and understanding of the impact of the key storytelling decisions you make, be they technical, style, or the crew or clients you choose to work with.

As part of our commitment to develop personalisation in our curricula, alongside the core modules you will be offered a choice of modules at level 5, from which you will select one. The module options presented have been selected by the course team in order to compliment your study, and also to

give you the opportunity to follow and deepen your interests, and study with students from other courses.

In your final year, you will design, develop and deliver your own film and a separate film proposal. This work will be evidenced in a production folder and all your best work will be included in a portfolio.

Opportunities for professional experience is encouraged throughout the course. In such instances, support will be provided by the Employability Team and course tutors, making appropriate adjustments to coursework in order to manage your workload.

The course is taught as a partnership between the School of Art & Design, School of Art & Humanities and Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies with the course team made up of staff from all three centres. Experts in design, technology and theory will deliver seminars, workshops, lectures and master classes that explore the potential of working within differing areas of film practice, helping develop both cognitive and practical skills. The creative potential for using current and developing technologies will also be explored alongside more traditional art and design methods.

National and international field trips also encourage a broader understanding of art and design and filmmaking problem solving and assignment briefs, so we will take you on at least one domestic field trip each academic year, with you also having the opportunity to attend an optional annual international industry-related field trip.

Discussion and peer learning through working collaboratively are key methods that will enhance your subject specific knowledge and understanding. Some of this discussion will be face-to-face and some will be conducted electronically. All related module information can be accessed on the NOW (NTU's online workspace) to support your learning.

Significant amounts of independent self-directed work are required in order to get the most out of this course and you are therefore encouraged to take responsibility for your own learning. Your Module Leaders will provide support specifically related to each module and subject area Technicians provide technical support where required. Tutors have weekly dedicated surgery times where individual support can also be provided.

There is an extensive and diverse range of books, periodicals and online sources that focus on art and design in general and filmmaking in particular. From a design and technical perspective, these resources cover art and design fundamentals, film making authorship, film genre and theory, the business of film, production design, and advanced technology relevant to filmmaking. The course team reviews, defines and updates appropriate material on a regular basis in relation to its currency and significance and you are able to purchase material through direct links to suppliers. All reading lists are on the NOW and Library and Learning Resources subject specialists are available to assist you.

Learning is a reciprocal process, based on shared discussion between students and staff. Consequently, working independently or in small teams is an important aspect of the teaching and learning approach for tutorials and assessments.

9. Assessment methods

All module assessment is 100% coursework, recognising the connectivity between theoretical, technical and practical resolution in relation to Research, Development, Execution and Evaluation.

You will be assessed both during and at the end of modules. To support you in having a complete understanding of how well you are progressing on a project, there are a series of points during a module where you will be asked to present or hand work in to be formatively reviewed. At these points, you will be given feedback on your work with strengths and areas for improvement.

You will submit work for summative assessment. This is the point in the module where you demonstrate your subject knowledge and understanding through the development, execution and delivery after working to an assignment brief.

10. Course structure and curriculum

The course is studied on a full-time (3 years) basis, with the option of a sandwich placement year between years two and three (4 years).

Level 4 (Year 1)	Core / Optional	Credits
Script to Screen	Core	100
Style, Narrative & Authorship	Core	20

Level 5 (Year 2)	Core / Optional	Credits
Narrative, Production & Audiences	Core	80
Storyboarding: Visualising the Story, Enhancing the Narrative*	Optional	20
Digital Marketing & Communication*	Optional	20
Motion Graphics*	Optional	20
The Art of the Video Interview*	Optional	20
Co Lab: Research, Exploration and Risk-taking	Core	20

* students must select 1 module (20 credits) from the suite of optional modules

Level 6 (Year 3 / 4)	Core / Optional	Credits
Major Project: FILM	Core	80
Representation, Genre & Industry	Core	20
Business & Entrepreneurship for Filmmakers	Core	20

The focus of Level 4 is fundamental skills for filmmakers.

The focus of Level 5 is industry awareness, and for you to develop your own personal direction.

The focus of level 6 is preparing you to enter industry with a work that says something about yourself and your future direction.

Placement awards

Students undertaking the sandwich placement may achieve a Placement Diploma in Professional Practice, and students undertaking placements of shorter duration may be eligible for a Placement Certificate in Professional Practice.

Interim awards

Students who do not progress to the final stage may be eligible for an interim award of Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education or Ordinary Degree.

11. Admission to the course**Entry requirements.**

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.

12. Support for learning

The School is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies, providing a wide range of academic and pastoral help and advice. In addition to the course leader, module leaders and course administrator, a member of staff will also be assigned to you at the start of the course as your personal tutor.

As part of your Induction, you will be introduced to the Student Handbook which includes information on how to access Employability Services, Language Support, Disability Services, Fees and Student Finance Services, the Student Union, Health and Wellbeing Services, International Students Support, Study Support and Individual Support.

13. Graduate destinations/employability

Developing your employability skills is a key element of most modules and these are designed to prepare you for work in the digital media field. Possible careers range from creating content for feature film and television, heritage interpretation or marketing and advertising. Employment is very diverse but can be broadly defined as film or video-related employment. You will also develop transferable skills for alternative careers in teaching, media and freelance design. Some of you might also, on completion of this course opt for further specialised postgraduate study in filmmaking or a related subject.

As part of NTU's career service, the Art & Design Employability Team that can offer a variety of activities to support you in preparing for your future. As part of the curriculum you will meet someone from the team as they deliver group sessions and lectures about employability. This often covers CV building, job hunting and applications, preparing for interviews and even building your personal brand. They can also offer support in finding work experience and set up events where prospective employers can come into NTU so that you can talk to them in person about future opportunities.

14. Course standards and quality

There are well established systems for managing the quality of the curriculum within the School.

Module feedback questionnaires and annual surveys are used to gather feedback from students on their learning experiences.

Termly course committee meetings, attended by student representatives and academic staff, provide opportunities to raise and discuss matters contributing to the quality, standards and continuing development of the course.

The outcomes of the above inform an annual report highlighting positive features and areas to address which are further included in a course development plan. The plan is monitored through course committees and students have the opportunity to talk through the impact of any changes made.

Informally, course and individual tutorials additionally provide a means of gathering student feedback and enable staff to address matters as soon as they arise.

Externally, the School consult with industry representatives as part of the course review and development process to ensure continued relevance of the curriculum to the creative and cultural industries. An external examiner is appointed to provide advice and monitor the academic standards of the course and student achievement in relation to those standards.

15. Assessment regulations

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16A of the Quality Handbook).

16. Additional information

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to national (QAA) Benchmark Statements:

Art & Design 2017 and Communication Media, Film & Cultural Studies 2016

Course recognised by:

International Moving Image Society

NTIC progression route(s):

Foundation Certificate in Art, Design & Media

Date this course specification approved:

DAG 6/11/19

Any additional information: