

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABOUT YOUR COURSE

BA (HONS) INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING*

*This course is subject to validation and details in this course information may change.

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

Standard Entry: Applicants are required to have at least a Level 4 or grade 'C' in GCSEs Maths and English Language or equivalent and 104 or above UCAS points (for example B, C, C or above at A2 Level, DMM or above at BTEC Extended Diploma Level, M or above at UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma Level) and a proven interest in the subject area. Qualifications such as Graded Examinations in Music Performance and Arts Award (Gold) can also count towards your UCAS points.

International Entry: Equivalent international qualifications will be considered towards meeting the entry requirements for standard entry. Additionally, international 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



5.5 in each skill: reading, writing, speaking and listening). Students with equivalent qualifications will also be accepted.

Equivalences include:

- Trinity College London: a pass in test ISEI and a pass in test ISEII
- Language Cert: Academic SELT (from 18 December 2023): 60 or International ESOL SELT: 33/50
- Pearson PTE Academic for UKVI: 59
- PDI Services (UK) Ltd: Pass in Skills for English UKVI

Non-standard Entry: Applications from individuals with non-standard qualifications, relevant work or life experience will be equally considered. These applicants will be required to attend an interview as part of the application process. Interviews will be in person or online, depending on the location and availability of the applicant.

Accreditation for Prior Learning: UK and International applicants with qualifications or professional experience equivalent to the knowledge and skills developed during years one or two of this programme may be granted Accreditation for Prior Learning (APL), enabling them to join the programme at the start of year two or three.

If an applicant thinks they may be eligible for APL they should contact our Admissions team on admissions@futureworks.ac.uk. Please note that APL will not exempt applicants from the selection process, or, for international students, the IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) requirement.

MODULES (CREDITS)

YEAR 1

Film Production 1 (40 credits) – Introduces you to the professional workflows of production. This takes the bulk of the equipment needed to produce a professional production in multiple formats. This culminates in assessment of your first professional production through Micro filmmaking using teamwork, writing, producing, directing and cinematography skills.

Editing for Independent Film (40 credits) – This module equips you 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.

Film Theory (20 credits)– This module introduces you to research and research methodology to ensure you understand the importance of reliable, valid results that addresses aims and objectives. This is done through the lens of Film Theory in an historical and contemporary approach.

Scriptwriting for Short Films (20 credits) – This module Introduces you to professional scriptwriting techniques and the building blocks of creative story telling in the film world. It focuses on short films.



YEAR 2

Film Production 2 (40 credits) – Building on Film Production 1 this module focuses more on the creative aspects of filmmaking. Bringing collaboration to the forefront where you can begin to focus your passion for a specific role within the production process. It also introduces you to collaboration with external stakeholders, such as professional actors.

Professional Industry Practice (20 credits) – Prepares you for the world of work in a multitude of ways, from how to create a freelance portfolio to the techniques needed to become adept at employability.

Scriptwriting For Pilots (20 credits) – Builds on the techniques learnt in the previous year. The format changes to television and specifically TV pilots and how to create potentially long running series arcs with multiple characters and storylines.

Audio for Film & TV (40 credits) – Takes the entire audio process from initial ideas formulated from the script through pre-production, audio recording on set, ADR, audio effects and mixing. This is a complementary module and you will gain a base understanding that will enhance your ability to collaborate with audio professionals.

YEAR 3

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

Film Production 3 (40 credits) – Building on Film Production 2 this module focuses more on the business aspects of filmmaking. Combining the creative and the technical with business, you dive into the world of feature film making. With a bias on specialisation, you get the chance to negotiate your role in the assessment and are graded accordingly. This is where you can hone your specific skills.

Scriptwriting For Features (40 credits) – This module runs hand in hand with Film Production with you having the ability to expand stories into full-length one-off feature films. This also allows you to invest in world building and character development on a scale previously not available.

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 location of study will be at our Riverside Campus, which is located on New Bailey Street in Manchester. Teaching takes place in our fully equipped labs and studios. Flexible access to studio and practical facilities allow you to establish, practice and develop your work using professional-level hardware and software. Relevant hardware and software training will be provided during studio, workshops and lecture sessions to support student work at all levels.

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 Film Theory, you will synthesise that research into an essay based around the subject. In other words, all assessments are 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)

Mode of delivery: In-person, on campus

In-person lessons: Typically between 12 and 14 hours per week

Self-study time: Typically between 35 and 40 hours per week

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



Awarding Institution: The Open University

FEES / COSTS

TUITION FEES

Home Students: £9,790 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): From £150

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

