

Course Specification

Course Summary Information				
1	Course Title		BA (Hons) Filmmaking	
2	BCU Course Code	UCAS Code	US0897	P313
3	Awarding Institution		Birmingham City University	
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)			
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)			

6	Course Description
	Our BA (Hons) Filmmaking degree is built for people who want to make films, build real skills, and find their place in the wider industry. You'll learn by doing, explore different genres and technologies, and develop your own creative voice while honing your specialist talents. Our practice-based, industry-focused Filmmaking course enables you to develop creative and technical skills across a broad spectrum of filmmaking practices. You will be taught by experienced practitioners and scholars who support experimentation, craft development, and professional practice within the rapidly evolving world of the moving image. What makes our course distinctive is the focus on the language of cinema. You will learn how professional filmmakers combine image, sound, editing, performance, storytelling, and collaboration to shape emotion, meaning and audience experience. Through hands-on practice, you will explore how every creative choice, from performance and camera to sound design and structure, helps to bring a story to life. Working in our purpose-built studios, sound stages, and on location, you will build practical skills, grow your confidence, and learn how to contribute effectively as part of a filmmaking team. We encourage you to explore different forms of film production, including narrative film, documentary and more personal approaches to cinema. Through practical projects and critical reflection, you will develop as both an artist and a filmmaker, building your creative voice alongside the practical skills, confidence, and experience needed for a successful career in the screen industries. What's covered in this course This course gives you the chance to explore a wide range of filmmaking styles, techniques, and creative approaches, from classic storytelling to the ever-evolving norms of today's fast-changing screen industries. You will learn how filmmakers bring stories to life through image, sound, editing, performance, and collaboration, building both your creative understanding and practical skillset.

Alongside making your own work, you will study key film traditions, from early Hollywood cinema to contemporary international filmmaking, and discover how different genres, cultures and voices have shaped the language of film. You will also build valuable industry knowledge through engagement with guest speakers, film festivals, entrepreneurship, and the active expansion of your own professional network.

How you will learn

Practical filmmaking sits at the heart of our course, supported by a mixture of lectures, seminars, screenings, workshops, and production sessions. You will work collaboratively in filmmaking teams, developing professional skills across directing, cinematography, sound, editing, production design, and more. You will also undertake personal film projects that allow you to explore your own creative interests and develop your voice as a filmmaker.

Regular screenings and analytical discussions will deepen your understanding of how filmmakers create meaning through image and sound, and how storytelling works across different cinematic traditions, styles, and cultures.

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Filmmaking	6	360
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Certificate of Higher Education Filmmaking	4	120
	Diploma of Higher Education Filmmaking	5	240
	Bachelor of Arts Filmmaking	6	300

8	Variations from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full-Time	City Centre	3 years	US0897
	Professional Placement Year	City Centre	4 years	US1358

10	Entry Requirements
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/ , or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the https://www.ucas.com/ .

11	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge & Understanding
1	Explain filmmaking debates, practices and industry perspectives, and the relationships between these systems of knowledge.
2	Identify a range of research approaches and apply them to film and screenwriting in their theoretical, practical and industrial contexts.
3	Explore a range of film traditions, conventions and industries within both cinematic and screenwriting contexts.
4	Evaluate your own filmmaking practices and industry skills against wider theoretical debates in the field.
	Cognitive & Intellectual Skills
5	Research and apply a wide range of concepts relevant to film studies/filmmaking conventions.
6	Analyse and evaluate a series of filmmaking methodologies in order to apply them to theoretical, practice and industry case-studies.
7	Critically evaluate your own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions.
8	Formulate research questions and employ appropriate methods and resources to explore them, drawing on a range of sources, and conceptual frameworks.
	Practical & Professional Skills
9	Apply a range of filmmaking and production practices to wider film debates.
10	Develop as a thinking creative worker, able to apply film debates to a real world working environment.
11	Experiment and take risks, using creative skills to shape concepts based on secure research strategies.
12	Produce work which demonstrates an understanding of film forms, traditions and audiences in their international contexts.
	Key Transferable Skills
13	Work independently and creatively in a group or team in a variety of film research and film practice based settings.
14	Deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate of a problem-solving, and creative approach.
15	Communicate effectively in written and or creative practice contexts.
16	Gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively.

12	Course Requirements																																																			
12a	Level 4: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>GFA4006</td><td>Hollywood: Early Film to Blockbuster</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>GFA4001</td><td>Film Primer</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED4205</td><td>Post-Production Fundamentals: Editing, Sound and Finish</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED4167</td><td>Foundations of Filmmaking</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED4169</td><td>Documentary: Theory and Practice</td><td>40</td></tr></table> Level 5: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):</i> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>MED5206</td><td>Film Festivals</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>GFA5006</td><td>Filmmaking Practices</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>ADM5006-P</td><td>Collaborative Practice</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i> Options Block 1 Choice: <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>MED5260</td><td>Sound Design for Filmmakers</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>GFA5005</td><td>Cinematography</td><td>20</td></tr></table> Options Block 2 Choice: <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>MED5215</td><td>Cinema of the Seventies</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>EGL5061</td><td>Foundations of Screenwriting</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>MED5259</td><td>Pre-Production: Script to Set</td><td>20</td></tr></table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	GFA4006	Hollywood: Early Film to Blockbuster	20	GFA4001	Film Primer	20	MED4205	Post-Production Fundamentals: Editing, Sound and Finish	20	MED4167	Foundations of Filmmaking	20	MED4169	Documentary: Theory and Practice	40	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED5206	Film Festivals	20	GFA5006	Filmmaking Practices	40	ADM5006-P	Collaborative Practice	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED5260	Sound Design for Filmmakers	20	GFA5005	Cinematography	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED5215	Cinema of the Seventies	20	EGL5061	Foundations of Screenwriting	20	MED5259	Pre-Production: Script to Set	20
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Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
GFA6007	Postproduction Techniques	20
GFA6011-A	Professional Practice	40
GFA6015-A	Major Project	60

12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only as modules will only run if selected by 15 or more students. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

BA (Hons) Filmmaking

Year 1: Semester 1			Year 2: Semester 1		Year 3: Semester 1
Film Primer (20 credits)	Post-Production Fundamentals: Editing, Sound and Finish (20 credits)	Hollywood: Early Film to Blockbuster (20 Credits)	Film Festivals (20 credits)	Filmmaking Practices (40 credits)	Postproduction Techniques (20 credits)
					Professional Practice (40 credits)
Year 1: Semester 2			Year 2: Semester 2		Year 3: Semester 2
Foundations of Filmmaking (20 credit)			Collaborative Practice (20 credits)	Option 1: Cinematography OR Sound Design for Filmmakers	Major Project (60 credits)
Documentary: Theory & Practice (40 credits)				Option 2: Foundations of Screenwriting, OR Cinema of the Seventies, OR Pre-Production: Script to Set	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 4

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	268
Directed Learning	656
Private Study	276
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	92%
Exam	
In-Person	8%

Level 5

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	200
Directed Learning	760
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	88%
Exam	
In-Person	12%

Level 6**Workload**

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	192
Directed Learning	432
Private Study	576
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	
In-Person	