

## Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

<b>Programme Title:</b>	
BA (Hons) Film Production BA (Hons) Film Production with Foundation year	
<b>Programme (AOS) Code(s):</b>	BM1FMP1 BM1FMP4
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	FPR1 FPR4
<b>Name of Final Award:</b>	Bachelor of Arts with Honours, BA (Hons)
<b>Level of Qualification:</b>	Level 6
<b>Regime of Delivery:</b>	Attendance
<b>Mode(s) of Delivery:</b>	Full-time
<b>Typical Length of Study (Years):</b>	Three Years Full Time, or Four Years Full Time with Foundation year.
<b>Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):</b>	N/A

### Brief Description of the Programme

BA (Hons) Film Production combines the filmmaking programme of Buckinghamshire New University with specialist film-industry-insider content provided by industry professionals at Pinewood Studios, the home of the British Film Industry. The aim of this programme is to ensure that graduates acquire knowledge and competence in film/television production. Top UK screen industry professionals at Pinewood Studios will be able to pass on their huge amounts of experience and knowledge to the next generation of screen professionals at an internationally unrivalled level.

The industry professionals at Pinewood Studios understand the importance of perfecting key skills and most importantly understand that the soft skills accumulated from students simply spending time with those who have great knowledge and experience is invaluable. These professionals share a passion to pass on their vast knowledge and expertise that only years of experience can bring: in order to enlighten younger industry-professional hopefuls coming up behind them. Most importantly: in this way the industry hopefuls receive highly professional training which provides industry-insider knowledge seldom found at higher education institutions.

Through a mix of lectures, seminars and practical workshops, students learn the skills needed in a modern media business. The course will cover camera, lighting, sound, editing and all elements of script development, pre-production, production, post-production and distribution, bringing these together to produce fiction and non-fiction films. Films are analysed and deconstructed so that the students can apply these techniques to their work. Students are provided with the opportunity to work in film industry placements where they gain real experience.

This is a practical and creative production-based course that focuses on developing the in-demand skills of planning, managing, shooting and editing films of various genres, for different audiences with an aim to preparing students for employment in the film industry.

## Programme Aims

1	To enable the development of generic key skills.
2	To build high-level teamwork skills specifically related to practical production work.
3	To develop problem solving skills related to practical production work.
4	To enable the achievement of a range of practical production skills and knowledge relevant to a variety of practices and formats, with emphasis on the development of multi-skilled graduates who have a specific propensity for high production value yet relatively low cost generation of audio-visual media assets.
5	To develop the ability to research and critically evaluate audio-visual production project work.
6	To enable the ability in students to critically evaluate technological developments that are relevant to audio-visual production.
7	To enable the development of emotional intelligence over time via the communication required of client-based collaborative work.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:	
<b>Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)</b>	
K1	Display critical understanding of the underlying concepts and principles associated with audio-visual production, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of television, and film
K2	Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of filmmaking, and of the way in which those principles have developed.
K3	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of filmmaking practice, including coherent and detailed knowledge that can inform production planning and design, at least some of which is at, or informed by, contemporary production processes and audience behaviours
<b>Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)</b>	
C1	Identify the practical requirements of film production, along with corresponding problem-solving skills
C2	Recognize the business, industry and commercial context in which films are distributed, with particular regard to their marketing
C3	Evaluate, interpret and present qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgments in accordance with production design and evaluation
<b>Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)</b>	

S1	Distinguish the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge concerning filmmaking practice
S2	Apply the main methods of enquiry in the context of filmmaking, and the ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of audio-visual productions in relation to their audiences
S3	Analyse and appraise particular aspects of current practice, including sustainable, ethical and responsible approaches to filmmaking.
<b>Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)</b>	
L1	Manage their own learning in order to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline)
L2	Apply underlying concepts and principles outside of the context in which they were first studied, such as when adapting and deploying techniques for different genres, formats and audiences
L3	Deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry relating to filmmaking
L4	Devise strategies and to solve problems using conventional ideas and techniques pertaining to production design, pre-production, production processes, post- production and distribution of media assets

## Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

*Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to sector developments.*

## Foundation Level (Optional for students on degree programmes)

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
FY026	Preparing for Success: Knowledge and Creativity	n/a	C	Yes
FY027	Preparing for Success: Self Development and Responsibility	n/a	C	Yes
FY028	Inquiry Based Learning	n/a	C	Yes
FY015	Introduction to Moving Image Production	n/a	C	Yes

## Level Four

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
TV411	Screen Language	15	C	Yes
TV412	Technical Skills: Camera and Editing	15	C	Yes
TV413	Documentary Production	15	C	Yes
TV414	Writing for Film and Television: Documentary	15	C	Yes
TV415	Screen Form and Platform	15	C	Yes
TV416	Technical Skills: Lighting and Sound	15	C	Yes
TV417	Fiction Production	15	C	Yes
TV418	Writing for Film and Television: Writing Fiction	15	C	Yes

## Level Five

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
TV507	Professional Preparation	30	C	Yes
TV508	Production Skills II: The Contextual Component	30	C	Yes
TV509	Script Analysis & Pitching	30	C	Yes
TV510	Pre-Production	30	C	Yes

## Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
TV608	Production Skills III: The Applied Component	30	C	Yes
TV609	Post Production	30	C	Yes
TV610	Releasing & Distribution	30	C	Yes
TV611	Independent Production Project	30	C	No

## Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

Activities will include:

- **Lectures**, which inform and develop subject –specific knowledge and understanding.
- **Demonstrations** and **workshops**, which will develop proficiency in the utilisation of production and post-production equipment for camera operation, lighting, recording of sound and editing filmic content.
- **Work simulations** and **work experience** that will develop student skills for employability.
- **Group tutorials** during which key theories and contemporary issues will be discussed.
- Group **project work** that will provide opportunities to further develop production skills and to experiment with the medium

- **Individual tutorials** that will provide support and guidance dependent upon each individual's needs and career aspirations
- Use of a **range of technology systems** for the acquisition of production skills that will prepare students for the technologically challenging work environment
- **Screenings** that will broaden the experience and further develop the understanding of moving image forms
- Delivery of course content is complemented by contributions from **industry professionals** such as scriptwriters, directors, producers, editors and camera operators.

A variety of approaches, and good use of the latest technology, will be blended together to engage students in learning in class and beyond, and to encourage full student participation. Meanwhile, the Course Team will strive to ensure that all modules embrace current industrial practice wherever possible.

The four Level 4 modules plus TV507 and TV611 will be taught at the High Wycombe campus. The other six Level 5 and Level 6 modules will be taught at Pinewood Studios with the content of such delivered by top industry professionals and academic staff. The experience of studying in the heart of the British Film Industry at Pinewood Studios provides students with a unique educational experience of the industry into which they hope to eventually enter.

The teaching and learning strategies have been designed to ensure that there is progression from formal teaching through to student-centred independent learning as the student progresses through the levels of the programme. Guided independent study will include activities such as reading and research, planning for productions, and self-guided production activity on location.

#### **Placements Plus**

Alongside and as part of their studies, students will have opportunities to develop their transferrable skills for employment, including skills for work training, as part of the University's Placements Plus programme. In addition to core skills development at Level 4, students will take the Level 5 Professional Preparation module (TV507), which will include options for students to engage in vocational experience, undertake a live brief set by a client, or to further develop their job skills. The programme will culminate in the Level 6 short film project.

### **Additional Course Costs**

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

#### Filmmaking Costs

Students are expected to spend approximately £100 - £200 per year on filmmaking costs such as travel to locations, props, etc. to support their study.

#### Printing

A minimum budget of £50 is recommended per year including dissertation printing and binding.

## Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad (Hours)
Foundation Year	336	864	0
Year One	331	869	0
Year Two	288.5	871.5	40
Year Three	314	886	0

## Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

A variety of assessment vehicles will be used as appropriate to the module, including assignments carried out in the student's own time, in-class assignment, workshops, presentations and formal examination. The form of assessment has been chosen so as to motivate students to achieve their best, and create learning activities for the students.

Assessments will be appropriate to the task, achievable, motivating and vocationally focussed and will form a constructive part of the learning process. They will develop general transferable skills as well as academic skills and will provide sufficient opportunity for students to exhibit a level of innovation and creativity associated with excellence.

Approaches include:

- Group and individual **portfolios** of written work and audio visual content that will include research, pre-production, production and post-production work submissions
- Critical self-evaluation and role analysis in the form of individual reflective **written evaluations**.
- Peer evaluation in the form of discussion of **work in groups**.
- Opportunity for **external placement / work-based learning** reports that will enhance each student's capacity to adopt professional working practices.
- Tasks aimed at the assessment of specific **production skills** which will target each individual's career aspirations.
- Independent work at the culmination of the degree comprising a **short film**

## Classification

<b>Calculation of final award:</b>	<b>Level 5 - 33% / Level 6 – 67%</b>
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For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

## Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

### Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

The course is aimed primarily at those who have successfully completed A levels, a National Diploma or similar, and have a desire to work within creative industries in the context of audio-visual production.

Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements for the 3-year programme, or those who do not feel fully prepared for a Level 4 course, will be considered for the 4-year programme including a Foundation Year.

**Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?**

**No**

### Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

Graduates from this course will pursue careers in audio-visual production, either in the film and/or television industries. Upon graduation, students can expect to aim for jobs such as:

- Production assistant
- Production runner
- Camera assistant
- Production coordinator
- Production secretary
- Junior editor
- Floor runner/set PA
- Researcher

The experience of being based at Pinewood Studios surrounded by industry contacts provides the student with the possibility of forging key industry connections.

The student would have the opportunity to proceed onto the Buckinghamshire New University MA Film Production course.

### Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

Students on the existing Film and TV Production programme would be able to transfer between programmes at the end of Level Four as there is a shared first year. Students should be aware that there may be funding considerations that need to be taken into account.

## Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services



## Appendices

### Quality Assurance

<b>Awarding Body:</b>	Buckinghamshire New University
<b>Language of Study:</b>	English
<b>QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):</b>	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2016)
<b>Assessment Regulations:</b>	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages ( <a href="https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice">https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice</a> )
<b>Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?</b>	No
<b>Date Published / Updated:</b>	September 2019
<b>Date programme re-approval required:</b>	2024-25

### Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements.

<b>Name of Exit Qualification:</b>	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
<b>Full name of Qualification and Award Title:</b>	CertHE Film Production
<b>Credits requirements:</b>	120 Credits
<b>Module requirements:</b>	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the underlying principles of filmmaking and audiovisual production.	
Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments	
Present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgments in accordance with basic theories and concepts of production design and evaluation.	
Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment in the Filmmaking Industry requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.	

<b>Name of Exit Qualification:</b>	<b>Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)</b>
<b>Full name of Qualification and Award Title:</b>	<b>DipHE Film Production</b>
<b>Credits requirements:</b>	<b>240 Credits</b>
<b>Module requirements:</b>	<b>ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 and all 120 Credits at Level 5</b>
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	
Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of filmmaking, including production design, pre-production, production processes, post-production and distribution of media assets, and of the way in which those principles have developed.	
Apply the main methods of enquiry in the context of filmmaking, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of audio-visual productions in relation to their audiences.	
Apply underlying concepts and principles of filmmaking and audio-visual production, adapting and deploying techniques for different genres, formats and audiences, and within an employment context.	
Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment in the Filmmaking Industry requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making.	

<b>Name of Exit Qualification:</b>	<b>Ordinary Degree</b>
<b>Full name of Qualification and Award Title:</b>	<b>BA Film Production</b>
<b>Credits requirements:</b>	<b>300 Credits</b>
<b>Module requirements:</b>	<b>ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 and all 120 Credits at Level 5, PLUS 60 credits from <u>two</u> of the following Level 6 modules: TV608 Production Skills III TV609 Post Production TV610 Releasing &amp; Distribution</b>
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	
Demonstrate a systematic and conceptual understanding of key aspects of filmmaking and audiovisual production, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge to inform production planning and design	
Demonstrate knowledge of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge concerning filmmaking practice.	
Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions related to filmmaking to both specialist and non-specialist audiences	
Possess the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment in the Filmmaking Industry requiring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility</li> <li>- decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts</li> <li>- the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a Professional or equivalent nature.</li> </ul>	