

Programme Specification for

BA (Hons) Film



1. Programme title	BA (Hons) Film
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	Middlesex University
5. Final qualification	BA (Honours)
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time/ Part-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

We welcome applications from those who are able to demonstrate prior learning in the area of Film, Photography, Art and Design or Media Studies. Preferred candidates will be those with a substantial background in Film in their prior studies and able to demonstrate clear evidence of achievement, either in (digital) filmmaking or in film studies or both. Preferred candidates will also be able to demonstrate a clear sense of purpose and an enthusiasm for Film.

For those who without prior experience, we recommend applicants undertaking the 12 week intensive Foundation in Digital Arts (iFDA) at Middlesex University, developed to help students with no or limited practical experience, progress into the field of digital media.

The normal UCAS requirement will be 112 points (equivalent of B,B,C) (or 280 points in the previous system, please see <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/tariff/calculator> to help you calculate your tariff point under the new system). After going through the UCAS process, applicants will be asked to submit a portfolio of work in support of their application. Further to this, in some instances, applicants will be called for interview. Guidance will be given following application. <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/film>

Overseas applicants will be required to have an IELTS 6.0 qualification in **each** category.

There are no restrictions to admission to the programme based on disability – and students with disabilities will be supported (see 17 below)

Top-up arrangements (direct entry to Level 2 or 3) will often be formalised through Articulation Agreements with partner institutions. Individuals applying to transfer from another institution will only be able to do so at the beginning of each academic year and their level of entry will be determined by their prior specialist subject experience and achievement. We also welcome individuals applying for “Advanced Standing” based on their employment may be considered for direct entry to Level 2, but not Level 3, given the balance of the programme between practical and academic study.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- develop the creativity, professionalism and employability of each student in the broad area of film practice to produce industry-ready graduates who excel in key aspects of film production processes and practices;
- encourage critical engagement in ethical, political and social aspects of film language to enable students to confidently locate their ideas;
- engage in theory-practice approaches to learning to help students define their ideology and how they can use film language to express it;
- stimulate dialogue with industry practitioners and practices to continually offer students relevant and rich experiences that will aid employability;
- provide a creative and collaborative environment in which core technical skills and creative development are nurtured to enable students to become accomplished producers, directors, cinematographers, editors, scriptwriters and sound designers;
- foster the collaborative nature of the film and wider creative industries through the taught curriculum, integrating group-based learning and project development, team management and mediation skills.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. The essential practical processes involved in screenwriting, preproduction, film production, post-production and distribution.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- practical digital filmmaking workshops, developing professional-level skills in the use of digital filmmaking technologies;
- working to briefs which require the

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The ways in which film language can be used to inform and shape ideology. 3. Film audiences and how choices made by the filmmaker contribute to the audience experiences and responses. 4. The relevance and significance of theoretical, historical and professional contexts to film practice. 	<p>demonstration and application of written and practical skills;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures and seminars that explore the relationship between production practices and film communication and between the formal properties of film and the audience experience; • sessions which interrogate the relationship between work produced and the contexts out of which this work has emerged – including theoretical and historical influences. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical film work; • scripts; • analytical and reflective writing; • presentations and pitches; • portfolios of preparatory work.
<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conceptualise, develop and realise meaningful and effective storytelling through film language (including script, moving image and sound). 2. Chart the trajectory of their creative and professional identity, locating their filmmaking within a broad range of theoretical and cultural contexts. 3. Use relevant criteria to articulate, discuss, criticise and evaluate their own and others' work with reflexivity and ethical consideration. 4. Think analytically, researching and problem solving in both practical work and academic writing. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploring the film medium, specifically close analysis of macro and micro features; • exploring digital film technology in workshops, seminars and group practical activities; • being challenged with both practical and theoretical problems in the form of briefs, essay questions, ethical considerations, and then engaging in individual and group activities to solve these problems; • engaging in written and oral activities requiring analysis and reflection on their own work and that of others, learning through experience and receiving feedback on the effectiveness of their own critical communication; • personal development planning and

	<p>reflection with specific reference to their journey on the programme.</p> <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of argument and critical engagement in written assignments; • the quality of thinking in oral presentations; • evidence of process, including problem solving in portfolios of preparatory work and in blogs; • evidence of the embodiment of cognitive skills in achieved practical work and in written and oral analysis of that work; • evidence of personal development planning.
<p>C. Practical skills</p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce scripts and films in a professional manner. 2. Effectively research, plan, document and organise film and script production activities from conceptualisation to realisation. 3. Demonstrate storytelling skills to apply knowledge of film language and aesthetics to communicate with target audiences. 4. Present practice professionally in a variety of forms and contexts. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical digital filmmaking workshops, developing professional-level skills in the use of filmmaking equipment; • working to briefs which require the demonstration of skills and their application in scripts and film; • supporting team work and individual research and skills based acquisition; • presenting their own work in a variety of ways (screenings, readings, oral presentations, personal development planning, pitches, treatments and synopsis). <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical filmmaking and scriptwriting exercises and projects; • portfolios of preparatory work; • self-reflective blogs;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written and oral commentary / analysis of practical work; • independent research.
<p>D. Graduate skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the experience on the programme to determine personal and career development goals and trajectory. 2. Conduct relevant research in order to produce both written and practical work. 3. Work and communicate effectively in production teams. 4. Utilise appropriate forms (including live pitching and information technology) to communicate and present your work and skills. 5. Budget, schedule and raise appropriate contracts for cast and crew, applying relevant numeracy skills in film production. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the embedded teaching / learning methods listed in A – C above; • diagnostic explorations to help students identify their strengths, developmental needs and desired trajectory into employment; • supporting the development and honing of specialist skills; • industry guests and specialist lectures and masterclasses. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' graduate skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • professional development planning; • pitches/mock interview/placement; • personal entrepreneurial portfolio; • project management and professional engagement.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The structure is a simple one with no option modules at Level 4. At Level 5 students choose two modules from three options, and take one double-weighted compulsory module. At Level 6 students choose one module from three options, and take three 30-credit compulsory modules.

The normal duration of the programme is three years full time and six years part-time, as follows:

Full-time – 120 credits per year

Year 1 (Level 4) – four modules, each 30 credits:

- FLM1100
- FLM1200

- FLM1300
- FLM1301

Year 2 (Level 5) – two modules, each 30 credits, from choice of three:

- FLM2100
- FLM2200
- FLM2400

One module of 60 credits:

- FLM2300

Year 3 (Level 6) – three modules, two of 30 credits and the last of 60 credits:

- FLM3000
- FLM3001
- FLM3002

One module of 30 credits from choice of three:

- FLM3100
- FLM3200
- FLM3300

Part-time – 60 credits per year;

Year 1 (Level 4)

- FLM1100
- FLM1200

Year 2 (Level 4)

- FLM1300
- FLM1301

Year 3 (Level 5) - Two of the following:

- FLM2100
- FLM2200
- FLM2400

Year 4 (Levels 5)

- FLM2300

Year 5 (Level 6)

- FLM3001

And one of the following:

- FLM3100
- FLM3200

- **FLM3300**

Year Six (Level 6):

- **FLM3000**
- **FLM3002**

120 credits are required for the award of the **CertHE**, 240 credits for the **DipHE**, 300 credits for an “**Ordinary**” **degree** and 360 credits for an **Honours degree**.

Direct entry to the second year and to the third year is possible.

Modules combine the development of creative or critical knowledge and skills. As the student progresses through the programme, they nominate a specific pathway in the choices they make and in the process develop a specialism. There are seven pathways embedded in in three categories: Screenwriting; Craft Skills; Producing and Directing. Within Craft Skills there are four specialisations (Editing, Sound Design, Cinematography, Production Design; within Producing and Directing, two. For each student the Level 6 Major Project (**FLM3000**) coupled with the choice of an Advanced module (**FLM3100**, **FLM3200** or **FLM3300**) will confirm their evolving pathway / specialisation.

The three categories, including embedded specialisations:

Screenwriting:

Students developing skills in screenwriting will also take the introductory production modules – thus anchoring their writing practice in an understanding of the filmmaking process. At Level 4 students will look quite broadly at varieties of storytelling, within both documentary and fiction film (short and feature length forms) and with reference to literature and theatre. They will also gain a basic understanding of screenwriting form and style. At this level, synopses, treatments and short scripts will be produced. At Level 5 screenwriting skills will be further developed with a particular focus on the short film. Again, the praxis of writing for the screen will be addressed through practical consideration of the filmmaking issues in moving from script to screen. At Level 6 advanced training will occur within **FLM3001** Advanced Screenwriting which feeds in the Major Project, which will be a significant screenwriting work that could be developed further after graduation as a feature-length script.

Film Craft:

Students develop a broad range of practical production skills at Level 4 – production design; camera operation and lighting; sound recording and sound editing; picture editing and colour grading – moving from small-scale-briefs to the making of a complete short film (3-4 min).

At Level 5 technical and creative skills will be developed through **FLM2200** Film Craft,

and put into practice on the films made in the compulsory module **FLM2300** Producing and Directing. At the beginning of Term 2 students declare a specialisation from among Production Design, Cinematography, Sound Design, and Editing, and undergo further role-specific training during the preparation of the end-of-year films made in **FLM2300** Producing and Directing.

At Level 6 students will choose the optional module **FLM3200** Advanced Craft Skills, where they will focus on advanced training in their specialist area with substantial support from the technical staff. They will apply their skills to between two and three graduation films made on the programme by fellow students specialising in Producing and Directing, as well as playing supporting roles within the area of their specialisation on other films. Their resulting work will provide invaluable showreel and portfolio material to assist in gaining work in the film and television industries.

Producing and Directing:

Students develop practical production skills at Level 4, moving from small-scale-briefs to the making of a complete short film (3-4 min). At this stage students learn the basic preparatory and production skills of producers and directors – including leading their respective teams, both on and off the set – and are also introduced to ethical and legal issues, such as copyright.

At Level 5 skills are further developed through **FLM2300** Producing and Directing where students will produce or direct at least two films in different forms/genres. They will also broaden their understanding of their filmmaking practice through focus on two additional areas from among Screenwriting, Film Craft, and Documentary (**FLM2100**, **FLM2200**, **FLM2400**). Work from Screenwriting and Documentary is taken into Producing and Directing in order to be produced. Producing and Directing addresses very practical issues in managing a film project, and in Term 2 allows students to further specialise in their chosen role.

At Level 6 students will choose the optional module **FLM3300** Advanced Producing and Directing in which they will receive advanced tuition and practice in their specialist role. This module feeds into **FLM3000** Major Project in which students will produce or direct a significant film project with the expectation that it will achieve professional production standards and be a “calling card” for progressing into employment.

Studying on BA Film is a means of gaining an excellent all-round education in the theory-practice of film, and the pathways are used to be guiding rather than restrictive to individuals on the programme.

For all students, whether more or less specialised in their participation on the programme, the strong emphasis on inter-connectedness between the pathways will be of great benefit as they progress to employment in an increasingly fluid media / film industry requiring a multi-skilled, highly adaptable work force.

While work experience and short work placements are encouraged, these are not

compulsory – though if they are taken up in Year 3 they will be assigned credit value as part of **FLM3002**.

Running through the entire programme is personal development planning. Using a digital technology and/or online platform the student will record their learning and reflect upon it. By the final year of the programme, students will have both a sophisticated live working document and a record of their development.

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 4 (1)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: FLM1100 <i>30 credits</i> FLM1200 <i>30 credits</i> FLM1300 <i>30 credits</i> FLM1301 <i>30 credits</i>		Students are required to achieve 120 credits.
Level 5 (2)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must take the following: FLM2300 <i>60 credits</i>	Students must choose two from the following: FLM2100 <i>30 credits</i> FLM2200 <i>30 credits</i> FLM2400 <i>30 credits</i>	Students are required to achieve 240 credits.
Level 6 (3)		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: FLM3000 <i>30 credits</i> FLM3001 <i>30 credits</i> FLM3002 <i>30 credits</i>	Students must choose one from the following: FLM3100 <i>30 credits</i> FLM3200 <i>30 credits</i> FLM3300 <i>30 credits</i>	Students are required to achieve 360 credits. FLM3000 cannot be compensated – so this module must be passed for the award of BA Honours.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

Module level	Module code
Level 5	FLM2300
Level 6	FLM3000

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

Middlesex University Regulations apply.

All modules are assessed through coursework. Students are directed to read module narratives carefully in relation to any compensation that may be possible for 'minor' assessment components.

Students are not allowed to self-defer on any module. Students wishing to defer should consult with the module tutor and with the Assessment Officer.

The CertHE and DipHE exit awards are not classified.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

The students have an opportunity to undertake work experience as part of **FLM3002** Film Entrepreneurship. Students who have not had work experience are able to fulfil the assessment requirement by engaging in alternative professional practices as outlined in the module handbook.

Work placements are supported across the University by a network of School placement offices who work closely with your academic staff. There is a School Placement administrator, Maggie Walkowska – m.walkowska@mdx.ac.uk – who will introduce the work placement procedures and provide a drop in advice clinic.

Together with the Careers Service, they will offer workshops and one-to-one advice on writing CVs, cover letters and application forms; offer password protected access to the placement website; help arrange interviews and where possible create links with employers.

All work experience, both that organised through the University and that organised independently, will be recorded and reflected upon in their personal development planning.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

We expect to build on our already excellent record in progressing our graduates into media industry careers, often having exhibited their work at prestigious festivals such as Cannes. Our students have gone on to work at major institutions such as the BBC, while others have set up their own small businesses, attracting both commercial work and funded commissions. Some have become music video producers and others are freelancers representing a range of special professions within production and post-production.

This degree programme has been designed to bring into productive working relationships students with different interests and talents across the broad field of Film. One of the intentions of the programme is to encourage the kind of collaboration, creativity and problem solving that are highly valued assets when seeking employment.

In addition, assessment enables the cumulative development of a portfolio of work that will be extremely valuable in the job market, as is the emphasis throughout the programme in developing high-level interpersonal skills and confident self-presentation.

Students will be encouraged to submit film work to festivals and competitions and to take whatever opportunities are available to promote themselves and their work. This will build on our already excellent record in gaining exposure for our students' work and in supporting students in seeking film commissions. We have an expanding network of connections with media companies and are putting in place the technical means for enabling industry professionals to identify talent by accessing our student work online and reading student CVs. Students will also be encouraged to engage in short periods of work experience (see 15 above) that is a proven route into employment. In addition to a focus on working in the film / moving image sector, the degree opens up a broader range of employment opportunities within the cultural sector. Progression to the PGCE is also an option, leading to a teaching career.

Students are very well placed to progress to postgraduate study, either at Middlesex University or elsewhere.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

All students are provided with an induction to the programme and specific induction in the use of specialist equipment.

In association with the Learning Enhancement Team, diagnostic testing of all students takes place in the first week of the course. Students in need of learning support are identified and invited to attend sessions organised by the LET.

Media Arts degree programmes have always worked closely with both Technical Resources (the Digital Media Workshop) and Learning Resources (the Library). This will continue with technicians and librarians working in collaboration with academic staff in supporting students.

There is no restriction to the programme based on disability – as stated in section 9 (above). Specialist support will be made available by the University for students as required by the Equality Act (2010). A needs assessor will work with a student to establish the precise support required. There may be some situations in which students with specific physical disabilities may not be able to use film equipment but all “reasonable adjustments” will be made to accommodate students across the full range of learning and teaching activities included within the programme.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

Principle W600 and also W610, W612, W613, W620

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies

20. Reference points

This Programme Specification has been written with reference to the following:

- relevant QAA subject benchmarks (see 19 above)
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- QAA Code of Practice
- Middlesex University Quality Enhancement Handbook
- Middlesex University Strategy
- Middlesex University Regulations

21. Other information

BA Film is taught by experienced and distinguished practitioners in purpose-built accommodation at the Hendon Campus of Middlesex University. It shares this accommodation and some specialist facilities with a suite of Television Production and VFX degree programmes. Across the Film–Television–VFX spectrum there are many opportunities for students in both areas to work collaboratively and to develop informal networks. In addition, there will be a common programme of special events, including speakers from the industry.

In addition, BA Film is located in close proximity to other faculty programmes (including Fashion, Art, Design, Music, Theatre and Dance to name but a few). There are further rich opportunities for students to develop productive working relationships with students in these subject areas. BA Film teaching staff have a record for distinctive and innovative research and for business and community activities. We are working closely with Film London.

Central London offers an excellent range of resources for Film students – from the concentration of specialist cinemas to the British Film Institute Library offering the most extensive specialist resource for Film Studies in Europe. There are also many opportunities for gaining work experience.

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for BA (Hons) Film

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Practical processes involved in screenwriting and filmmaking.	C1	Developing and producing practical work in a professional manner.
A2	Film language as it is used to inform and shape ideology.	C2	Producing scripts and films through all phases of production.
A3	Audience experience and response.	C3	Demonstrate storytelling skills to communicate with target audiences.
A4	Film theory, history, and contemporary practice and their application to filmmaking.	C4	Present practice professionally in a variety of forms and contexts.
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Meaningful and effective storytelling through film language.	D1	Relating studies to career and personal development.
B2	Chart the trajectory of your creative and professional identity.	D2	Conduct relevant research in order to produce both written and practical work.
B3	Evaluating work.	D3	Work and communicate effectively in production teams.
B4	Think analytically in both practical work and academic writing.	D4	Utilise appropriate forms to communicate and present your work and skills.
		D5	Applying relevant numeracy skills in film production.

Programme outcomes																
A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Highest level achieved by all graduates																
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Module Title	Module Code by Level	Programme outcomes																
		A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Screen Storytelling	FLM1100		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			X		X	
Screen Aesthetics	FLM1200		X	X	X				X					X			X	
Film Production Fundamentals 1	FLM1300	X		X		X		X	X	X	X					X		
Film Production Fundamentals 2	FLM1301		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Screenwriting: The Short Film	FLM2100	X		X		X		X	X	X		X			X			
Film Craft	FLM2200	X		X		X			X									
Producing and Directing	FLM2300	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
Documentary Film	FLM2400	X	X	X		X			X	X		X			X			
Major Project	FLM3000			X			X	X	X	X	X		X			X		
Film Ideology & Aesthetics	FLM3001		X		X		X								X			
Film Entrepreneurship	FLM3002						X							X			X	X
Advanced Screenwriting	FLM3100	X				X		X				X			X		X	
Advanced Craft Skills	FLM3200	X				X		X				X			X		X	
Advanced Producing and Directing	FLM3300	X				X		X				X			X		X	X