

## Programme Specification

### MA Film

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| <b>1. Programme title</b>  | MA Film                 |
| <b>2. Awarding institution</b>   | Middlesex University    |
| <b>3. Teaching institution</b>   | Middlesex University    |
| <b>4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body</b> | Middlesex University    |
| <b>5. Final qualification</b>  | MA Film (PGDip, PGCert) |
| <b>6. Year of validation<br/>Year of amendment</b>                           | 2016/17                 |
| <b>7. Language of study</b>  | English                 |
| <b>8. Mode of study</b>  | Full and Part Time      |

### 9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Students from film production, film studies, art practice, writing and related creative fields are encouraged to apply: the course is designed to enable students from a wide range of disciplines to rethink their work in the context of film and digital media. Applicants will normally have an upper second honours degree or above. However, exemption can be made (at the programme leaders' discretion) for those with significant relevant experience.

All shortlisted candidates are asked to submit a portfolio of work designed to establish how the applicant can benefit from, and contribute to, the work of the programme and the post graduate community in Media & Performing Arts. The programme team will consider the quality

of this work. Candidates should include film-based work - for example a show reel of practical work, storyboards, film-scripts written, reports authored and academic film papers etc. They should be able to convince in their application that they have a genuine interest in innovative use of film, video and digital media. This can be as varied as artists using video to those with broadcasting experience. Applicants for this programme are expected to have access to suitable computing facilities.

The programme places significant demands on students speaking, listening, reading and writing in English. Overseas applicants whose first language is not English should provide IELTS results of 7 or higher. If applicants have attained less than 6.5 in any component part of the test, they are strongly recommended to attend one of the university's pre-session English courses.

## **10. Aims of the programme**

The programme aims to:

In line with the Academic Qualifications Framework students undertaking a Master's degree are expected to develop or demonstrate:

1. A systematic understanding and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights
2. A comprehensive understanding of techniques
3. Originality in the application of knowledge together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge
4. A conceptual understanding to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship

## 11. Programme outcomes

### A. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. A diverse range of film practice;
2. The position of moving image work within wider cultural practice;
3. The position of their personal practice in a wider context (creative, professional, cultural);
4. Theories, histories and contemporary developments relating to moving image work and the implications for practice.

### Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through

- advanced level self-directed study
- presenting ideas and engaging in informed debate with other students
- active participation in lectures and seminars, tutorials and research supervisions
- making use of opportunities, both those provided inside the university and beyond, for accessing practitioners and institutions in their field.

### **Assessment methods**

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by

- film-based practical projects
- written assignments – documentation and contextual essays
- seminar presentations - group and individual
- film dissertation project combining practical and written components

### **B. Cognitive (thinking) skills**

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. initiate and develop complex and innovative creative research-based film projects;
2. demonstrate consideration of the distribution/exhibition/dissemination of practical work;

### **Teaching/learning methods**

Students learn cognitive skills through

- advanced level self-directed study
- active participation in lectures, seminars tutorials and research supervisions
- presenting ideas and engaging in debate with

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| <p>3. apply advanced critical reading to creative practice and carry out rigorous work connecting theory with practice;</p> <p>4. comprehensively evaluate and analyse their own work and that of others</p> | <p>other students</p> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the complex development of projects from proposal to final realisation</li> <li>• placing work in appropriate contexts with a consideration of audiences</li> <li>• applying methodical critical reading in the examination of moving image work</li> <li>• comprehensive critical and contextual written work</li> <li>• seminar presentations - group and/or individual</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>C. Practical skills</b></p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p>  | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn practical skills through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the resolution of practical</li> </ul>   |

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. use and explore appropriate forms, conventions, languages, techniques for the development and realisation of moving image projects to a professional level;</li><li>2. develop proposals for professional-standard film projects;</li><li>3. execute a major project to a professional standard;</li><li>4. document and present projects to a highly professional standard.</li></ol> | <p>projects in which appropriate tools are used effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• technical workshops and briefs</li><li>• engaging in professional practice activities (discipline, team work, deadlines, pitching etc.)</li><li>• implementing problem solving strategies in response to the issues arising in both practical and written work</li><li>• participating actively in individual and group seminars and tutorials developing advanced speaking and listening skills</li><li>• developing a project from conception through proposal to presentation and documentation</li></ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> |
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|   | <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the realisation of practical projects including the Film Dissertation project</li> <li>• the documentation of methodologies</li> <li>• placing work in appropriate contexts with consideration of audiences</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>D. Graduate skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. work independently with self-discipline, self-direction, professionalism, initiative and reflexivity;</li> <li>2. make use of the wider postgraduate Media &amp; Performing Arts community as a creative resource;</li> <li>3. communicate effectively orally, in writing and in</li> </ol> | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students acquire transferable postgraduate skills through weekly seminars, project work and self-directed study</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' graduate skills are assessed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seminars and discussion</li> </ul> |

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| <p>practice;</p> <p>4. plan for effective career development;</p> <p>5. work effectively and responsibly, demonstrating an awareness of the ethical dimension of work undertaken.</p> | <p>groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• project methodology</li> <li>• project work</li> <li>• presentations and reflective essays</li> </ul> |
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**12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)**

**12. 1 Overall structure of the programme**

**Full Time**

| Term 1   | Term 2   | Term 3                                       |
|--|--|--|
| MDA4000<br>Film Research<br>(30 credits)                   |  | MDA4003<br>Film Dissertation<br>(60 credits) |
|  | MDA4010<br>Professional<br>Film Practice<br>(30 credits) |  |
| MDA4001<br>Scripting Producing & Directing<br>(30 credits) |  |  |
| MDA4002<br>Moving<br>Image Practice<br>(30 credits)        |  |  |



### Part Time Year One

| Term 1   | Term 2 |
|--|--------|
| MDA4002<br>Moving Image Practice<br>(30 credits)           |        |
| MDA4001<br>Scripting Producing & Directing<br>(30 credits) |        |

### Part Time Year Two

| Term 1                                   | Term 2   | Term 3                                       |
|--|--|--|
| MDA4000<br>Film Research<br>(30 credits) |  | MDA4003<br>Film Dissertation<br>(60 credits) |
|  | MDA4010<br>Professional<br>Film Practice<br>(30 credits) |  |

### 12.2 Levels and modules

The University uses the levels of study that comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

Level 7

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| COMPULSORY   | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS  |
| <p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>Film Research (30 credits)</p> <p>Scripting Producing &amp; Directing (30 credits) Moving Image Practice (30 credits) Film Professional Project (30 credits).</p> | <p>These modules run simultaneously. All of these modules must be successfully completed in order to progress to the <i>Film Dissertation</i> module.</p> |
| Level 7 (4)  |   |
| COMPULSORY   | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS  |
| <p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>MDA 4003 Film Dissertation (60 credits)</p>   | <p>This module is a graded module, and must be successfully completed in order to achieve the MA award.</p>   |

| <b>12.3 Non-compensatable modules</b> (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels) |   |
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| <b>Module level</b>  | <b>Module code</b>                                    |
| Level 7  | No modules on the MA Film programme are compensatable |

### **13. Curriculum map**

See attached.

### **14. Information about assessment regulations**

Students must successfully complete the Film Research, Scripting Producing & Directing, Moving Image Practice and Film Professional Project modules to progress to the Film Dissertation module. The classification of the final award is based on their achievement in these and in the final Dissertation module. The work is marked using the University's standard 20-point scale. For specific issues, please see Middlesex University Regulations.

Self-deferral is not permitted on any modules within the programme. Students wishing to defer must consult the Assessment Officer.

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

Placements are not offered on the programme, however self-initiated placements etc are encouraged and will be treated supportively. It is important to remember that the MA is an intensive experience, so be realistic about what you can manage to get the most out of your study.

Work experience is one of the most valuable assets you can have in planning a successful career and you are encouraged to gain a short-term placement or internship if you can work these around or into your study. Work placements are supported across the University by the Employability and Careers Centre.

### **16. Future careers (if applicable)**

Students on the MA Film may be looking at future careers in film and television production and/or the wider cultural sector. The programme supports students looking to become independent filmmakers, artists, freelancers, and those spanning the boundaries between traditionally segregated practices.

### **17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)**

Our new £80 million Art, Design and Media building has state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, rarely seen in universities in the UK. Having access to a full range of facilities increases the scope for what you can do on your course. We have fully equipped television, radio and sound studios, state of the art workshops for digital image processing and publishing and editing. We have an impressive range of digital HD film cameras and DSLRs, lights, and sound recording equipment. MA Film benefits greatly from these facilities. You will be using digital technologies to produce moving image pieces that push against conventional boundaries of form, narrative and

representation.

The course is supported by industry savvy academic staff, up-to-date with the very latest industry approaches and technologies. This expertise always feeds back into the teaching course.

The presence of Middlesex researchers both nationally and internationally is growing steadily. Our researchers are invited speakers at numerous locations in Europe and the United States. Areas of growing interest include; Global visual media, Promotional media and consumer culture and, Media, culture and techniques of the self.

This is a distinctive course in terms of its openness to ideas that push against the boundaries of the very latest technologies in a fast changing and converging digital media.

#### Key benefits

- A unique course, open to ideas and development of creativity
- State-of-the-art computer laboratories and brand new digital media facilities.
- Specialist teaching staff
- Academic research recognised in UK and abroad
- Strong industry links
- All that London offers as a cultural Centre
- Option to apply for AHRC funding

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| <b>18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)</b> | W600 Film Studies               |
| <b>19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)</b>     | Masters Benchmarks<br>Computing |

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| <b>20. Reference points</b>  |
| <p>The following reference points were used in designing the programme:</p> <p>Middlesex University Regulations<br/> <a href="http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/</a></p> <p>Middlesex University Learning and Teaching Policy and Strategy</p> <p>QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Undergraduate Study in: Art and Design; Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies; Computing</p> <p>(Benchmark Statements for Postgraduate Study in these areas are not yet published)</p> <p>QAA Framework for HE Qualifications (National Qualifications Framework)</p> |

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| <b>21. Other information</b> |
| N/A                          |

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 regulation.

## Appendix 2: Curriculum Map

### Curriculum map for MA 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 |  |
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| A1                          | A diverse range of film practice  | C1               | Use and explore appropriate forms, conventions, languages, techniques for the development and realisation of moving image projects to a professional level |
| A2                          | The position of moving image work within wider cultural practice                              | C2               | Develop proposals for professional-standard film projects  |
| A3                          | The position of their personal practice in a wider context (creative, professional, cultural) | C3               | Execute a major project to a professional standard;  |



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| A4                      | Theories, histories and contemporary developments relating to moving image work and the implications for practice. | C4                     | Document and present projects to a highly professional standard.                                     |
| <b>Cognitive skills</b> |  | <b>Graduate Skills</b> |  |
| <b>B1</b>               | Initiate and develop complex and innovative creative research-based film projects                                  | D1                     | Work independently with self-discipline, self-direction, professionalism, initiative and reflexivity |
| <b>B2</b>               | Demonstrate consideration of the distribution/exhibition/dissemination of practical work                           | D2                     | Make use of the wider postgraduate Media & Performing Arts community as a creative resource          |
| <b>B3</b>               | Apply advanced critical reading to creative practice and carry out rigorous work connecting theory with practice   | D3                     | Communicate effectively orally, in writing and in practice   |
| <b>B4</b>               | Comprehensively evaluate and analyse their own work and that of others   | D4                     | Plan for effective career development  |
| <b>B5</b>               |  | D5                     | Work effectively and responsibly, demonstrating an awareness of the ethical dimension of work        |

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| Programme outcomes                      |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|----|--|--|--|
| A                                       | A | A | A |  |  |  | B | B | B | B | B |  | C | C | C | C |  |  | D | D | D | D | D5 |  |  |  |
| 1                                       | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |    |  |  |  |
| Highest level achieved by all graduates |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |    |  |  |  |
| 7                                       | 7 | 7 | 7 |  |  |  | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |  | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |  |  | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7  |  |  |  |

| Module Title                    | Module Code | by Level |     |     |     |  |     |     |     |     |  |     |     |     |     |  |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                 |             | A 1      | A 2 | A 3 | A 4 |  | B 1 | B 2 | B 3 | B 4 |  | C 1 | C 2 | C 3 | C 4 |  | D 1 | D 2 | D 3 | D 4 | D 5 |
| Moving Image Practice           | MDA4002     | X        | X   | X   | X   |  |     |     | X   |     |  | X   |     |     |     |  | X   |     |     |     |     |
| Film Research                   | MDA4000     |          |     |     | X   |  | X   |     | X   | X   |  |     |     |     |     |  | X   | X   | X   | X   | X   |
| Scripting Producing & Directing | MDA4001     | X        |     |     | X   |  |     | X   | X   |     |  |     |     |     | X   |  | X   |     | X   |     |     |
| Film Professional Project       | CMT4010     |          | X   |     |     |  |     |     |     |     |  |     | X   |     | X   |  | X   | X   | X   | X   |     |

|                             |         |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Dissertation Project</b> | MDA4003 |  | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X |  | X |  | X | X | X |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|

