Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information	
1. Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2. School/Campus:	School of Art and Design, City
3. Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BA (Hons) Filmmaking Full time / SW
4. Normal Duration	3 Years FT / 4 years SW
5. UCAS Code:	W600

1.	**Overview and general educational aims of the course**

With creative authorship at its heart, this course provides you with a creative and experimental environment designed to allow you to explore the visual and narrative elements of this dynamic art form. BA (Hons) Filmmaking offers you an excellent opportunity to develop a deep understanding of the creative art form along with a technical understanding of the filmmaking process. This course will allow you to create a vibrant portfolio of work that will prepare you for employment in this dynamic and demanding industry. Although technical and production skills are important, 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. The course delivers production and technical skills that allow you to better realise your original ideas for creative content.

On the course, you will experience a filmmaking environment based around creative production practice, exploring the integration of design, narrative, contemporary technologies and theory. The course encourages you to be imaginative, innovative, provocative, and to use these methods to determine a clear creative direction for when you enter the industry upon graduation.

We aim to develop your screenwriting, directing and producing skills to encourage you to initiate and produce original, entertaining and provocative content. We aim to develop filmmakers who can combine technical knowledge with creative authorship, visual confidence, technically innovative storytelling and a deep understanding of the wider national and international filmmaking industry they will be graduating into. We want to inspire you to engage in reflective practice where you can engage in research through practice and are able to work collaboratively.

The course is designed to enable you to incorporate critical and analytical problem solving skills relevant to creative filmmaking authorship and these skills together with generic transferable skills, for example interpersonal communication skills, project management skills, the ability to work effectively in a team, will prepare you as a graduate for a broad range of related employment opportunities. These roles for example could include scriptwriter, producer, director, script editor, production assistant, location manager, assistant director and production co-ordinator. The course content and structure support those who may wish to go on to undertake postgraduate study.

You will be taught by staff who are active researchers and practitioners. Primary and secondary research will be embedded through creative practice. You will understand how to acquire, select and apply research skills in order to generate original content. Lectures, tutorials, workshops and masterclasses will offer an insight into current research in the discipline.

The overall aim of the course is to inspire and promote a culture of ambition. 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. The filmmaking industry requires practitioners who can respond quickly to change and therefore design thinking, idea generation and development, conceptual clarity and collaboration as a design tool, are all tools that you will employ during this study. We also encourage the promotion of values and attitudes that demonstrate awareness of 'design responsibility' and an understanding of social, regulatory and ethical issues surrounding the film business. The filmmaking industry is global in nature and we aim to prepare you to work within it by reflecting contemporary thought and practice within an internationalised creative context. It requires you to consider your work in relation to original authorship, international design responsibility, audience and impact.

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.

You will be encouraged to seek and complete work experience with the opportunity to gain an additional Diploma or Certificate in Professional Practice, dependent on the duration of placement.

Attention has also been paid to the British Film Institute's (BFI) strategic aims 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. You will also be able to employ a set of design methodologies and design processes that will engender a life-long culture of innovation in the filmmaking industry.

2. **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.
All of the following learning outcomes have been benchmarked against the QAA benchmark statements for Art & Design 2017 and Communication Media, Film & Cultural Studies 2016.

(B) = Benchmark Statement Alignment

Knowledge and understanding
By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Select and apply relevant law and regulation, applying your judgement, to the ethical considerations in the production, distribution and consumption of film (B)
- Research and analyse the global market in order to identify trends, generate new ideas and propose innovative film content with commercial potential (B)
- Examine how the aesthetic and formal qualities of film media create meaning in different cultural forms and apply appropriately to your work (B)
- Consider the impact of disability, class, ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality, sexuality, and other social experiences and subjectivities on both access to the media and modes of representation in film and demonstrate consideration of this in your work (B)
- Demonstrate how to appropriately interpret, initiate, structure and design engaging narrative content by creating stories designed for a variety of styles, genres and digital forms (B)
- Appraise the significance of history, culture and technology in relation to the conceptualisation and authorship of film and relate them to your own work (B)
- Analyse a variety of funding models for film finance and appropriately apply these business models to your own work with consideration of sustainable practice. (B)

(B) = Benchmark Statement Alignment

Skills, qualities and attributes
By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Using a variety of development methods produce relevant work for specific target audiences (B)
- Critically appraise your own work and the work of others in order to inform judgements about your filmmaking process (B)
- Conceptualise and articulate your artistic vision to the creative and business teams through the deployment of appropriate industry techniques (B)
- Manage your self-development and career trajectory by identifying and undertaking appropriate work opportunities, tasks, or projects (B)
- Evidence your leadership skills including delegation and motivation of a project team. Reflect upon on the effectiveness of your contribution to a collaboration (B)
- Demonstrate digital literacy by applying relevant digital processes in order to effectively conceive, create, manage and distribute your work (B)

(B) = Benchmark Statement Alignment

3.	**Teaching and learning 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.

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 a number of field trip each academic year, with you 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 on-line 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. 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.

4.	**Assessment methods**

Assessment is conducted according to the School policy 'Assessment and Feedback Principles and Guidelines' which ensures the academic standards and their appropriateness are made clear to all students on the course. The course Assessment and Feedback Plan is available on the NOW. This strategy provides detail of how your work will be assessed for each module, how and when you will receive feedback and how the assessed work is moderated.

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

If you are unable to pass modules to the required standard, you will be counselled and provided with options. An end of year Exam Board makes final decision guided by the University's common assessment regulations on the options pertinent to your specific circumstance.

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 formally reviewed. At these points, you will be given written feedback on your work and an indication of what grade you are working at. These interim evaluation points are referred to as 'formative feedback' events. At the end of the module, all of the work undertaken during the module is assessed as one whole body of work against the module's learning outcomes and this is known as 'holistic assessment'.

5.	**Course structure and curriculum**

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

All students must complete 120 credits at each level to achieve 360 credits for the BA (Hons) Filmmaking award.

Year 1 [level 4]

Both of the modules in the first year run concurrently throughout the year. These modules will be delivered through a combination of tutorials, lectures, seminars, screenings, workshops and field trips.

Script to Screen – 100 credit points
The module aims to provide a substantial foundation in the underlying core concepts and skills of filmmaking practice. Delivered through practical filmmaking workshops and Lectures/Seminars in Writing, Directing and Producing these sessions will help support the development of design fundamentals such as idea development, visual research and technical competence.

You will work individually and in a team as determined by each project's requirements and throughout this module you will make film work through

undertaking the three keys roles of this course, Writer, Director, Producer. The assignments will ensure that you gain experience of some of the other key technical roles, for instance, e.g Camera Operating, Sound Recording and Editing. At the conclusion of the module you will be in a good position to audit your own particular skill set so as to allow you to identify skills required in the next academic year.

Film: Style, Narrative, Authorship – 20 credit points
Through studying national and international cinema from all over the world this module aims to provide you with a substantial foundation to understanding core authorship theories and ideas that relate to film and its place in the world, both within a cultural and historical context.
The module aims to broaden your understanding of the interconnectedness of visual creativity and narrative in film. Personal ideas and enquiries will be developed to allow your individual creative identity and vision to emerge. The purpose of the module is to challenge and extend your ways of original invention and broaden your artistic outlook, in order that you deepen self-awareness and connectivity between research and practice.

Year2 [level 5]

Both of the modules in the second year run concurrently throughout the year. These modules will be delivered through a combination of tutorials, lectures, seminars, screenings, workshops, field trips.

Narrative, Production & Audiences – 100 credit points
The module projects aim to equip you with the industry relevant knowledge and skills for making both fictional and non-fictional films, providing knowledge and experience of techniques and tools that help you to generate relevant, innovative and appropriate ideas for film.
It offers you the experience to develop your ability to plan, manage and organise film projects efficiently, observing industry ethical standards and legislations and to solve problems by adapting those plans to produce the highest quality of work possible.
The module also aims to help you to direct your own interests within the discipline working more independently and taking responsibility for key roles and responsibilities within projects and for your own self-development. By the end of the module the aim is that, you will understand your key interests and strengths related to the film discipline in order to support your choices when shaping your direction and focus of your final year thesis film.

Genre, Forms & Industry: 20 credit points
The module aims to broaden your understanding of the interconnectedness of design narrative, technology and the film markets in Filmmaking. The purpose of the module is to challenge and extend your ways of original invention and broaden your artistic outlook as regards the multi-platform nature of contemporary filmmaking and help you develop a greater connectivity between your practice and how you research the relevance of that practice to the diverse audiences and markets that exist.

Professional Experience/ Work Placement
The course will provide you with a variety of opportunities to gain work experience. This might be in the form of a placement or professional experience via a tutor-supervised brief for a client.

Work Placement (up to 8 weeks)
This would usually occur in the Spring term, dependent on industry needs and your progress through the year. NTU has a dedicated employability team that will help source and manage placements. You may also bring suggestions for your placement for consideration, but they must meet NTU's criteria for health & safety suitability, insurance cover and academic appropriateness. These placements could be local, national or international. All placements must be authorized by the academic team.

Year 3 [level 6]

This module runs all year long. It will be delivered through lectures tutorials, workshops, seminars, masterclasses and field trips.

Filmmaking Entrepreneurship: 120 credit points
The module aims to provide you with the opportunity to work either singularly or in small creative teams to create a significant short thesis film intended to be the core of your progressing portfolio. Aimed at developing the authorial voice within the filmmaking form, you will be encouraged to look at a broad range of narrative and visual styles in order for you to develop an original piece of visual story telling.
In support of your Filmmaking you will present a substantial pitch/proposal document. This document requires you to position your thesis film by engaging in independent critical research into the historical background, visual and narrative context and theoretical and financial framework of your thesis film. You will be expected to identify the markets for your thesis film so as to accurately develop a film suitable for the diverse audiences you identify.
The module will also support you in developing the story, visual appeal and characterisation, strengthening your articulation of ideas and use of Filmmaking and film language.
The module helps prepare you for your next career step by developing your use of filmmaking language for employment, freelance work or higher education.

6.	**Admission to the course**

For the BA (Hons) Filmmaking course we are looking for students who are driven to succeed in the world of filmmaking. You will be working within the context of filmmaking and focusing on storytelling through visual means. You need to demonstrate an enthusiasm and aptitude to develop these storytelling skills across a range of media and technologies. Prospective students should have a curiosity and desire to succeed in a highly competitive, well-established discipline. Your choice to study filmmaking should be informed and demonstrate awareness of the importance and potential of this specific area of creative practice. If you meet the minimum entry requirements in your application, we will consider you for an interview and, in addition to reviewing your portfolio, you will be asked a range of questions in order to assess your enthusiasm and aptitude to undertake and successfully achieve the course aims.

Entry Requirements
- A minimum of 280 (112) UCAS tariff points (from a minimum of 2 A-levels or equivalent qualification (such as a BTEC National Diploma or art and design foundation course). Additional tariff points obtained from AS-Levels, where the subject was not

continued to A-level, will also be accepted towards the 280 UCAS points required).
- GCSE English grade C or above.
- GCSE Maths grade C or above.
- A portfolio of related work
- Competence in written and spoken English is essential. Applicants from overseas need to have a minimum score of either IELTS 6.0, TOEFL (Paper) 540 or TOEFL (IBT) 76 unless their previous studies were undertaken in English.
- IB Diploma: 28 with a score of 5 in the relevant subject area

APL (Accreditation of Prior Learning)
The course welcomes applications from prospective students from non-standard entry routes who can demonstrate that they have had appropriate and relevant learning experiences that align with the general aims and outcomes of the course. The potential benefits in undertaking the course should be able to be demonstrated in the application process.

7.	**Support for learning**

The School is committed to assisting you to achieve the best results possible during your studies with us, providing a wide range of academic help and advice. A comprehensive learner support system is adopted by the School, which also can include input from the university and student union and can be tailored to meet your needs. Each year you will be assigned a year tutor who will support you during your studies, monitor student engagement and liaise with teaching staff across your modules to manage the consistency and quality of your experience. You will also be assigned a personal tutor at the start of each year who can act as a guide in more personal matters.

In year two you will be supported by the NTU employability team and the course's professional experience tutor(s) who will try to help you to find and secure work placements. You will be assigned a tutor during your placement who will communicate with you either by visiting you at work, holding a meeting via Skype and/or by phone call so that they can monitor your progress and experience on placement.

The Undergraduate Student Handbook (available on NTU's Online Workspace (NOW)) contains details of all the support available to you. Should there be an interruption in your studies, due to circumstances outside of your control, or through other factors affecting your academic performance then please speak to your Course Leader or course administrator for advice on what to do next.

The school has a structured induction as part of the university induction schedule that will introduce the course to you and offer you the opportunity to meet your tutors and peers on the course. This is also supported by the 'welcome week' social calendar organised by the Students Union.

The course has an induction session at the beginning of Year 1 where you will undertake a range of group and individual activities which foster a sense of community.

During the induction period each academic year new students shall be made aware of the university's student safety handbook and the school safety

code of practice. Those parts relevant to the course will be discussed as part of the Health & Safety Induction.

NTU's Online Workspace (NOW) is used across all modules on your course and allows key information to be accessed and shared within modules. You can also access your results through NOW.

The NOW system also encourages you to take responsibility for your own learning through directed module activities. All related module information can be accessed through NOW in support of your learning.

The course team has a great deal of experience in pastoral support and monitoring students' progress, supported by regular face-to-face contact in group or individual tutorials. Progress tutorials at key stages within the modules are also a regular feature throughout the course. Support for student's cultural and creative development includes course teams organising and accompanying students on optional overseas visits. Such visits are an optional enhancement to the course and not essential to progress. Support is given to students not attending these trips in the form of alternative suggestions of excursions within the UK.

You will be supported and guided through your studies and learning experience by your course leader, module leaders, and year tutors. You will also receive regular formative feedback on your progression through tutorials and also via written feedback at the end of the module.

If you have predefined individual requirements (for example, specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, ongoing physical or sensory impairments, medical or mental health conditions) you should alert your course team to these at an early stage and you will normally be expected to consult with Student Support Services to agree a 'Statement of Access' plan.

Specialist international student support provided by the University as an appointment and drop-in service for issues on visa and immigration, employment law and academic and financial concerns etc. Language and academic support is also provided by the School for both international and recommended home students who require additional study support.

| 8. | **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-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.

The course offers placement opportunities to enable you to experience working in professional contexts and identify how your course / practice sits within the creative and cultural industries.

As part of NTU's career service, there is an **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.

9.	**Course standards and quality**

Dialogue with you about your experiences of the course is valued and we engage with receiving feedback from you both formally and informally. You will have an opportunity to put yourself forward to be considered as a course representative at the beginning of each year of study. As part of this role you will be invited to attend the course committee meetings that occur three times a year and collate your year groups thoughts and contribute to the conversations and debate to support the continuing health of the course. Any issues brought up at the course committee meetings are reported to the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee and any actions or responses are reported back to you either via the next course committee meeting or via NOW.

The experience that you have whilst studying on the course is important to us and you will be required to give feedback on individual modules by engaging with questionnaires and will also be invited to attend staff-student liaison meetings. At the end of each year the course team write an evaluative document entitled the Interim Course Report (ICR) which is received at School level and contains an action plan to ensure that the course continues to reflect and develop its curriculum to remain current.

An External Examiner is also appointed whose job it is to make judgements about and report on the standard of your course in relation to other comparable courses in the UK. Part of their role is to review samples of final year work and to confirm at the Board that the internal assessment and moderation practices are fair and in line with School and NTU policies. The External Examiner also writes a report at the end of each academic year and this will be available to you via NOW together with a response written by the course committee.

10.	**Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations located in Nottingham Trent Universities Quality Handbook section 16 available at www.ntu.ac.uk/adq

11.	**Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):	n/a
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	Art & Design 2017 and Communication Media, Film & Cultural Studies 2016
Course recognised by:	n/a
Date this course specification approved:	DAG Approval 6th April 2017

	SW mode of study introduced and approved by SASQC 3 July 2019
	Any additional information: Key features of the course: • The course has strong links with industry through an emphasis on the curriculum containing 'externally facing' briefs • The curriculum allows students to confidently develop work as writer, director, producer of film. • The curriculum focuses on ideas, individuality and creative content to ensure that graduates are best placed to be industry-ready.

Last updated: July 2019