## 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 that students receive script feedback on a weekly and bi-monthly basis. Students

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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)](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/).  
2 All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](https://www.hefce.ac.uk/).  
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](https://www.suffolk.ac.uk).  
4 Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](https://www.suffolk.ac.uk).  
5 The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](https://www.suffolk.ac.uk).
pitch their work regularly in class and at least once a year to industry professionals such as producers and screenwriters as part of script panels and competitions. 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

- 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
- Provide students with the knowledge and skills required for employment, both within the film, television and radio industries, and general graduate level employment
- Engage critically with the analysis, theory and history of film and television in ways which complement, inform and underpin the writing of screenplays
- Develop the practical, critical and conceptual skills involved in the writing of screenplays
- Provide opportunities to initiate, negotiate, deliver and reflect upon independent research, including critical and creative projects

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 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

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

1. Highly developed knowledge and understanding of the ways in which theoretical, critical, practical and creative work in film, television and radio can be combined to
produce a range of artefacts and underpin ongoing professional and personal development

2. An advanced knowledge of a range of modes of film (and television and radio) practice from different periods and places, including mainstream, alternative and experimental forms

3. A sophisticated understanding of the processes linking various types of filmmaking, production, distribution, circulation and consumption

4. A developed understanding of key crafting and production processes and professional practices relating to screenwriting and film (and television and radio) practice and production, including financial, market, legal, ethical, regulatory and technical contexts

5. A highly developed understanding of their own creative processes and practices, through engagement with a variety of screenwriting exercises and projects

6. Knowledge of a substantial range of film movements and genres, and television formats and genres

7. A sophisticated understanding of the aesthetic, formal, narrative and representational qualities of a wide variety of (film and script) texts

8. An informed awareness of developments in film theory and criticism and how these are related to the development of film practices and student's own critical and creative processes

9. An advanced knowledge and understanding of the distinctive character of screenplays written in the principle film, television and radio genres and forms

**Subject-Specific Skills**

11. Analyse critically modes of film and television production and/or consumption, including links between types of production, distribution, circulation and consumption

12. Develop and synthesise advanced creative ideas, concepts and projects, informed by appropriate research and judgements of feasibility

13. Produce creative work, which is informed by relevant economic, cultural, market, theoretical and/or critical contexts, issues and debates

14. 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

15. Analyse critically a range of film movements and genres and television formats and genres, drawing on a wide range of sources

16. Demonstrate critical skills of analysis, interpretation and/or evaluation in the close reading of texts, including their aesthetic, formal, narrative, generic or representational qualities
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17. Present work in accordance with standard academic and professional conventions

18. Undertake sustained and advanced independent research, drawing on a wide range of sources

19. Show an advanced capacity to innovate and experiment and to be adaptable, creative and self-reflexive in their work

20. Reflect critically on aspects of their work, including knowledge of their own cultural commitments and positioning

21. Give and receive feedback constructively, and show an advanced capacity to use this process to develop their skills, knowledge, and creative work and ideas

22. Write proficiently within the discipline of screenwriting, producing work for a variety of audience, and in different registers, styles and genres

Generic and Graduate Skills

23. Work flexibly, creatively and independently

24. Carry out work in accordance with a specified or negotiated brief, including length, format and deadline

25. Manage supervised, self-directed projects and apply appropriate entrepreneurial skills as appropriate to particular settings

26. Demonstrate a problem solving approach to tasks

27. Carry out sustained independent research

28. Present ideas, treatments or arguments logically and cogently

29. Communicate effectively orally in a variety of interpersonal settings

30. Communicate effectively in written and other media forms

31. Use a range of information communication technologies appropriate to a variety of tasks

32. Work productively in a group or team

33. Reflect on work they have undertaken, including monitoring their own learning and identifying areas of strength and weakness

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Module Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Film Studies One: Analysis and Issues</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Creating Memorable Characters</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing Screen Ideas</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Studies Two: Film History</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Screenwriting: Film Genre</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Writing Television and Radio Drama</td>
<td>20 M</td>
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<tr>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Module Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Television: Studies in Format and Genre</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adaptation and Interpretation</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Screenwriting: The Ten Minute Short</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Researching Film: Theories and Methods</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Screenwriting Workshop: The Feature Film</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing for Television</td>
<td>20 M</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 6</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Module Type</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>40 M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and Story Design: Final project</td>
<td>20 M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screenwriting: Final project</td>
<td>40 M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Practice</td>
<td>20 M</td>
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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 DipHE Screenwriting on successful completion of 240 credits at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Screenwriting on successful completion of 120 credits 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 contact hours for level 4, 12 contact hours for level 5 and 9 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours 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

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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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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Group</th>
<th>Tuition Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time UK/EU</td>
<td>£9,250 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time UK/EU</td>
<td>£1,454 per 20 credit module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time International</td>
<td>£11,500 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time International</td>
<td>£1,915 per 20 credit module</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 and scriptwriting software 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.