

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	112 UCAS Points (or above); BBC at A Level; DMM at BTEC; Merit at T Level; Pass in Access to HE Diploma; GCSE English and Maths (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 2027-28 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

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

Screenwriting modules mirror industry-standard processes for script development. 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 so that students receive script feedback on a weekly and bi-monthly basis. This emphasis on producing creative work, coupled with regular feedback and one-to-one tutorials, enables

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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](#).

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students to develop their work more effectively and graduate with a diverse, well-honed writing portfolio.

As the digital era has progressed, the definition of screenwriting has shifted. We now live in a primarily visual culture, where narratives and content are in great demand across a variety of platforms. Consequently, a skill set that used to be niche to cinema and television is now in demand by employers across a wide range of sectors. There is still a great need for 'traditional content' (i.e., 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, advertising, and corporate communication.

The broad set of transferable skills students acquire on the BA (Hons) Screenwriting degree will enable them to work in a variety of roles, such as screenwriter, digital marketing content copywriter, 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 (2024) and English (2023), and the National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE) Creative Writing Subject Benchmark Statement (2018).

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 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.

1. Demonstrate knowledge of an expansive range of film movements, genres, technologies and modes of film practice from a variety of different periods, peoples, and places, including orthodox and unorthodox forms
2. Understand and apply a wide variety of critical and theoretical approaches to the study of film, and analyse, interpret and evaluate key film texts through close reading

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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3. Carry out sustained, independent critical enquiry and research, drawing on appropriate academic sources, formulating appropriate research questions that inform practice and understanding that research is not a neutral process
4. Evidence knowledge of an advanced 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 negotiated screenwriting exercises and projects
5. Respond to the central role of language in the creation of meaning, and demonstrate an 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
6. Demonstrate an established 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 informed by relevant theories and models in order to augment their skills, knowledge, creative work and ideas
7. Collate, critically evaluate and synthesise (incomplete) ideas and information from a range of academic and professional sources in order to formulate complex and cogent arguments and express them effectively in written, verbal and/or non-verbal communication, visual or other forms

Course Design

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

- Communication, Film, Media and Cultural Studies (2024) and Creative Writing Subject (2023)

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			
	Foundations of Screenwriting: Character Development, Story Structure and Film Analysis	30	R
	Foundations of Screenwriting: Character and Screen Idea Development, and Representation in Film	30	R
	Radio, Television and Film Genre and History	30	R
	Film Genre and Introduction to Writing Television Drama	30	R
Level 5			
	Developing Television Pilots and Film Shorts	30	R
	Writing Television Pilots and Film Shorts	30	R

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

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	Research Methods, Advanced Screenwriting Skills, and Developing Feature Films	30	R
	Advanced Screenwriting Skills and Writing for Feature Films	30	R
Level 6			
	Development and Research	30	M
	Development and Story Design	30	R
	Final Project and Professional Practice	60	M
	Professional Practice Skills	0	R

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 Final Project and Professional Practice Part One and Final Project and Professional Practice Part Two.
- 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 the Ipswich campus. Students studying full-time on the BA (Hons) Screenwriting degree are likely to have approximately 10 hours of taught study at levels 4 and 5, and 5 hours at level 6 per week. Tutor-structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, 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 they should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used in 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 across the course will be 100% coursework (including essays, case studies, practical scriptwriting work, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals/feedback portfolios, and research projects).

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 and bring specialist knowledge to the delivery of modules.

Course Costs

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

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Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£10,050 per year
Part-time UK	£2,512.5 per 30 credits
Full-time EU/International	£16,000 per year
Part-time EU/International	£3,999.9 per 30 credits

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 £100-£400. The cost of books will depend on whether students choose to buy new or used books or choose to source them from libraries. Students either need their own computers or can use on-campus computers and software.

Students can choose to go on optional, extra-curricular trips, such as 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](#).