

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for BA (Hons) Film



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| 1. Programme Title | Film |
| 2. Awarding Institution | Middlesex University |
| 3. Teaching Institution | Middlesex University |
| 4. Programme Accredited by | Middlesex University |
| 5. Final Qualification | BA (Hons) |
| 6. Academic Year | 2017-18 |
| 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 Foundation Year in Media 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:

(A1) the essential practical processes involved in screenwriting, preproduction, film production, post-production and distribution;

(A2) the ways in which film language can be used to inform and shape ideology;

(A3) film audiences and how choices made by the filmmaker contribute to the audience experiences and responses;

(A4) the relevance and significance of theoretical, historical and professional contexts to film practice.

Teaching/Learning Methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through attendance, participation and engagement in:

- Practical digital filmmaking workshops, developing professional-level skills in the use of digital filmmaking technologies;
- Working to briefs which require the demonstration and application of written and practical skills;
- 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

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| | <p>– including theoretical and historical influences.</p> <p>Assessment Methods Students’ knowledge and understanding is assessed by a range of methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical film work, scripts, analytical and reflective writing, presentations and pitches, and portfolios of preparatory work. |
| <p>B. Cognitive (Thinking) Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <p>(B1) conceptualise, develop and realise meaningful and effective storytelling through film language (including script, moving image and sound);</p> <p>(B2) chart the trajectory of their creative and professional identity, locating their filmmaking within a broad range of theoretical and cultural contexts;</p> <p>(B3) use relevant criteria to articulate, discuss, criticise and evaluate their own and others’ work with reflexivity and ethical consideration;</p> <p>(B4) think analytically, researching and problem solving in both practical work and academic writing.</p> | <p>Teaching/Learning Methods 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 approach and 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 reflection with specific reference to their journey on the programme. <p>Assessment Method 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; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <p>(C1) produce scripts and films in a professional manner;</p> <p>(C2) effectively research, plan, document and organise film and script production activities from conceptualisation to realisation;</p> <p>(C3) demonstrate storytelling skills to apply knowledge of film language and aesthetics to communicate with target audiences;</p> <p>(C4) present practice professionally in a variety of forms and contexts</p> | <p>Teaching/Learning Methods 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 Method 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; • Written and oral commentary / analysis of practical work; • Independent research. |
| <p>D. Graduate Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <p>(D1) use the experience on the programme to determine personal and career</p> | <p>Teaching/Learning Methods 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 |

development goals and trajectory;

(D2) conduct relevant research in order to produce both written and practical work;

(D3) work and communicate effectively in production teams;

(D4) utilise appropriate forms (including live pitching and information technology) to communicate and present your work and skills;

(D5) budget, schedule and raise appropriate contracts for cast and crew, applying relevant numeracy skills in film production.

strengths, developmental needs and desired trajectory into employment;

- Supporting the development and honing of specialist skills;
- Industry guests and specialist lectures and masterclasses.

Assessment method

Students' graduate skills are assessed by:

- 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 One (Level 4):

Four modules, each 30 credits:

FLM1100, FLM1200, FLM1300, FLM1301

Year Two (Level 5):

One module of 60 credits:

FLM2300

Two modules, each 30 credits, from choice of three:

FLM2100, FLM2200, FLM2400

Year Three (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 One (Level 4): **FLM1100, FLM1200**

Year Two (Level 4): **FLM1300, FLM1301**

Year Three (Level 5):

Two of the following: **FLM2100, FLM2200, FLM2400**

Year Four (Level 5): **FLM2300**

Year Five (Levels 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 for the DipHE, 300 for an "Ordinary" degree and 360 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 | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| COMPULSORY | OPTIONAL | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS |
| Students must take all of the following 30 credit modules: FLM1100 FLM1200 FLM1300 FLM1301 | none | 120 credits |
| Level 5 | | |
| COMPULSORY | OPTIONAL | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS |
| FLM2300 (60 credits) | Students must choose 2 from the following 30 credit modules: FLM2100 FLM2200 FLM2400 | 240 credits |
| Level 6 | | |
| COMPULSORY | OPTIONAL | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Students must take all of the following 30-credit modules: FLM3000 FLM3001 FLM3002 | Students must choose 1 from the following 30 credit modules: FLM3100 FLM3200 FLM3300 | 360 credits FLM3000 cannot be compensated – so this module must be passed for the award of BA Honours. |
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12.3 Non-compensatable Modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

| Module Level | Module Code |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Level 5 | FLM2300 |
| Level 6 | <i>FLM3000</i> |

13. A Curriculum Map Relating Learning Outcomes to Modules

See Curriculum Map Attached

14. Information About Assessment Regulations

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 Development Unit, 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 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 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. Where Health and Safety concerns present during the full range of learning and teaching activities included within the BA Film Programme, risk assessments will be used and all “reasonable adjustments” will be made to accommodate all of our students.

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 Student Programme Handbook and the University Regulations.

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 | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------|---|
| A 1 | Practical processes involved in screenwriting and filmmaking | C 1 | Developing and producing practical work in a professional manner |
| A 2 | Film language as it is used to inform and shape ideology | C 2 | Producing scripts and films through all phases of production |
| A 3 | Audience experience and response | C 3 | Demonstrate storytelling skills to communicate with target audiences |
| A 4 | Film theory, history, and contemporary practice and their application to filmmaking | C 4 | Present practice professionally in a variety of forms and contexts |
| | | | |
| Cognitive Skills | | Graduate Skills | |
| B 1 | Meaningful and effective storytelling through film language | D 1 | Relating studies to career and personal development |
| B 2 | Chart the trajectory of your creative and professional identity | D 2 | Conduct relevant research in order to produce both written and practical work |
| B 3 | Evaluating work | D 3 | Work and communicate effectively in production teams |
| B 4 | Think analytically in both practical work and academic writing | D 4 | Utilise appropriate forms to communicate and present your work and skills |
| | | D 5 | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| | | 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 | | |
| 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 | | | | | |

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| 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 | |