THE ARTS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT BOURNEMOUTH

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

The Programme Specification provides a summary of the main features of the **BA (Hons) 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	BA Honours
Course Title	Film Production
Teaching institution	The Arts University College at Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	The Arts University College at Bournemouth
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	3 years full-time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 6
Subject benchmark statement(s)	Art and Design; Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
UCAS code	W610
Language of study	English
Date of Validation	June 2004
Date of most recent review	December 2009
Date programme specification written/revised	July 2003 Revised September 2007 Revised December 2010

<u>Course Philosophy</u>

Communication, passion, creativity, technical ability, vision, research and commitment - all these are essential characteristics of those who work in film. The BA (Hons) Film Production degree at AUCB is designed to foster these skills and abilities through offering you an exciting range of film production experiences – from the moment of a film's inception to its final distribution to cinema audiences. Reflecting the central ethos of the University College, this course emphasises practical learning within an academic environment. The course is 'hands-on' from the outset and you will gain a solid grounding in fundamental, traditional practices, such as shooting on film. In addition, you will acquire the skills necessary to the contemporary industry, such as digital filmmaking. The specialist and focused nature of the course means you will fully develop your understanding of the creative and commercial realities of film production.

As well as learning practical filmmaking, you will study cinema in all its forms to give you a thorough knowledge of a wide variety of film practices. You will develop essential entrepreneurial, communication and organisational skills through the completion of filmed exercises and film productions. Your practical skills are informed by an understanding of the cultural, historical and

theoretical context for film practice. You will also be encouraged to develop your reflective skills through the critique of your own and others' practice.

Making films is a collaborative process and team working is a key part of the course. Integral to this is working, not only with your peers, lecturers and technicians on the BA (Hons) Film Production degree, but also with contemporaries and staff from other courses across the University College. In particular you will work closely with students on BA (Hons) Costume with Performance Design, BA (Hons) Acting, FdA Make-Up for Media and Performance and BA (Hons) Animation Production. These collaborations help foster a strong film community throughout the University College with BA (Hons) Film Production at its core.

The intention of the course is to enable you to work on visually exciting and engaging films but we also aim to offer you a learning experience that will equip you to respond positively to a constantly evolving workplace and an increasingly technological creative environment. The course will prepare you for postgraduate study in related disciplines and you should graduate equipped to pursue careers in the UK and international film industries or in the wider creative industries.

Course Aims

1.   Develop a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of contemporary professional approaches to film production with an appreciation and understanding of the link between research, theory and practice.

2.   Promote a knowledge and understanding of the role and operation of each department within film production, whilst developing specialist practice.

3.   Foster reflective, critically aware and informed practitioners with skills in self-directed learning and an appreciation of the collaborative nature of film production.

4.   Prepare for post-course professional or postgraduate opportunities with the relevant practical, entrepreneurial, communication and theoretical skills.

5.   Develop a critical understanding of the elements of film production within a historical and practical context.

6.   Cultivate innovation, visual literacy and cultural awareness.

Course Outcomes

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

1.   Understand the film production process in its broad cultural context and appreciate the link between research, theory and practice.

2.   Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of your specialism with an understanding of how it relates to the entire film production process.

3.   Manage self-directed learning, provide practical solutions to problems and to work as a team-player.

4.   Work with a professional approach together with the necessary communication and organisational skills required in professional practice or postgraduate study.

5.   Enter industry having gained a critical understanding of the elements of film production within a historical and practical context.

6.   Engage in intelligent and innovative work demonstrating visual literacy and cultural awareness.

<u>**Reference Points**</u>

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:
- Subject Benchmark Statement: Art and Design; Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- QAA Code of Practice

AUCB Undergraduate Curriculum Framework
University College Learning and Teaching Strategy

<u>**Learning, Teaching and Assessment**</u>

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The course objectives are met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including projects, lectures, seminars, group critiques and tutorials. In consultation with the Course Leader, staff are responsible for co-ordinating individual units of study, and for selecting appropriate methods of delivery according to subject matter and student experience.

The methods employed induct you to the disciplines required of a creative practitioner and promote the development of transferable skills.

The study time allocated to each unit in the course incorporates a balance of formal teaching, tutorial support and independent learning. The course is structured progressively to provide increased opportunities for independent learning as you reach the later stages of the course.

The progressive promotion of independent learning reflects your anticipated maturity as a student and allows you to direct your learning towards individual goals. The teaching in Level 4 is directed at providing you with the knowledge, concepts and skills to take increasing responsibility for the management of your own learning.

Teaching is directed at supporting individual engagement in learning although there will be opportunities for you to work in teams to enable you to learn the value of peer co-operation.

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

Distinction between Exercises and Productions

To clarify what students can expect to encounter in the course programme, the course team distinguishes between exercises and productions.

Exercises - are those practical film activities that may result in a final edited output but this is unlikely to be screened beyond the University College. These may be digital or film exercises and can range from work completed in an afternoon workshop to a project requiring a set build, 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 College and will possibly be screened in festivals internationally.

Specialisation on the course

BA (Hons) Film Production is a specialist course, within a specialist University College and is designed to reflect the departmental structure of the film industry.

During your second and third year on the course (Levels 5 and 6) you will work within a particular specialism on practical exercises and film productions. This will help you to develop experience of working in a department and will prepare you for a career within the film industry. Examples of departments that constitute the professional environment are Cinematography, Production Design, Production, Directing, Sound and Editing.

The selection of which specialism you choose to follow takes place at the end of the first year. In a year group of 72 students, it is expected that the number of students in each department will be in the region of:

Department	Specialism	Number of students
Cinematography	Includes director of photography, camera operator, focus puller, clapper loader, gaffer, sparks, grips	14
Production Design	Includes designer, art director, set decorator, prop buyer	10
Production	Includes producer, production manager, location manager, 1st assistant director	14
Directing	10 fiction directors / 4 documentary directors	14
Sound	Including location recording, mixing, sound design	10
Editing/post production	Including editors, assistant editors, visual effects	10

The departments are paired to reflect the symbiotic relationship between the pairings. For example, both Cinematographers and Production Designers need an understanding of lighting, lenses, and field of view etc. Wherever possible, workshops in these pairings will occur at different times.

You can work across departments, but not in a Head of Department role. The roles of First Assistant Director, Scriptwriters and Continuity will be across departments and separate workshops will be available in these.

Students often have a clear idea of which specialist department they are interested in before they start the course. This is particularly true of students who want to be Cinematographers and Editors, but less so for Production Designers, Sound or Producers as students rarely have the opportunity to gain significant knowledge or experience in these areas. A large number of students aspire to become a Director, and Directing is traditionally the most popular department.

The Level 4 unit Fundamentals 2 (FLP417) will give you experience and an insight into the operations of all the departments. This will help you to decide which specialist department would be the most suitable for you, and you will receive feedback and guidance from staff. This unit will culminate in a series of workshops and you will attend those of your preferred specialism.

You will apply for your specialism at the beginning of the second half of Level 4. You will be asked which department you wish to join and which would be your second choice. Directing, which is the most popular department, has a restriction on the number of places available and if this is your preferred specialism you will also need to attend the workshops of your second choice. This will ensure that you have the benefit of these workshops if you are not successful in being offered a place on Directing; although we try to accommodate students to the department of their choice, we cannot always guarantee that places are available. Other departments include a range of specialist roles so there are plenty of opportunities for you to gain valuable and appropriate experience in film production.

The selection process for Directing will include an interview. If Directing is your preferred specialism, you will initially make a choice between 'fiction' and 'documentary' and you will make a short (3 minute) film in either fiction or documentary. You will present this film and a 3 minute show-reel at the interview, and you will also participate in discussions about your work. The interview panel will include a combination of members of University College staff, final year students, and a Director from outside of the course. If you are unsuccessful in your choice of Directing as a specialism, you will take your second choice.
Once the selection process is complete you will have a follow-up tutorial giving you feedback on Level 4 and on what you can expect in Level 5. By the conclusion of Level 4, the foundations are laid for the specialist learning in Level 5.

Learning Agreement

This a description of the unit brief written by you indicating why and how you are to fulfil the unit aims and outcomes and how you plan to achieve this. Learning Agreements allow you to vary the work you produce according to your own personal and professional aspirations whilst meeting the specified aims and learning outcomes of the unit.

The AUCB Learning Agreement proforma can be found on the intranet and is also available through Blackboard.

Learning Agreements are introduced at Level 5 to give you an experience of defining your learning in the context of the course.

At Level 6 all students are expected to use Learning Agreements for Major Projects/Extended Major Projects.

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). The HE Grading Matrix will help you to understand the marking process, and this can be found as an Appendix to this Handbook.

On successful completion of your Honours degree course, you will be awarded a degree classification based on your unit marks. The final classification is determined using all unit marks at Levels 5 and 6 in a ratio 1:3. For further information on progression, awards and classifications, please visit http://intranet.aucb.ac.uk/academicregulations

Peer Assessment

We believe that your ability to work professionally within a group is pivotal to your development and the ethos of the course and this is formally recognised through a system of peer evaluation and assessment.

Course Structure

All students are registered for the award of BA (Hons); however exit awards are available if you leave the course early, having successfully completed one or two stages. If you successfully complete a level of the course, you will automatically be entitled to progress to the next level.

For the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 120 credits at Level 4. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University College following successful completion of the first year of your course. (Note that part-time students do not complete Level 4 until part-way through their second year of study.)

For the award of a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), you must have achieved a minimum of 240 credits of which a minimum of 120 must be at Level 5. This qualification may be awarded if you leave the University College following successful completion of the second year of your course. (Note that part-time students do not complete Level 5 until part-way through the fourth year of study.)

For the award of a BA (Hons) you must have achieved a minimum of 360 credits of which a minimum of 240 must be at Level 5 or above, of which a minimum of 120 credits must be at Level 6. This qualification will be awarded upon successful completion of your course.

A BA without Honours may be awarded if you have achieved 300 credits, at least 180 of which are at Level 5 or above, and at least 60 of which are at Level 6.

Course Content

The course is structured in a way that builds systematically and progressively. The content of the individual units relates not only to others within the level but links with units in the later levels of the course.

Each level operates within three terms over a period of thirty weeks. Each unit has its own aims and learning outcomes, assessment requirements and assessment criteria.

Level 4
In this first level, all students, regardless of their chosen specialisation, will gain a common understanding of all disciplines. This level of the course introduces you to a range of technical knowledge, theoretical concepts and creative opportunities. You are introduced to fundamental aspects of Health and Safety, which continue to be reinforced throughout the course. Through practical workshops you will engage in all aspects of the production process enabling an informed and guided choice of specialism at the end of the year. The first year of the course aims to immerse you into the community and practice of making film.

Level 5
During Level 5, your specialist skills are developed, your practical and critical abilities enhanced, and you become accustomed to the teamwork which is an essential feature of the production process. Working on graduation films with final year students is an important element in the learning at this level. You develop your ability to reflect upon and evaluate your work. Your contextual knowledge and understanding are extended, and become prepared for the more rigorous pace and scale of work demanded by Level 6. Relevant industry Health and Safety practice will continue to be emphasised throughout the year of study.

Level 6
Final year students demonstrate their respective roles and their commitment to the collective responsibility of production and post-production of graduation films. Level 6 enables you to develop and consolidate your specialist production role, building on your previous learning and requiring you to undertake significant independent study while also contributing effectively as a team member in the production process. Successful fulfilment of the demands of Level 6 allow you to demonstrate your professional knowledge, including current Health and Safety practice, creative and technical abilities, and intellectual maturity which are necessary for effective operation in the film and media industries or for progression to postgraduate study.

Course Units

Level 4
Fundamentals 1	FLP416	30 credits
Fundamentals 2	FLP417	30 credits
The History of Film Style	FLP418	15 credits
Reframing Film	FLP419	15 credits
Storytelling	FLP420	30 credits

Level 5
Specialist Practice 1	FLP516	30 credits
Specialist Practice 2	FLP517	30 credits
Script to Screen	FLP518	15 credits
Image and Sound	FLP519	30 credits
Theory into Practice	FLP520	15 credits

Level 6
Short Production Project	FLP612	30 credits
Investigative Study	FLP600	15 credits
Extended Major Project	FLP603	60 credits
Professional Strategies	FLP611	15 credits

Course Diagram

This schematic diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit with assessment periods. Further information on the structure of each unit will be included in unit handbooks.

Level 4

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Induction week	FLP419 Reframing Film (15 credits)											Assessment		FLP418 History of Film Style (15 credits)													Assessment	Assessment		HE Exam Boards
	FLP416 Fundamentals 1 (30 credits)										Assessment			FLP417 Fundamentals 2 (30 credits)																
							FLP420 Storytelling (30 credits)																						Assessment		

Level 5

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Induction week	FLP520 Theory into Practice (15 credits)																Assessment												Assessment		HE Exam Boards
	FLP519 Image and Sound (30 credits)													Assessment		FLP517 Specialist Practice 2 (30 Credits)															
	FLP516 Specialist Practice 1 (30 credits)													Assessment																	
									FLP518 Script to Screen (15 credits)																			Assessment		

Level 6

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Induction week

FLP612 Short Production Project (30 credits) — Assessment

FLP600 Investigative Study (15 credits) — Assessment

FLP603 Extended Major Project (60 credits)

FLP611 Professional Strategies (15 credits) — Assessment

Assessment

HE Exam Boards

<u>**Resources**</u>

Specialist resources:

The course is well-resourced in terms of production equipment. The level of equipment is sufficient to allow several groups to shoot at the same time. Typically the best equipment will be used for the graduation films, which are usually shot over a week, with two films in production at one time.

The course has at its disposal three film studios. There is a range of 16mm and Super 16mm film cameras and video camcorders including DVCAM, HDV and Mini DV formats along with sound recording, grip and art department materials. There are also three high quality Avid digital editing suites and a Pro-Tools digital sound studio, and well as numerous computers equipped with entry-level editing software.

University College 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. 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 journals, books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers. It has subscriptions to a wide range of specialist electronic resources focusing on art, design, media and performance, including 37,000 e-books and 3,000 e-journals.

Colour and black and white photocopying facilities are available as well as viewing rooms for watching DVDs, videos and off air recordings from television. Students have access to iMacs and PCs and the Library is wi-fi enabled. The open plan design and high quality resources make the Library a popular space for work and study. The Library scores consistently high in both the in-house and national student surveys which are carried out annually.

Information technology

The University College provides a comprehensive range of IT resources, utilising Apple Macintosh, Windows Personal Computers and specialist resources for its art, design, media and performance disciplines. The University College uses Industry standard software from Microsoft, Adobe, Macromedia, Apple, Quark and leading software suppliers, and is continually investing in its technology and resources.

IT resources are also available to you via the Library, plus through a number of bookable IT suites and dedicated base room provision. To enable access to learning resources, wireless internet access is also available.

The ITCS section (Information Technology and Communication Services) provides a helpdesk facility for IT enquiries and fault notification. The Helpdesk is open from 8.30am until 5pm from Monday to Friday Email: itcshelpdesk@aucb.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 the Arts University College at 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 College 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 Plastics Network website (www.plasticsnetwork.org).

The Gallery

The gallery is a major resource for contemporary visual art at the Arts University College at 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 College.

text + work is the ethos which underpins the exhibition programme at the Arts University College at 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 recorded 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 College 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 Careers Adviser 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, AUCB alumni, and external agencies to bring together a range of art, design, media and performance expertise.

Learning Support

Support for students with disabilities (including dyslexia)

The Arts University College at 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 College 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 College. 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.

Support for students for whom English is a second language

If English is not your first language you will be invited to complete a brief written exercise during the initial weeks of your course, so that your current academic language skills can be assessed. Our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) tutor, who is part of the Learning Support team, will review the exercise and contact you if your work indicates that you would benefit from additional 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 independent academic and study skills. This may include helping you to develop strategies for interpreting assignment briefs, working on the structure of your written work, or developing your proof-reading skills, for example. The plan will be reviewed each term and will be shared with your course tutor so that they are aware of the work you are doing to improve your study skills. If necessary, the EAP tutor will refer you to a local language school so that you can improve your generic English language levels.

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 AUCB Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy at the Arts University College at 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.

Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning

The course is subject to the University College'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 engages with the national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

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 National Student Survey
- 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 Course and Faculty Boards of Study.

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 College at Bournemouth was granted taught degree awarding powers by the Privy Council in 2008 following an intensive period of scrutiny by experienced academics from across the higher education sector.

The University College 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.

Please note that this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course.

More detailed information is available in the following documents:
- Online course information
- Unit Handbooks
- HE Student Regulations – http://intranet.aucb.ac.uk/academicregulations
- AUCB Student Guide