

Programme Specification

MA Film Production



This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, graduates, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide the course described in the Programme Specification, the University reserves the right to make such changes as may be appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to circumstances beyond its control. Any changes are made in accordance with the University's academic standards and quality procedures.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Course Specification provides you with a summary of the main features of the **MA Film Production** course, and the learning outcomes that a 'typical' student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found in your Course Handbook.

<u>Key Course Information</u>	
Final Award	Master of Arts
Course Title	Film Production
Award Title	MA Film Production (Producing) MA Film Production (Directing) MA Film Production (Production Design) MA Film Production (Cinematography) MA Film Production (Editing) MA Film Production (Sound Design) MA Film Production (Documentary) MA Film Production (Screenwriting)
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the Faculty of: <i>Contact details:</i> Telephone number Email	Media and Performance 01202 363138 fomp@aub.ac.uk
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	60 weeks full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 7
Subject benchmark statement	Art and Design
Language of study	English
External Examiner for course	Peter Hort University of Westminster <i>Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly</i>
Date of Validation	April 2013
Date of most recent review	n/a
Date course specification written/revised	September 2013

Course Philosophy

Exploring and pushing the craft knowledge and creative boundaries, the MA Film Production course has been developed with particular consideration for your entry into a career in the industry, with an emphasis on progression and your ability to flourish. In an industry where new and emerging filmmakers have restricted opportunities to learn on the job, this course provides you with the production experience demanded in a professional context.

Driven and inspired by a professional film culture you learn through practice in your pathway, by making films, supported, challenged, taught and mentored by film industry specialists. On the course you will have the opportunity to produce innovative films, to hone your craft and to develop new skills to a high level.

To practice in the constantly evolving film industry, as a graduate you need to be able to research independently, to develop a working knowledge base of contemporary practice and to find creative and practical solutions. The course does not privilege a particular theoretical approach, but independent research is central to every unit and as a student on your pathway you will explore contexts, practices, history and theory relevant to your own work.

Film narratives can be extremely complex and subtle forms of communication, with infinite shadings of tone, yet they have the power to speak emotionally to people of all languages. They are created through a collaborative process and so team working is a key part of your experience. Integral to this is working with other courses across the University and these further collaborations enable a strong film community and culture. The MA Film Production offers a unique learning environment, akin to that of a film studio; an environment that empowers and enables students learning and working together to create innovative and engaging film work, equipping them to respond positively to the constantly evolving UK and international film industries.

At the core of the course are the parallel activities of hands-on production and industry-focussed research. Furnished with a portfolio of developed projects and short films, industry networking and the wide experience gained on the course, you will graduate with a real bridge to the industry, career development and progression.

Statement of Student Entitlement:

- Tutorials – one supervisory tutorial per 20 credit unit, 2 per 40 and 60 credit units; totalling 8 over the course. In addition each student is entitled to assessment feedback tutorials. A tutorial time is allocated up to 45 minutes.
- Access to the Quiet Study Room during Library hours including the summer period.
- Access to resources as agreed through the Film team.
- Agreed attendance on undergraduate workshop/darkroom/resource area inductions.
- Agreed access to relevant studios as required for assessments purposes.
- Postgraduate show where appropriate.

- Agreed access to discipline related and cross-discipline lectures/seminars on undergraduate courses.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

1. Provide a stimulating environment to produce high-level individual and collaborative work.
2. Support you in instigating new directions in your work and in developing originality in the application of knowledge.
3. Encourage reflection on your achievements through application of a comprehensive understanding of relevant materials, techniques and processes.
4. Enable you to demonstrate self-direction and originality in problem solving and in the production of work in a professional context.
5. Provide support for individual disciplines in relation to contemporary practice and at the forefront of those disciplines.
6. Provide a forum for critical debate, developing a conceptual understanding that enables you to discuss, locate and articulate your individual practice.
7. Be a 'bridge to the industry'.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Produce high-level individual and collaborative work that acknowledges current practices within the wider creative arena.
2. Demonstrate the ability to investigate, understand and critique current issues in depth showing originality in the application of knowledge.
3. Demonstrate and apply a comprehensive understanding of relevant materials, techniques and processes.
4. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in problem solving and in the production of work in a professional context.
5. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of your specialist practice in relation to contemporary practice and at the forefront of the discipline.
6. Demonstrate a conceptual understanding that enables you to discuss, locate and articulate your practice.
7. Have the ability to build on experiences gained and be able to position yourself in the contemporary industry.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Subject Benchmark Statement: *Art and Design*
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

AUB Postgraduate Regulatory Framework
AUB Creative Learning Plan
AUB Strategic Plan
AUB Employability Framework

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The essence of your practical work during this course is to develop progressively complex challenges – similar to those you would experience in professional practice – which require you to solve problems with creativity and originality. Personal responsibility, judgement and initiative will be essential to complete the Portfolio Short Film to a high standard. In the units **Portfolio Short Film** and **Research and Project Development** you will collaborate on original projects based on your developing understanding of relevant issues from industry practice and your own research. You will actively engage with the rapidly changing professional disciplines of filmmaking and necessarily address current debates in your pathway. **Cinematic Storytelling** will offer a systematic exploration of knowledge necessary for the specialist practice of the pathway followed. The teaching on the course reflects this and is geared to the pathways and the cohort as a whole when appropriate.

Self-directed study is an important complement to the learning, both group and individual. The teaching is directed at providing you with the knowledge, concepts and skills to take increasing responsibility for the management of your own learning.

You will learn through a wide variety of methods including production projects, exercises, lectures, seminars, intensive workshops geared to pathways, group reviews, critiques and tutorials. Teaching is directed both at supporting individual engagement in learning and in collaborative work.

The integration of theory and practice is promoted and reinforced through a team teaching approach with lectures, seminars and tutorials delivered by team members as appropriate. Practical work may take the form of workshops, exercises and productions.

The course will use tried and tested methods of creating practical work in shorter and longer forms. To clarify what you can expect to encounter on the programme, the course team makes these distinctions between *exercises* and *productions*:

Exercises

Are those practical activities that may result in a final edited output but which are unlikely to be screened beyond the University. These may be digital or film exercises and can range from work completed in a day, in a workshop, to a project requiring a set build, location, shoot and post production.

Productions

Are those practical projects that that will always result in a final edited output, and may have the opportunity for screening outside the University – possibly in festivals and internationally.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Tutorials and self-directed study

You will be allocated a tutor who will provide academic guidance at tutorials and present an overview of individual progress. Tutors will normally have extensive and current professional experience in your pathway and be available to support you during the study period. In order to ensure that you benefit as much as possible from the tutorials, it is essential to be properly prepared.

The nature of the taught postgraduate course focuses on personal practice and therefore you are expected to undertake a high proportion of self-directed study. You are required to determine appropriate resource requirements and, with the agreement of the Course Leader and other designated staff, ensure that access to resources is reasonable.

Research methodologies

These introduce notions and contexts for research and practice along with a range of research tools and methods that underpin MA activities. Through participation in lectures and workshops, you will explore a number of critical debates informing the conduct of your research and practice and theoretical/historical study.

The workshops assist you in defining the nature of your individual pathway practice. They help you identify particular research methods and methodologies, knowledge of relevant critical issues and processes, and to determine the aims and scope of your practice. They are designed and planned to inform, inspire and support all areas of your MA practice.

Reflections on practice

The learning and teaching involves a structured reflective process that gives you greater insight into your own development and can be defined as follows:

- Analysing where you are now (Self-Awareness)
- Understanding what you want to achieve (Setting Targets)
- Deciding how you are going to achieve it (Planning)
- Doing it (Action and Practice)
- Looking back to see how well you did (Reflection)

Through the process you can become more self-reliant and increase your skills in learning. By developing knowledge about yourself, you will build a stronger sense of identity and will improve your ability to link your learning and achievements to your interests, and to develop these in relation to potential employment interests and needs.

Peer learning and group work

As a member of the MA cohort you are an active participant in learning and teaching, and through this, share good practice. At MA level this is an imperative.

In pathway-specific and wider group meetings, students and staff have the opportunity to discuss the issues at the forefront of their disciplines and filmmaking holistically.

The advantage of the rigorous and on-going discussion across the pathways is that collaborative opportunities can be identified so that students from different pathways can be encouraged to work and share best practice – which is particularly important in film production. Cross-pathway discussions also allow tutors, and visiting professionals, to identify where they might have further input, beyond their specific specialism.

Seminars

Seminars are important opportunities for generating dialogue and interrogating practice. These explore issues related to pathway practice in a production context, and allow opportunities for student-led response seminars for specific aspects of practice, issues or areas of individual and/or collective inquiry to be developed in detail.

Tutorials

Staff ensure that all students receive tutorials, academic guidance and pastoral care. Tutorials provide an opportunity to discuss your progress on the unit and on the course. They are used to air specific issues raised through the work, provide critical observation and recommend new direction and research strategies. The tutorial following a formal assessment is known as an assessment feedback tutorial. Tutorials with a visiting professional may be provided to you if appropriate.

Group reviews and critiques

Group reviews and critiques involve all students and form distinctive learning and teaching points, across the pathways. Discussion primarily focuses on the individual and collaborative work produced on the units and includes industry and current contexts. These reviews and critiques can include visiting professionals, and are supported by the Course Leader and other tutors.

Visiting professionals

The course invites a number of visiting film professionals to contribute to the discussion in seminars and group reviews and criticism. From the various specialisms, they also describe and discuss their work to support and maintain a lively and current debate, particularly with regard to the work being done at the forefront of their discipline.

Assessment

Each unit is assessed separately, and the assessment forms part of the unit. Assessment both provides a measure of your achievement, and also gives you regular feedback on how your learning is developing.

For every unit of your course you will be provided with a Unit Handbook, which will state what you are expected to learn within the unit; the work that you have to submit;

and how it will be assessed. The Unit Handbook will also give the deadline for presenting your work for assessment.

You will receive a final mark for each unit in the form of a percentage, which will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). Each component of assessment is graded using a notched marking scale, whereby only certain marks are used within each grade. The only marks available within any ten-point band are *2, *5 and *8 (eg 62, 65, 68). These marks correspond to a low, mid, and high level of achievement within each grade band.

All learning outcomes must be passed to successfully complete the unit.

How you are assessed

Formative assessment provides feedback to students in order to help you develop your learning. It offers supportive commentary on your performance and progression with particular regard to the acquisition of skills and knowledge. Formative assessment should help you develop autonomy in your learning and encourage critical reflection on your performance. A benefit is that it allows you to recognise any weaknesses and subsequently to generate a plan to undertake any necessary remedial action.

Summative assessment generally occurs at the conclusion of a unit. It is an overall evaluation of the student's acquisition of the knowledge and skills developed in that part of, or across, the course. It may, or may not, include a 'formative' element that would address developmental aspects and provide advice where circumstances suggest it to be appropriate. Such circumstances might be relevant where the student is at the conclusion of the course and is considering progression toward a further and higher level of study.

The University's assessment scheme aims to render the assessment process explicit and transparent and to credit achievement where it occurs. Within the scheme assessment operates as Unit Assessment and End Award Assessment.

Your assessment will include a combination of the finished film/s, analysis and evaluation of the development, pre-production, production and post-production process in your written work, and presentations where required. Your practical film work is assessed by a panel of staff, who will discuss the work in relation to a detailed set of assessment criteria.

Distinction

A Master's Degree with Distinction may be awarded. Only units at Level 7 contribute towards the determination of a Distinction.

For further information on assessment and awards, and the criteria for the award of Distinction please visit: <https://viewpoint.aub.ac.uk>

Course Structure

All students are registered for the award of Master of Arts; however exit awards are available if you leave the course early. If you successfully complete a level of the course, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) you must have achieved a minimum of 60 credits at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

For the award of Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

For the award of Master of Arts (MA), you must have achieved 180 credits, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 7; and any specific requirements of the course as outlined in the Course Handbook.

Course Content

The MA Film Production course offers pathways in all the major film production specialisms and these operate in a way that mirrors the industry and the creative deployment of each discipline within a conventional film production. All the pathways lead to named awards.

The particular pathway that you are on will define your experience on the course and will vary throughout the pre-production, production, post production cycle. Student numbers on the pathways are geared to reflect this, and reiterated by their greater involvement in physical production. For example, producers, directors and documentary makers work on films from the inception to completion whereas the other pathways may well work on several films in that time. The emphasis for cinematographers and production designers being on pre-production and production and that of editors and sound designers on the latter stages, with the workshop schedule meshing with these patterns. Screenwriters will have a work pattern that operates differently again in a sequence relevant to industry.

During quieter production times and around pathway-focused projects, you will be encouraged to undertake short-term work opportunities in the industry. These can occur when your pathway is not normally involved in a particular production stage, for example with production designers during post-production. The experience you and other students may gain in industry will enhance and compound the learning and group collaboration on the course.

On each pathway you will develop a systematic and comprehensive understanding of techniques and knowledge relevant to your specialism combined with a critical awareness of the current developments in your area of professional practice.

The MA Film Production course is structured in such a way that learning develops systematically and with an emphasis on the independent learning abilities required for continuing professional development. The course comprises of four units, with each unit building in complexity and in its demand on the learner. Working in teams and developing projects with tutorial support, essential collaborative skills are

developed with practical and creative solutions developed for the complexities that arise during the filmmaking process.

Course Units

The first unit, **Cinematic Storytelling** considers through practical work the significance of narrative, the conventions of dramatic and factual storytelling and the ways in which the commercial and critical contexts of contemporary filmmaking shape screen stories. The unit contains two production blocks, one for practical film exercises, and one for a short film production.

Teaching is geared towards the skills and attributes required for each specialism. This unit is completed prior to commencing the Portfolio Short Film and provides the foundation for that unit – enabling creative collaborations to continue and develop.

The **Portfolio Short Film** is centred on the production of a short fiction or documentary film. You will have considerable potential to collaborate with students and graduates from across the Arts University.

The **Virtual Effects Project** investigates the realisation of sequences through pre-visualisation and audio design, exploring the scope, production possibilities and approaches of these techniques. This will allow you to create ambitious, action-heavy or costly sequences, otherwise beyond the reach of student productions. Documentary specialists will be able to evaluate possibilities for illustrating subject matter which might not practically be filmable. Those focussed on fiction can likewise investigate demanding action scenes. There is further opportunity for collaborative work with the BA and MA Animation students and graduates.

Research and Project Development is an opportunity for you to collaborate in the development of original projects based on your developing understanding of relevant issues from industry practice and your own research. This unit consists of three parts, with formative assessment at the end of the first two parts prior to the summative assessment.

Part 1: Research methodologies, feasibility studies, a case history of a relevant produced project.

Part 2: The development of an innovative, coherent fresh and engaging project through a high proportion of self-directed study.

Part 3: The packaging and presentation of the developed project.

Description of Assessment Components

Body of work includes:

- the films - evidence of your practical production work which allows you to meaningfully demonstrate and display the outcome of your specialist study.
- a production research portfolio of written and visual work - evidences the progress of your work, provides a context for its production, sets out a theoretical framework and offers synthesis of your developmental process.

- critical and analytical evaluation - evidences research methods, academic protocols, analysis, the development of a theoretical argument, critical evaluation and reflection.

Presentations

Presentations are a method in which you must articulate your practice and theoretical framework in a more personal and distinctive context. They are challenging for you if you are unfamiliar with the form but they help you to build confidence and develop your inter-personal skills – essential requirements in future professional environments.

AUB Academic Conventions

All written submissions must comply with the University's requirements for Academic Conventions. Details of the Academic Conventions can be found on MyAUB under Referencing Guide located on the AUB Library homepage.

Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in Unit Handbooks.

Level 7 full-time mode of study (60 weeks)						
	Term one Weeks 1-15	Term two Weeks 16-30		Term three Weeks 31-45	Term four Weeks 46-60	
	FPF750 Cinematic Storytelling (weeks 1-24) (40 credits)		A	FPF752 Portfolio Short Film (weeks 10-54) (60 credits)		A
	FPF751 Virtual Effects Project (weeks 13-34) (20 credits)		A			
FPF753 Research and Project Development (weeks 1-60) (60 credits)						

A = Assessment point

Resources

University Resources:

Library

The course is supported by a Subject Librarian who liaises closely with the team to ensure that the Library resources are relevant and meet student and staff research needs. As part of the AUB's Information Literacy Framework, the Subject Librarian provides sessions on researching and using information, as well as individual support for students in the use of Library resources.

The Library holds an excellent range of specialist learning materials including books, journals, CDs, DVDs, and newspapers. It has subscriptions to a wide range of specialist electronic resources focusing on art, design, media and performance, including e-books and e-journals. The Library's facilities include computers, viewing rooms, a presentation space and a silent reading room.

The Library consistently receives high scores in both the in-house and national student surveys which are carried out annually.

Digital Learning Resources

The University provides a range of computing hardware and software applications for use in general purpose locations such as the library and computer studios, as well as high quality and specialist resources linked to subject specialisation. You will be able to use Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Suite on the majority of computers in the University and have access to industry standard digital resources and computing appropriate for your subject in course areas.

We have a comprehensive wireless network and our new virtual learning environment (VLE) can be used on desktop, laptop and mobile devices. The VLE, called MyAUB, provides a customisable portal to a variety of course and university related information including timetables, email, course handbooks, resource booking and online learning materials.

Support for digital learning resources is provided by a network of University staff. Course related equipment is cared for by Technician Demonstrators and library information resources is supported by library staff. General computing support and advice on your own equipment is provided by our Digital Campus Services Team who provide a servicedesk facility. The servicedesk is open from 8.30 am until 7.00 pm* Monday to Thursday (*5.00 pm during undergraduate vacation time) and Friday from 8.45 am until 4.30 pm. The servicedesk is located in the North Building above TheGallery. Their email address is: servicedesk@aub.ac.uk.

Museum of Design in Plastic (MoDiP)

MoDiP is a registered museum of 20th and 21st century design and popular culture with a focus on plastics. Its collection is unique within the UK and has been developed to support teaching and learning at Arts University Bournemouth.

There are many ways in which MoDiP can play a part in your studies:

- as a source of inspiration – large numbers of items may be viewed, handled and explored in depth, drawn, photographed and filmed
- as the focus of a brief for products and projects relating to course work
- as an exhibition venue – your work can be displayed in relation to the collections and exhibitions and events may be mounted in the museum space

The Museum is in a purpose built space within the Library, designed with wheelchair access in mind, and has the same opening hours as the rest of the University for the viewing of exhibitions. Objects not on display can be borrowed and taken to the studio. To see what is available, go to the [MoDiP](http://www.modip.ac.uk/) website (<http://www.modip.ac.uk/>).

TheGallery

TheGallery is a major resource for contemporary visual art at Arts University Bournemouth and has received regional and national recognition. There are regular gallery events, including collections on loan from galleries and museums, as well as individual exhibitions by some of today's leading artists, photographers, designers and critical writers.

It also functions as a learning resource and is integrated into the teaching, learning, and research practice undertaken at the University.

text + work is the ethos which underpins the exhibition programme at Arts University Bournemouth. The **text + work** concept promotes and provides a forum for challenging dialogue between innovative contemporary art, design, and media practice and its theoretical context.

There are **text + work** gallery events, critical texts, shared and networked exhibitions and a **text + work** website.

Student Support

Academic Guidance

Academic staff are responsible for providing you with feedback on your work and your general academic progress, and for providing academic support and guidance through the course. This is provided through “critiques” and written feedback, as well as guidance on practical work and informal discussion about your concerns. These sessions may be individual or, in the case of collaborative work, in small groups.

Academic tutorials are scheduled to allow you to discuss in depth matters relating to creative or theoretical work, or the course in general. You will be entitled to at least one formal academic tutorial per term with a nominated member of the course team.

Support and advice is also provided on an informal basis throughout the course, through discussions between staff and students.

Career Education, Information and Guidance

You will be prepared for employment, and given the opportunity to learn about the various career options available to you, through a wide range of projects which may

include live briefs or external competitions. Academic staff remain very familiar with the discipline, and will often still work in the field, and are also able to advise on specific opportunities.

The Careers Service within the University offers impartial, confidential advice, support and guidance, to help you explore and develop your career ideas and manage your future career successfully. The Service offers individual career guidance interviews, as well as advice on job seeking strategies, CVs and interview skills, self-employment / freelancing, and further study opportunities.

The Senior Employability Officer holds regular lunchtime lectures, which cover a range of popular careers topics, including Postgraduate study and funding, Career planning, Networking and self-marketing, and Teaching as a career. Full details and dates of forthcoming lectures are available on the Careers intranet pages and on the Student Services notice boards.

The Careers Service also offers specialist events, working in partnership with local employers, AUB alumni, and external agencies to bring together a range of art, design, media and performance expertise.

Support for students with disabilities (including dyslexia)

The Arts University Bournemouth is firmly committed to a policy of equal opportunities for all students and positively welcomes applications from people with disabilities and/or additional needs. Throughout all aspects of University life, we actively encourage and support the participation of students with disabilities. We aim to support disabled students by offering needs assessments and support plans which enable you to achieve your personal goals.

The Learning Support team provides academic support for students with specific learning difficulties including dyslexia. We ask all new Home students to complete a 'Quickscan' screening programme when they join the University. This screening is designed to check your learning style (the way you learn best) and whether you might have signs of dyslexia. If appropriate, you will be referred to an educational psychologist for a full assessment.

Students with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia are able to access individual tutorials aimed at improving your independent study skills, and are supported in applying for the Disabled Students' Allowance, which can provide specialist equipment and, if appropriate, personal support.

The Senior Disability Officer and Wellbeing Officer provide ongoing support and advice for students with all other types of disability, including mental health difficulties, physical disabilities, medical conditions and sensory impairments.

The Arts University Bournemouth has a duty to anticipate the needs of disabled students, and to make "reasonable adjustments" to ensure that these students can access education and related services. If you feel that some aspect of the learning, teaching or assessment on your course places you at a disadvantage because of your disability, please contact the Senior Disability Officer within Student Services, who will be happy to work with you and your course team to identify any appropriate reasonable adjustments. Contact wellbeing@aub.ac.uk or telephone 01202 363291.

Academic support for students for whom English is a second language

If English is not your first language, AUB has a team of specialist English for Academic Purposes (EAP) lecturers who provide personalised guidance and support with the academic aspects of your course. You can book tutorials with them for individual assistance.

At the beginning of your course you will be invited to complete an academic skills assessment. One of our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) team will review this with you in a follow-up tutorial. If there are indications that you would benefit from additional advice and support, the EAP tutor will work with you to draw up an Individual Learning Plan which will set out a structured approach to developing your use of academic language and study skills. This may, for example, include helping you to develop strategies for interpreting assignment briefs, working on the structure of your written work or developing your proof-reading skills. Your Individual Learning Plan will be reviewed each term and shared with your course tutor, if requested, so that they are aware of the work you are doing to improve your use of language and study skills.

Throughout the academic year the EAP service also offers Study Skills Workshops and academic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills Upgrade Modules.

Further details can be found at:

<http://aub.ac.uk/international/english-not-first-language/international-student-support/>

Pastoral support and guidance

Support and advice on non-academic matters is provided through trained and qualified professional staff within Student Services. We have a team of professionally qualified male and female counsellors, with appointments available during weekdays and evenings. Students accessing the service are offered various levels of support ranging from regular weekly sessions, occasional support or just a “one off” consultation. In most cases, you can expect to be seen for a session within two days of making initial contact with the service. If the situation is very urgent and you are very emotionally distressed, we also have a crisis support service and you will be seen by one of our counsellors almost immediately.

Pastoral support is also available from the AUB Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy at Arts University Bournemouth is shared with Bournemouth University and is an inclusive Chaplaincy, which welcomes people of all faiths and none. The Quiet Room and the Islamic Prayer Room are in regular use by staff and students, and meetings with ministers of any faith can be arranged.

Advice and support with practical issues such as funding, accommodation or childcare is available from the Student Advice, Funds and Accommodation Office within Student Services.

Monitoring the quality of your course

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course remains up to date, and is preparing you for a career within the creative industries while also delivering a high quality student experience.

In addition all courses undertake an Annual Course Review which takes account of relevant information such as:

- External Examiners' Reports
- Key statistics including data on application, retention and achievement
- Results of the in-house Student Perception Survey
- Feedback from Student Representatives
- Feedback from relevant employer groups, including the course Industry Liaison Group

All courses develop an action plan arising out of this exercise, which is monitored by the University. Your student representatives can keep you informed about progress against the action plan.

Staff development priorities for the course team as a whole are identified through the Annual Course Review process, and for individuals through the Staff Performance Review process.

Indicators of Quality and Standards

The Arts University Bournemouth was granted taught degree awarding powers by the Privy Council in 2008; and University status was conferred in 2013. All students on taught higher education courses are enrolled on a course validated by the University.

The University was audited by the QAA in May 2011 and received a judgement of 'Confidence' in the management of the academic standards of its awards, and its management of the quality of learning opportunities. This is the best available outcome, and confirms that our quality assurance mechanisms are robust, meaning that we can have full confidence in the standard of course outcomes, and the quality of the educational experience we deliver.

More detailed information is available in the following documents, which are available on the AUB Intranet:

- Online course information
- Unit Handbooks
- HE Student Regulations: Quick reference guide to the regulations
- Postgraduate Regulatory Framework and Assessment Regulations