

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	BA (Hons) Media Production with Foundation Year
2	Course Code	US0905F
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
	<p>Launch your media career with our BA (Hons) Media Production degree. Our industry-focussed programme is designed to develop critically thinking, innovative content creators for television, radio, podcasting, online, social media as well as new and emerging platforms ensuring you have the skills and attitude needed to adapt and change in line with industry.</p> <p>Supported by an experienced team of award-winning tutors with industry and academic experience, students will learn technical and editorial approaches to enable them to tell compelling stories for a range of audiences across multiple platforms. We'll help you to become 'industry-ready' as you learn from guest speakers and industry experts giving you the chance to make useful contacts and get a head start with work placements and other opportunities to gain professional skills.</p> <p>Through research-led teaching, you will create media content in our industry-standard television and radio studios, learning about all the important roles as you go. Working collaboratively, you will learn how to record audio and shoot and edit video, along with developing the technical and personal skills needed to operate our studios effectively. You will also learn how to develop and pitch your own ideas, a necessary skill in today's competitive industry, whilst becoming aware of sustainability and ethical issues affecting the media landscape.</p> <p>There will be opportunities to make traditional content such as magazine shows, documentaries, drama, adverts whilst also exploring new ideas in social media and experimental content. When you work in our enviable complex of six radio studios, you will be getting to grips with how to operate the studio, present a show, record interviews, create podcasts and use digital technology to edit and mix sound. As you progress through the course, you will put together music radio shows, short features and podcasts, with the option to run a live radio station at the University. This is a truly stimulating course, which will immerse you in the editorial and practical aspects of programme-making and content creation.</p> <p>About foundation courses This four-year programme has been specifically designed to allow students who do not initially meet the entry requirements for a three-year degree, to undertake additional level 3 study designed to ensure they are successful on their chosen degree programme.</p>

	After successful completion of your foundation year, you will have the flexibility to switch (should you wish to change direction) onto a several of related undergraduate media degree programmes.
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Media Production	6	480
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Foundation Certificate Media Production	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education Media Production	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education Media Production	5	360
	Bachelor of Arts Media Production	6	420

8	Derogation 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	4 years	US0905F

10	Entry Requirements	
	Home:	80 UCAS tariff points. GCSE English Language or English Literature and GCSE Maths at grade C/4 or above.
	EU:	IELTS: 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in each band
	International:	IELTS: 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in each band
	Access:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass with 60 credits overall. At least 45 credits at Level 3. • Arts, Media and Publishing subjects preferred but other subjects also considered.

11	Course Aims	
	The aims of the course are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop creative and thinking media professionals with a range of technical and editorial skills • To support and encourage students to experiment with media production and bring their ideas and passions to life • To develop editorial decision making, lateral thinking and problem-solving skills • To develop creative camera, audio and editing skills • To develop and build confidence in students to realise their media related ambitions • To provide students with opportunities to network and develop their employability skills • To navigate the media landscape and shape their future roles as creative leaders 	

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge & Understanding
1	Analyse creative processes and practices in media production.
2	Critically engage with media texts and relevant data in order to draw informed insights.
3	Evaluate own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions.
4	Employ appropriate methods and resources to explore research, drawing on a range of sources, and frameworks.
5	Develop as a creative thinker and practitioner, capable of experimenting and taking risks, and shaping concepts based on secure research strategies.
	Skills and other attributes
6	Utilise appropriate equipment, software or other resources in order to produce creative solutions to media production problems.
7	Operate within a professional context, as a thinking creative worker, aware of the commissioning and funding structures and of how to operate in a cultural industries workplace.
8	Produce work which demonstrates an understanding of media forms, structures, audiences and specific communication registers.
9	Communicate effectively in interpersonal settings, in writing and in a variety of media.
10	Perform productively and creatively in a group or team, as well as individually, showing abilities at different times to listen, contribute and lead, as well as act effectively by oneself.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of Level 3/ the Foundation Certificate, you will be able to:</i>
1	Recognise the range of roles that are required in a media production team and the inter-relationship between them.
2	List appropriate sources of information to support an understanding of relevant theories, ideas and concepts.
3	Undertake research that supports an understanding of media texts and audiences
4	Use media production skills to communicate information in appropriate ways to a pre-defined audience.
5	Use a range of academic skills and appropriate behaviours required to be successful as a higher education student and identify areas for improvement.
	<i>Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, you will be able to:</i>
1	Develop a range of transition skills to successfully study at university level.
2	Engage with and understand a range of core theoretical concepts which underpin media production and cultural practices of reception.
3	Identify and develop media content across a broad base of media production platforms.
4	Reflect critically on your individual performance and learning.
	<i>Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, you will be able to:</i>
1	Develop ideas for production work that respond to contemporary commissioning cultures

2	Consolidate and develop advanced media production and planning skills to reach a wide range of audiences.
3	Recognise a range of contemporary broadcast formats and work collaboratively to create production work within format expectations.
4	Show an awareness of academic, professional, and personal opportunities.
5	Critically engage with and research contemporary issues related to media, culture and society.
<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 6 / the Bachelors Degree, you will be able to:</i>	
1	Critique a range of media and cultural concepts and practices and their impact on society
2	Synthesize industry standard creative production and planning skills to develop solutions to problems.
3	Apply professional level knowledge and skills within real world contexts to create distinctive work
4	Be industry ready and equipped for pursuing a career in your chosen field

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p>All of our taught courses align with our Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy. This ensures that the teaching on your course will be shaped by the expertise in research and practice of our academic staff. The relationship between research and teaching ensures we can offer a curriculum that incorporates advances in research, emphasises the processes for producing knowledge and adopts an inquiry-based approach, designed to encourage new ideas and experimentation. Our strategy also ensures that the curriculum on your course will be designed and delivered inclusively. Our inclusive approach to curriculum and pedagogy reflects the wide range of contemporary issues which are of concern to our diverse student and staff population. This results in a curriculum which positively engages with and is willing to address and discuss issues of social justice and equality. Our approach is aimed at supporting the building of academic communities of practice and fostering high levels of scholarly professionalism in our students. All courses embed distinctive graduate attributes relevant to the subject and we hope that you will find your course engaging, challenging, stimulating and fun.</p> <p>How you will learn:</p> <p>Your learning will be through a mixture of lectures, practical workshops and seminars. Your course also provides an opportunity to undertake work-based learning through a placement. We embed flexible opportunities for you to access your curriculum including recorded lectures, blended learning, on-campus delivery and intensive delivery of some modules. We recognise that students progress to higher education from a variety of educational experiences and that university is a completely new educational environment for most of you. For that reason, you will find that in your first year with us there is a focus on supporting your transition which places an emphasis on developing both the confidence and the competencies required for being successful at your university assignments. Where appropriate, we will bring in external speakers or arrange visits relevant to your specialism. These may be from industry or be focused on a particular specialist academic interest. We have excellent links with industry, community and scholarly partners which we draw on to enhance your learning experience.</p>

How you will be assessed:

All our assessments are designed to ensure that you meet the learning outcomes of your modules and thus of the course overall. Assessment types may include written research reports, essays, case studies, practical work, portfolios and presentations. There are no formal examinations on your course, but short classroom tests may be included within an element of assessment. You will be assessed as an individual but there may be times when you will be asked to work within teams and submit assessments as groups. All modules offer chances for formative assessment, that is, informal assessments that are used to assess your understanding before the final submission of your work. Formative assessments also help inform the teaching strategy within a module, identifying areas where we can offer extra help and guidance. We will offer tutorials and a chance for you to discuss your draft assessments before you submit them. Once marked, we will give formal feedback and 'feed forward' on all work submitted, aimed at helping you improve future submissions.

What we expect of you:

Your course is designed so that you experience learning through inquiry: questioning, investigating, examining, exploring, analysing and creating. By engaging fully with your studies and taking up the support we offer you, you will gain the confidence and skills you need to be successful in your studies. As you progress through your course, we will increasingly expect you to study independently. In your final year you will undertake a major project for which you will receive supervision, but we will expect you to organise your learning and undertake independent research. By the end of the course, as a result of your full engagement with your studies, you will be able to begin the next stage of your life as a confident, resilient and socially aware person.

15	Course Requirements																																																																
15a	<p>Level 3: <i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MED3xxx</td> <td>Media Audiences</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED3xxx</td> <td>Professional and Academic Skills</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED3xxx</td> <td>Media Production Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED3xxx</td> <td>Collaborative Media Production</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED3xxx</td> <td>Media Concepts and Investigation</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED3xxx</td> <td>Media Project</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 4: <i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MED4xxx</td> <td>Understanding Media Texts, Industries and Audiences</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4xxx</td> <td>Television Skills</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4xxx</td> <td>Radio & Podcast Production</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4xxx</td> <td>Investigating Media Texts, Industries and Audiences</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4xxx</td> <td>Creative Production 1</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED4xxx</td> <td>Community and Industry Collaboration</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 5: <i>In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 60 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MED5xxx</td> <td>Researching the Broadcast Media</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED5xxx</td> <td>Documentary & Features</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MED5xxx</td> <td>Creative Production 2</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at 20 credits from the following indicative list of CORE Faculty modules.</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ADM5000</td> <td>Work Placement</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADM5001</td> <td>Live Project</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED3xxx	Media Audiences	20	MED3xxx	Professional and Academic Skills	20	MED3xxx	Media Production Practice	20	MED3xxx	Collaborative Media Production	20	MED3xxx	Media Concepts and Investigation	20	MED3xxx	Media Project	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED4xxx	Understanding Media Texts, Industries and Audiences	20	MED4xxx	Television Skills	20	MED4xxx	Radio & Podcast Production	20	MED4xxx	Investigating Media Texts, Industries and Audiences	20	MED4xxx	Creative Production 1	20	MED4xxx	Community and Industry Collaboration	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	MED5xxx	Researching the Broadcast Media	20	MED5xxx	Documentary & Features	20	MED5xxx	Creative Production 2	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	ADM5000	Work Placement	20	ADM5001	Live Project	20
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ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20
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In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MED5159	Bi-Media Drama	20
MED5164	Comedy in the Media and Popular Culture	20
MED5168	Fandoms and Subcultures	20
MED5181	Photojournalism	20
MED5196	Television Studio	20
MED5202	Creating Compelling Content	20
MED5217	Digital Storytelling	20
MED5219	Radio Documentary and Podcast Production	20
MED5230	Commercial Photography	20
MED5234	Emotion, Media and Culture	20
MED5xxx	Media and Environment	20
MED5xxx	Television From Small Screens to Smart Screens	20
MED5xxx	Graphic Design	20
MED5xxx	PR Campaign Planning	20
MED5xxx	Disruptive Publishing	20
MED5xxx	Exploring PR, social media and influencers	20
MED5xxx	Live Music and Media	20
MED5xxx	Live Radio Production	20

Level 6:

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 40 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MED6xxx	Creative Production 3	20
MED6xxx	Major Project Preparation	20

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete one module from the following list of CORE-OPTION modules (worth 40 credits)

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MED6xxx	Major Project - Dissertation	40
MED6xxx	Major Project - Hybrid	40
MED6xxx	Major Project - Production	40

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
MED6174	Media Activism	20
MED6196	Understanding Social Media: Practices, Cultures and Debates	20
MED6210	Digital Futures	20
MED6212	Creative Camera	20
MED6215	Radio Station	20
EGL6155	Audio Drama and Podcast Writing	20
MED6xxx	Audience and User Experience	20
MED6xxx	Gender, Sexuality and the Body	20
MED6xxx	Race, Media and Culture	20
MED6xxx	Popular Music Narratives	20
MED6xxx	Media Production Company	20
MED6xxx	Communication in Action	20
MED6xxx	Feature Writing for News Media	20

15b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Level 3

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: MED3xxx Media Audiences MED3xxx Professional and Academic Skills MED3xxx Media Production Practice	Core modules: MED3xxx Collaborative Media Production MED3xxx Media Concepts and Investigation MED3xxx Media Project

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: MED4xxx Understanding Media Texts, Industries and Audiences (20 credits) MED4xxx Television Skills (20 credits) MED4xxx Radio Podcasts & Production (20 credits)	Core modules: MED4xxx Investigating Media Texts, Industries and Audiences (20 credits) MED4xxx Creative Production 1 (20 credits) MED4xxx Community and Industry Collaboration (20 credits)

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: MED5xxx Researching Broadcast Media (20 credits) MED5xxx Documentary & Features (20 credits)	Core module: MED5xxx Creative Production 2 (20 credits)
	Core-option module: ADM5000 Work Placement (20 credits) Or ADM5001 Live Project (20 credits) Or ADM5006 Collaborative Practice (20 credits)
Option module (20 credits). One from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED5181 Photojournalism • MED5xxx Live Radio Production 	Option module (20 credits). One from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED5230 Commercial Photography • MED5159 Bi-Media Drama

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED5196 Television Studio • MED5164 Comedy in the Media and Popular Culture • MED5168 Fandoms and Subcultures • MED5xxx Media and Environment • MED5xxx Graphic Design • MED5xxx PR Campaign Planning • MED5202 Creating Compelling Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED5234 Emotion, Media and Culture • MED5xxx Television From Small Screens to Smart Screens • MED5219 Radio Documentary and Podcast Production • MED5xxx Disruptive Publishing • MED5xxx Exploring PR, social media and influencers • MED5xxx Live Music and Media • MED5217 Digital Storytelling
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Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: MED6xxx Creative Production 3 (20 credits) MED6xxx Major Project Preparation (20 credits)	Core-option module: MED6xxx Major Project - Dissertation (40 credits) Or MED6xxx Major Project - Hybrid (40 credits) Or MED6xxx Major Project – Production (40 credits)
Option module (20 credits). One from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED6xxx Feature Writing for News Media • MED6215 Radio Station • MED6xxx Media Production Company • MED6xxx Gender, Sexuality and the Body • MED6xxx Popular Music Narratives • MED6196 Understanding Social Media: Practices, Cultures and Debates 	Option module (20 credits). One from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MED6210 Digital Futures • MED6174 Media Activism • MED6xxx Race, Media and Culture • MED6xxx Audience and User Experience • MED6212 Creative Camera • MED6xxx Communication in Action • EGL6155 Audio Drama and Podcast Writing

16	Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment
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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 3

Workload

23% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	276
Directed Learning	660
Private Study	264
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	83%
Exam	0%
In-Person	17%

Level 4

Workload

19% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	228
Directed Learning	712
Private Study	260
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	90%
Exam	0%
In-Person	10%

Level 5

Workload

16% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	190
Directed Learning	730
Private Study	260
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%

Level 6

Workload

13% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	150
Directed Learning	714
Private Study	336
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%