

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABOUT YOUR COURSE

BA (HONS) INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Independent Filmmaking is the future of the film industry in the UK. Every year more and more films are financed and made independently outside of the large studio systems, many of which go on to sweep the boards at awards ceremonies. Independent filmmakers are known for their creativity, technical ability, problem solving and communication skills, alongside their capacity to create thought provoking and exciting stories.

This course, developed in consultation with industry, is designed to equip hard working and enthusiastic individuals with the skills to succeed as independent filmmakers with the ability to create their own films or work in the rapidly growing media industry.

The first year is the foundation of the course, introducing you to the building blocks of independent filmmaking. Building on your first year, year two is essential in establishing a career focus and shaping your final year. In the final year of study, you will be completing a professional portfolio of work and will be focussing on an area of specialism in the field of independent filmmaking.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for this course, you will require 104-120 UCAS points. This could be gained via a number of qualifications, for example:

- BCC or above at A2 Level
- DMM or above at Extended Diploma Level
- M or above at UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma Level
- A proven interest in this area

If you're unsure how many points you have you can use the UCAS tariff calculator.



Remember that qualifications such as Graded Examinations in Music Performance and Arts Award (Gold) can also count towards your UCAS points – check the [tariff calculator](#).

Applicants who do not have the required qualifications, but do have the industry experience and/or proven interest in the subject will also be considered.

All applicants are expected to have at least a grade 4 in GCSEs Maths and English Language. Non-UK applicants will need to have an English Language qualification at International Level B2 or higher, such as an IELTS of 6.0 or better (with no component below 5.5). Students with equivalent qualifications will also be accepted.

If your application is successful, you will be invited to an interview where you will have the opportunity to talk about your work, influences, and interests. A guide will be sent with your interview details to help you prepare for your interview. Ideal applicants will have a keen interest in film, television, and production. You are welcome to bring any relevant examples of work with you if you have them. This is optional and a portfolio is not required for applications to be considered for this course.

MODULES (CREDITS)

YEAR 1

Independent Production 1 (40 credits) – a comprehensive introduction to short-form content production, focusing on practical skills in camera and lighting, pre- and post-production techniques, and an understanding of the creative and professional practices within the field.

Scriptwriting 1 (20 credits) – an in-depth exploration into writing for short-form content, covering theoretical and practical aspects, professional practices, and scriptwriting techniques for various media platforms.

Editing for Independent Film (40 credits) – This module equips students with fundamental editing skills using industry-standard software, focusing on technical, creative, and professional practices in editing, as well as the influence of social, cultural, and ethical issues on the editing process.

History of Independent Film Production (20 credits) – lectures focusing on the history of film, VFX and media, giving context to the skills learned in other modules and how these emerged historically.



YEAR 2

Independent Production 2 (40 credits) – This module advances students' production skills in narrative filmmaking, focusing on technical and creative aspects, teamwork, project management, and the analysis of cultural influences and professional practices within short film production.

Contemporary Independent Film Production (20 credits) – gives students an understanding of the environmental and social context, and the structure and operation of contemporary independent-film production, allowing them to build their confidence and knowledge of the modern film industry.

Scriptwriting 2 (20 credits) – develops students' advanced scriptwriting techniques and practices by focusing on narrative short film creation. It will equip the students with the ability to formulate their own creative processes and practice through engagement in advanced scriptwriting skills through the development of one or more original scripts.

VFX for Independent Film (20 credits) – introduces students to key compositing techniques used within the production of independent films enabling students to execute common visual effects tasks using industry-standard software.

Audio Production (20 credits) – introduces students to key components and connections common to Digital Audio Workstations and techniques used in post-production audio workflows for independent film.

YEAR 3

Honours Project (40 credits) – This module prepares students for professional independent production by developing specialist skills through creative thinking, research, project formulation, and critical analysis, culminating in a persuasive project that showcases their unique style and interests.

Independent Production 3 (40 credits) – develops students' production techniques by focusing on professional narrative feature-film creation. It will also equip the students with professional production skills and practices to realise distinctive and creative work and critically analyse creative professional practice within independent film production.

Scriptwriting 3 (40 credits) – This module enhances students' scriptwriting skills for independent feature films, focusing on creative development, critical analysis, and professional techniques, including character creation, dramatic structure, and genre study.



WHAT ARE CREDITS?

As a guide, 20 credits typically represents around 52 hours of tutor contact time (e.g. lectures/workshops/feedback) and 148 hours of self-study time (usually over the course of a semester). These numbers may increase or decrease depending on the nature, length and level of the module, especially towards the end of the course.

LOCATION OF DELIVERY

Your primary location of study will be at our Riverside Campus, which is located on New Bailey Street in Manchester. As part of your course, the production based lessons will take place at our Studios facility located in MediaCityUK, a few miles from the city centre.

TEACHING STAFF

Everyone who teaches on this degree is active in the industry. Whether that's creating independent films for TV or streaming media, scriptwriting or editing; when your tutors aren't busy teaching you, they're busy honing their craft. As a result, we are always working and teaching the most current industry workflows. We practice what we teach. We also have an extensive network of industry contacts that we can draw on for guest lectures and workshops, industry-set briefs, and as guests for our degree shows.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

We don't believe in exams. All assessment takes the form of coursework, portfolios, presentations, and a limited number of essays. If you are being taught filmmaking, you will submit a short film. If you are being taught how to present your work or research, you will do a presentation relevant to your project. If you are studying history or contemporary filmmaking, you will synthesise that research into an essay based around the subject. In other words, all assessment is directly related to the skills being taught and directly applicable to life within industry. You will be offered feedback along the way, via formative submission points, with official summative submissions falling at the end of first and second semesters.



COURSE DETAILS

Award to be received on successful completion: BA (Hons) Independent Filmmaking

Length of course: 3 YEARS (FULL TIME)

Regulator: Office for Students ([OfS](#))

Awarding Institution: University of Central Lancashire

FEES / COSTS

TUITION FEES

Home Students: £9,535 per year

International Students: £17,000 per year

You may be eligible to apply for a student loan from Student Finance. Please see our [Tuition Fees](#) page for more information.

EQUIPMENT & ACTIVITIES

We provide PCs to work on onsite, with Cintiqs, Wacom tablets and filming equipment; all of which can be signed out from facilities. We have onsite licenses for all software taught on the programme.

Ahead of your course please purchase:

- Hard drive / storage (2 x 2TB HDDs / 1 x SD Card): £148.94

You may find it beneficial to invest in additional equipment and/or study resources to support your learning. Example costs are:

- Adobe Creative Suite license (for home use): £16.24 per month (with student discount)

Additionally, there may be the option of attending events outside of Futureworks which would further enhance your studies. Example trips are:

- Bolton Film Festival: £20-40, plus individual travel costs

