

## Course Specification

Course Summary Information			
1	<b>Course Title</b>		BSc (Hons) Visual Effects with Foundation Year
2	<b>BCU Course Code</b>	<b>UCAS Code</b>	US0946F 1019
3	<b>Awarding Institution</b>		Birmingham City University
4	<b>Teaching Institution(s)</b> (if different from point 3)		
5	<b>Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation</b> (if applicable)		

6	Course Description
	<p>Our BSc (Hons) Visual Effects course will develop your technical, creative and production skills, related to visual effects production. The course will prepare you to pursue careers in a range of roles within visual effects and other innovative industries utilising computer graphics.</p> <p>The Foundation Year course option enables you to study for our BSc (Hons) degree over an extended full-time duration of four years by including a Foundation Certificate (year one of four). The Foundation Certificate provides a broad study programme that underpins the follow-on degree. In order to progress to the next year of your degree, it is necessary to achieve a pass in all of the modules of the Foundation Certificate.</p> <p>You will have access to a variety of high quality facilities including: a range of industry standard software, high specification computers, cloud-based rendering facilities, a Vicon motion capture studio, one of the largest fixed green screen studios in the UK, a Milo motion control system, a variety of camera and lighting equipment and excellent learning facilities with access to substantial library open 24 hours and a variety on-line resources.</p> <p>The course is delivered by a highly skilled and experienced course team, with a range of relevant industrial and academic experience, who constantly engage with industry and update their skills, to ensure the course remains up to date.</p> <p>To ensure that you are equipped and ready to engage with industry our tutoring programme and Graduate+ scheme will provide support and guidance through-out your educational journey to equip you with professional skills and prepare you for industry. The course aims to produce versatile, adaptable graduates with the fusion of technical and creative skills that industry is looking for.</p> <p><b>What's covered in the course?</b></p> <p>You will learn all aspects of visual effects production including: shooting video, computer modelling, computer animation, matchmoving, and compositing. You will use these skills to produce digital elements such as creatures and environments, then combine them with live action video to produce convincing visual effects shots.</p>

	<p>As a Bachelor of Science course there is an emphasis on technical director (TD) roles such as: Matchmoving, Rigging, Dynamic Simulations, Motion Capture and Python/Pipeline Development, which are in particular demand within the visual effects industry. The teaching of technical skills is underpinned with a knowledge of fundamental concepts and use of industry tools and practice.</p> <p>To help you engage with industry, guest speakers are invited to come and share their expertise. The course also includes organised excursions such as trips to conferences or industrial visits. Previous examples include the London VFX Festival, Framestore, Double Negative, Cinesite, Industrial Light and Magic, and The Mill.</p> <p>During the course you will do a mixture of 'hands on' productions and technical investigations which will teach you the practice, process, craft and technology of visual effects. These activities will help you become a proactive learner able to explore knowledge, implement best practice and critically evaluate the results of your work.</p> <p>You will get the opportunity to work collaboratively with students from related disciplines such as games and film. This will allow you to broaden your horizons and help you understand how your visual effects and computer graphics skills can fit into other existing and emerging industries.</p>
--	---

<b>7</b>	<b>Course Awards</b>		
<b>7a</b>	<b>Name of Final Award</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credits Awarded</b>
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Visual Effects	6	480
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Visual Effects with Professional Placement Year	6	600
<b>7b</b>	<b>Exit Awards and Credits Awarded</b>		
	Foundation Visual Effects	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education Visual Effects	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education Visual Effects	5	360
	Bachelor of Science Visual Effects	6	420

<b>8</b>	<b>Derogation from the University Regulations</b>		
	Not applicable.		

<b>9</b>	<b>Delivery Patterns</b>		
<b>Mode(s) of Study</b>	<b>Location(s) of Study</b>	<b>Duration of Study</b>	<b>Code(s)</b>
Full Time	City Centre	4 years	US0946F
With Professional Placement Year	City Centre	5 years	US1108
<b>10</b>	<b>Entry Requirements</b>		
	<b>Home:</b>	<p>Level 3 Entry Requirements</p> <p>At the point of application, applicant must have GCSE at Grade C or above in English language and mathematics. Equivalent qualifications will be considered. BB at A Level or 80 UCAS tariff points from A/AS Level with a minimum of 2 A Levels, at least one from a Science, Technology, Mathematics or Computing</p> <p>Students who wish to APEL should contact the course lead to discuss their prior experience or learning. Subject to discussion and appropriateness of the APEL request, the applicant will need to submit an application through the Faculty APEL application process.</p>	
	<b>EU:</b>	IELTS 6.0 overall with 5.5 minimum in all bands	
	<b>International:</b>	IELTS 6.0 overall with 5.5 minimum in all bands	
	<b>Access:</b>	60 credits overall. Minimum of 45 credits at Level 3, including a minimum of 12 credits achieved from any Technology Units awarded at Merit or Distinction.	

<b>11</b>	<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>
	<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>
<b>KU1</b>	Explain and interpret key principles and concepts underpinning visual effects production workflows and tools, relating them to visual effects disciplines.
<b>KU2</b>	Relate key concepts and theories around physics, movement, geometry and image manipulation to the production of visual effects and computer graphics.
<b>KU3</b>	Discuss tools, techniques and approaches relating to technical aspects visual effects production such as: matchmoving; dynamic simulations and rigging, in a knowledgeable and informed manner.
<b>KU4</b>	Relate management, organisational and business theories to the process of producing visual effects and wider career development.
	<b>Cognitive and Intellectual Skills</b>
<b>IS1</b>	Design and implement bespoke approaches and solutions, to producing film visual effects.
<b>IS2</b>	Assimilate, interpret and analyse information from a wide variety of research sources, constructing effective arguments and expressing justified conclusions.
<b>IS3</b>	Analyse and deconstruct a visual effects shot breaking it down into logical components.
<b>IS4</b>	Be able to critically evaluate and reflect on their own work and the methods used, then independently develop their knowledge and skills in response.
	<b>Practical and Professional Skills</b>
<b>PS1</b>	Use industry standard approaches to planning and organising productions such as: group/collaborative work; regular production meetings; implementing and working within production workflows or pipelines and taking iterative or progressive approaches to production development.
<b>PS2</b>	Utilise a range of industry standard tools along with a fusion of creative and technical skills to produce 3D models, film visual effects and computer animations, incorporating realistic movement, lighting and textures.
<b>PS3</b>	Utilise testing methodologies to objectively measure and compare production approaches and their output.
<b>PS4</b>	Effectively and safely use of a variety of hardware and software tools, in a highly competent and ethical manner.
	<b>Key Transferable Skills</b>
<b>TS1</b>	Demonstrate and use technical, research, analytical, planning, design and organisational skills, which are highly transferable and can be used in a wide variety of disciplines.
<b>TS2</b>	In co-operation with others, plan and undertake tasks and work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of creative, technical and organizational production roles.
<b>TS3</b>	Communicate effectively in writing and presentations to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
<b>TS4</b>	Relate visual effects production skills to practices and tools in variety of media/industries.

<b>12</b>	<b>Course Requirements</b>																																																															
<b>12a</b>	<p><b>Level 3:</b></p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student 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>CMP3010</td> <td>Fundamental Mathematics</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BNV3001</td> <td>Academic and Personal Study Skills</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CMP3012</td> <td>Web Application Design</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CMP3013</td> <td>Audio / Video Fundamentals</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BNV3002</td> <td>Independent Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CMP3009</td> <td>Foundations of Programming</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Level 4:</b></p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student 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>DIG4172</td> <td>Modelling</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CMP4264</td> <td>2D Game Programming</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG4149</td> <td>Acquisition for Visual Effects</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG4174</td> <td>Texture and Look Development</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG4175</td> <td>Animation</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG4171</td> <td>Matchmoving</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Level 5:</b></p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student 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>DIG5131</td> <td>Animation</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG5123</td> <td>Visual Effects Tools</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG5132</td> <td>Compositing</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG5133</td> <td>Dynamic Effects and Simulations</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG5129</td> <td>Research and Testing Methods</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIG5116</td> <td>Collaborative Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	CMP3010	Fundamental Mathematics	20	BNV3001	Academic and Personal Study Skills	20	CMP3012	Web Application Design	20	CMP3013	Audio / Video Fundamentals	20	BNV3002	Independent Practice	20	CMP3009	Foundations of Programming	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	DIG4172	Modelling	20	CMP4264	2D Game Programming	20	DIG4149	Acquisition for Visual Effects	20	DIG4174	Texture and Look Development	20	DIG4175	Animation	20	DIG4171	Matchmoving	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	DIG5131	Animation	20	DIG5123	Visual Effects Tools	20	DIG5132	Compositing	20	DIG5133	Dynamic Effects and Simulations	20	DIG5129	Research and Testing Methods	20	DIG5116	Collaborative Practice	20
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																																														
CMP3010	Fundamental Mathematics	20																																																														
BNV3001	Academic and Personal Study Skills	20																																																														
CMP3012	Web Application Design	20																																																														
CMP3013	Audio / Video Fundamentals	20																																																														
BNV3002	Independent Practice	20																																																														
CMP3009	Foundations of Programming	20																																																														
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																																														
DIG4172	Modelling	20																																																														
CMP4264	2D Game Programming	20																																																														
DIG4149	Acquisition for Visual Effects	20																																																														
DIG4174	Texture and Look Development	20																																																														
DIG4175	Animation	20																																																														
DIG4171	Matchmoving	20																																																														
Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value																																																														
DIG5131	Animation	20																																																														
DIG5123	Visual Effects Tools	20																																																														
DIG5132	Compositing	20																																																														
DIG5133	Dynamic Effects and Simulations	20																																																														
DIG5129	Research and Testing Methods	20																																																														
DIG5116	Collaborative Practice	20																																																														

**Professional Placement Year (optional)**

*In order to qualify for the award of Bachelor of Science with Honours Visual Effects with Foundation Year and Professional Placement Year, a student must successfully complete all of the modules listed as well as the following Level 5 module:*

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PPY5004	Professional Placement	120

**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
DIG6114	Production Project	40
DIG6200	Individual Honours Project	40
DIG6208	Virtual Production	20
DIG6207	Professional Futures	20

**12b Structure Diagram**

Semester	Year 1- Level 3		
1	Fundamental Mathematics 20 Credits	Academic and Personal Study Skills 20 Credits	Web Application Design 20 Credits
2	Audio / Video Fundamentals 20 Credits	Independent Practice 20 Credits	Foundations of Programming 20 Credits
<b>Year 2- Level 4</b>			
1	Modelling 20 Credits	2D Game Programming 20 Credits	Acquisition for Visual Effects 20 Credits
2	Texture and Look Development 20 Credits	Animation 20 Credits	Matchmoving 20 Credits
<b>Year 3 - Level 5</b>			
1	Animation 20 Credits	Visual Effects Tools 20 Credits	Compositing 20 Credits
2	Dynamics Effects and Simulations 20 Credits	Research and Testing Methods 20 Credits	Collaborative Practice 20 Credits
<b>Professional Placement Year 4 (optional)</b>			
<b>Professional Placement Module 120 Credits</b>			
<b>Year 5 - Level 6</b>			
1	Production Project 40 Credits		Individual Honours Project 40 Credits
2	Virtual Production 20 Credits	Professional Futures 20 Credits	

### 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 3

##### Workload

##### 32% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	384
Directed Learning	416
Private Study	400
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>1200</b>

##### Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	78%
Exam	0
In-Person	22%

#### Level 4

##### Workload

##### 24% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	288 (Classes) + 26 Hours (Tutoring) = 314
Directed Learning	318
Private Study	594
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>1226</b>



### **Balance of Assessment**

<b>Assessment Mode</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%

### **Level 5**

#### **Workload**

**24% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of Hours</b>
Scheduled Learning	288 (Classes) + 26 Hours (Tutoring) = 314
Directed Learning	296
Private Study	616
<b>Total Hours</b>	1226

### **Balance of Assessment**

<b>Assessment Mode</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%

### **Level 6**

#### **Workload**

**20% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of Hours</b>
Scheduled Learning	222 (Classes) + 26 Hours (Tutoring) = 248
Directed Learning	228
Private Study	750
<b>Total Hours</b>	1226

### **Balance of Assessment**

<b>Assessment Mode</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Coursework	75%
Exam	0%
In-Person	25%