University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**BA (Hons) Screenwriting**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 6**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**None**
Credit Structure[2]	**360 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits** **Level 6: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time and part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**3 years full-time**
Intended Award	**BA (Hons) Screenwriting**
Named Exit Awards	**BA Screenwriting** **DipHE Screenwriting** **CertHE Screenwriting**
Entry Requirements[4]	**Typical offer:** **112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent)** **BBC (A-Level), MMM (BTEC)** **GCSE English Language (4 or above)**
Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk (Ipswich campus)**
UCAS Code	**W811**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Screenwriting course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2024-25 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The BA (Hons) Screenwriting gives students the opportunity to learn the traditional skills associated with writing for film and television, but also how these skills can be transferred to a variety of digital platforms. Thus, the degree enables students to gain employment in a competitive and ever-changing market, while also pursuing a career in features, if they so wish.

Screenwriting modules mirror industry standard script development processes. Students learn to write and evaluate screenplays by producing documents such as step-outlines, treatments, screenplays, premises, synopses and script reports. Workshop classes are small in size so

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards.
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

that students receive script feedback on a weekly and bi-monthly basis. This emphasis on the production of creative work, coupled with regular feedback and one-to-one tutorials, enables students to develop their work more effectively and graduate with a diverse and well-honed portfolio of writing.

As the digital era has progressed, there has been a shift in the definition of screenwriting. We now live in a primarily visual culture, where narratives and content are in great demand across a variety of platforms. Consequently, a skillset that used to be niche to cinema and television is now being demanded by employers in a wide range of sectors. There is still a great need for 'traditional content' (i.e. for film and television), but there is also demand for digital content in a variety of forms, from webisodes and online games to interactive content for marketing and advertising and corporate communication.

The broad set of transferable skills students acquire on BA (Hons) Screenwriting will enable them to work in a variety of roles such as screenwriter, digital marketing content copyrighter, script researcher, script editor, storyliner, producer, advertising account executive, market researcher, teacher, cinema manager and film critic.

Course Aims

The course aims have been derived from the QAA Revised Benchmark Statements for Communication, Film, Media and Cultural Studies (2008) and English (2007), and the National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE) Creative Writing Subject Benchmark Statement (2008).

1. Offer an integrated approach to theoretical, critical, practical and creative work in film, television and screenwriting, relevant to students' futures in work or further study

2. Provide students with the knowledge and skills required for employment, both within the film, television and radio industries, and general graduate level employment

3. Engage critically with the analysis, theory and history of film and television in ways which complement, inform and underpin the writing of screenplays

4. Develop the practical, critical and conceptual skills involved in the writing of screenplays

5. Provide opportunities to initiate, negotiate, deliver and reflect upon independent research, including critical and creative projects

6. Develop a range of subject-specific and generic skills to facilitate the continuing growth of professional and personal identities and the capacity for lifelong learning

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Screenwriting course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)

Subject Knowledge and Understanding – Level 6

Graduates of the BA (Hons) Screenwriting at University of Suffolk will be able to demonstrate the following:

1.1 an advanced knowledge of a wide range of film movements, genres and modes of film practice from different periods and places, including mainstream, alternative and experimental forms

1.2 an advanced understanding of a broad range of processes linking various types of filmmaking, production, distribution, circulation and consumption and how changes in technology can affect these

1.3 knowledge and understanding of current and historical representations of a wide variety of different socio-cultural groups and how social divisions play key roles in terms of both access to the media and modes of representation in media texts

1.4 an advanced knowledge and understanding of how a wide range of critical and theoretical approaches can be employed in the study of film, and the aesthetic, formal, narrative and representational qualities of a wide variety of film texts

1.5. an advanced knowledge of a significant number of key crafting, dramaturgical and production processes and professional practices relating to screenwriting, including a heightened awareness and understanding of their own creative processes and practices through engagement with a wide variety of screenwriting exercises and projects

Subject-Specific Skills – Level 6

Screenwriting graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

2.1 employ advanced critical skills of analysis, interpretation and/or evaluation in the close and detailed reading of a wide variety of texts, including their aesthetic, formal, technological, narrative, generic, cultural or representational qualities

2.2 develop sophisticated ideas, arguments, concepts and projects informed by clear judgements of feasibility, appropriate levels of research and synthesis of relevant materials

2.3 undertake sustained independent research, drawing on a wide range of relevant academic sources and presenting work in accordance with standard academic and professional conventions

2.4. Respond to the central role of language in the creation of meaning, and demonstrate advanced understanding of, and ability to make use of, the affective power of language in the production of screenplays informed by relevant economic, cultural, market, theoretical and/or critical contexts, issues and debates

2.5 Show an advanced capacity to innovate and experiment and to be adaptable, creative and self-reflexive in their screenwriting, including the ability to give and receive constructive feedback (grounded in relevant theories) in order to augment their skills, knowledge, creative work and ideas

Generic and Graduate Skills – Level 6

More broadly, a Screenwriting graduate will also be able to:

3.1 communicate effectively in a range of formats to professional, academic and lay audiences

3.2 contribute effectively in professional and commercial environments by using advanced organisational, time-management and presentational skills and working both independently and within teams in accordance with briefs and deadlines

3.3 demonstrate the capacity to take responsibility for one's personal, professional, creative and academic development and success, building on self-reflection and personal development planning

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Communication, Film, Media and Cultural Studies (2016) and Creative Writing Subject (2008)

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Screenwriting comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 4			
	Film Studies One: Analysis and Issues	20	M
	Creating Memorable Characters	20	M
	Developing Screen Ideas	20	M
	Film Studies Two: Film History	20	M
	Screenwriting: Film Genre	20	M
	Introduction to Writing Television and Radio Drama	20	M
Level 5			
	Contemporary Television: Studies in Format and Genre	20	M
	Adaptation and Interpretation	20	M
	Screenwriting: The Ten Minute Short	20	M
	Researching Film: Theories and Methods	20	M
	Screenwriting Workshop: The Feature Film	20	M
	Writing for Television	20	M
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	M

[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

	Development and Story Design: Final project	20	M
	Screenwriting: Final project	40	M
	Professional Practice	20	M

Awards
On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Screenwriting. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for:

- a BA Screenwriting on the successful completion of all mandatory modules at levels four and five, and the level six modules Development and Story Design: Final Project and Screenwriting: Final Project.

- a DipHE Screenwriting on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5.

- a CertHE Screenwriting on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery
The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) Screenwriting degree are likely to have approximately 15 tutor structured learning hours for level 4, 12 tutor structured learning hours for level 5 and 9 tutor structured learning hours for level 6. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lecture, seminar, workshop, tutorial, group and peer critiques. Placements are non-mandatory and not an assessed part of the curriculum. Students are encouraged to engage with work placement and internship opportunities to enhance their experience. The course team will provide support and guidance to students in finding such opportunities. Students will normally be expected to undertake 25 (level four) to 31 (level six) hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment
A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be just under 100% coursework (including essays, case studies, practical scriptwriting work, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals/feedback portfolios and research projects). There is only one module where there are short in-class tests.

Course Team
The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs
Students undertaking BA (Hons) Screenwriting will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£15,210per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,535 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for books amounting to £250-£400. Consequently, students either need their own computers or they need to use the computers and software on campus.

Students can choose to go on optional, extra-curricular trips to, for example, film festivals which they will need to fund themselves.

Academic Framework and Regulations
This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.