

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	DipHE Screenwriting CertHE Screenwriting
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 112 tariff points (or equivalent) GCSE English Language C or above Applicants will be expected to attend an interview as part of the application process
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
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 2019-20 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 that students receive script feedback on a weekly and bi-monthly basis. Students pitch their

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](#)

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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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 copywriter, 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).⁶

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

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

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- 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
 9. processes
 10. 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
17. Present work in accordance with standard academic and professional conventions

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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)
- English (2007, 2015)
- 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.

	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
	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 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 will normally be expected to undertake 25

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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(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/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,790 per year
Part-time International	£1,965 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 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](#).