

BA (Hons)

# Film Production



ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

Programme Specification

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.

## ARTS UNIVERSITY 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 they pass the course.

Further detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching and learning methods of each unit may be found within this Handbook and the online Unit Information, which is available on your course blog.

<b><u>Key Course Information</u></b>	
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Course Title	Film Production
Award Title(s)	BA (Hons) Film Production BA (Hons) Film Production (Cinematography) BA (Hons) Film Production (Directing) BA (Hons) Film Production (Documentary) BA (Hons) Film Production (Editing/Post-production) BA (Hons) Film Production (Producing with Script) BA (Hons) Film Production (Production Design) BA (Hons) Film Production (Sound)
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the School of: <i>Contact details:</i> Telephone number Email	Media and Performance  01202 363138 <a href="mailto:somp@aub.ac.uk">somp@aub.ac.uk</a>
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
External Examiner for course:	Simon van der Borgh University of York  <i>Please note that it is not appropriate for students to contact external examiners directly.</i>
Date of Validation	2004
Date of most recent review	2018
Date programme specification written/revised	September 2018

## **Course Description**

Communication, passion, creativity, technical ability, vision, research and commitment – all these are essential characteristics of those who work in film. The course is designed to foster these skills and abilities through offering a wide range of film production experiences – from the moment of a film's inception to its final distribution to cinema and other audiences. Reflecting the central ethos of the University, this course emphasises practical learning within an academic environment. The course is 'hands-on' from the outset and students gain a solid grounding in fundamental, traditional practices, such as shooting on film, as well as exploring the complex creativities of digital production. The specialist and focused nature of the course helps students to develop their understanding of the creative and commercial realities of film production.

As well as learning practical film-making, students study cinema in its various forms to achieve a working knowledge of a variety of film practices within fiction and documentary film-making. You will develop essential entrepreneurial, communication and organisational skills through the completion of filmed exercises and film productions, as well as the study of contemporary film practice. Your practical skills are informed by an understanding of the cultural, historical and theoretical contexts of film practice. You will also be encouraged to develop your reflective skills through the critique of your own and others' practice, as well as through the critical study of film as text and narrative work.

Making films is a collaborative process and team working is a key part of the course. Integral to this is working, not only with student peers, lecturers and technicians on the course, but also with contemporaries and staff from other subject areas across the University: Costume, Acting, Make-Up, Animation, and Visual Effects. These collaborations help foster a strong film community throughout the University with Film Production at its core.

The intention of the course is to enable students to work on visually exciting and engaging films that are based on effective storytelling as well as technical and creative techniques. The learning experience is intended to equip you to engage positively in the contemporary workplace, and to navigate the creative opportunities offered by the world of digital production, that are now a central part of film and TV production. The course prepares students for postgraduate study in related disciplines, and graduates should be equipped to pursue careers in the UK and international film industries or in the wider creative industries.

The course is accredited by Creative Skillset UK, and is a member of CILECT, the leading international association of film schools.

## **Specialisation on the course**

The course is a specialist course situated within the School of Media and Performance of a specialist University. The course is designed to reflect the diversity of specialist skills required in different areas of the film industry and to prepare you for employment in a range of creative disciplines within professional practice.

At Level 4, in Fundamentals 1 and Fundamentals 2, you will be introduced to major specialisms within film: Cinematography, Directing, Editing/Postproduction,

Producing, Production Design and Sound. In the Storytelling unit, you will study the development of narrative forms of fiction and documentary film.

At Level 5 the expanded list of specialisms available for study are Cinematography, Directing (fiction), Documentary, Editing/ Postproduction, Producing with Script, Production Design and Sound. You will study two of these specialisms. The choice of specialisms will be guided by your own preference, and your levels of attainment in your Level 4 studies. Although you may exercise a significant element of choice, not all combinations of specialism are possible. You should also be aware that some specialisms can be over-subscribed and that places in them are limited by the amount of space and equipment available.

Directing students will normally be expected to study Producing with Script as their second specialism. This is because it is essential for directors to have a good understanding of script and because they are expected to learn about the key skills of First Assistant Directing, Casting, and Script Supervision, all of which fall within the producing department in the film industry. You may not study both Directing (fiction) and Documentary.

At Level 6 you may study a single specialism or continue with two specialisms.

### **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 creative practice.
2. Promote a knowledge and understanding of the role and operation of each department within film production, whilst developing specialist practice.
3. Foster the development of 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, interpersonal and theoretical skills.
5. Develop a critical understanding of the elements of film production within a historical and practical context.
6. Cultivate innovation, audio-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 links between research, theory and creative practice.
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of your specialisms and an understanding of how they relate to the whole film production process.

3. Work with a professional approach to manage self-directed learning, provide practical solutions to problems, and develop the necessary communication, organisational and team-working skills required in professional practice.
4. Enter industry having gained a critical understanding of the elements of film production within a historical and practical context, including the relevant technological context.
5. Engage in reflective and innovative work demonstrating audio-visual literacy and cultural awareness.

### **Reference Points**

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)
- AUB Regulatory Framework and Undergraduate Assessment Regulations  
AUB Creative Learning Plan  
AUB Strategic Plan  
AUB Employability Framework

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies**

The course objectives are met by deploying a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including projects, exercises, lectures, seminars, workshops, 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 into the disciplines required of a creative practitioner and promote the development of transferable skills.

The study time allocated to each unit on the course incorporates a balance of formal teaching, tutorials 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. At Level 4 your work will be closely supervised, and you will work to set briefs. At Level 5 there will be a mix of specialist teaching and independent study. At Level 6 you will work primarily on self-directed projects, with tutorial support.

The progressive promotion of independent learning reflects your anticipated maturity as a student and allows you to direct your learning towards your individual goals. The teaching at 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, whilst at the same time the course provides ample opportunities for you to work in teams and enable you to learn the value of peer co-operation and collaborative working. At Level 4, there is a positive emphasis on the acquisition of research and academic

writing skills, and students are encouraged to work with the Subject Librarian. These skills are sustained and developed further at Levels 5 and 6.

Every student will have an annual progress tutorial with the Course Leader.

Assessment components may include film productions, critical reflection, essays, and presentations, as appropriate to the unit. The course uses both formative and summative assessment. Feedback is given to students not more than four weeks after work has been handed in.

There may also be occasions where digital delivery is appropriate. Where this is the case, this might include on-line lectures, seminars, presentations, and one to one tutorials. It is important that you engage with on-line course delivery in the same way that you would if you were on campus.

### **Learning Agreement**

The Learning Agreement is a crucial document that allows you to define and negotiate the focus of the research and production work that you will produce on the relevant units. It identifies how you will meet the unit aims and learning outcomes, whilst also allowing you to pursue your specialist learning in the context of your creative and professional aspirations. It will play a central role in the assessment of your work.

Learning Agreements are introduced at Level 5 in Production in Practice and at Level 6 in the Graduation Films unit.

### **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, we will inform you of what you are expected to learn; what you have to submit; how your work will be assessed; and the deadline for presenting your work for assessment. This is made available through Unit Information, which is on your course blog.

A minimum of one unit at Level 4 will be assessed on a pass/fail basis, with written feedback but no numerical grade. Details of this will be clearly expressed on the Unit Information Sheet. All other units will be given a percentage mark.

The final mark for each unit will be recorded on your formal record of achievement (transcript). With the exception of the pass/fail unit, 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 (e.g. 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.

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 using two different algorithms, which are detailed in the HE Student Regulations. If the two algorithms produce different results, you will be awarded the higher class of degree.

If you have joined Level 6 through either the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) route or having completed a Foundation Degree (FdA), the final classification is determined using only your unit marks at Level 6.

For further information on assessment, progression, awards and classifications, please visit <https://aub.ac.uk/regulations>

## **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 levels. 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 following successful completion of the first year of your course.

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 following successful completion of the second year of your course.

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 so that it builds systematically and progressively. The content of the individual units relates not only to others within the level but also links with units in successive 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**

At this level, all students, regardless of the chosen specialisms, 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 are essential within the film industry, and which continue to be reinforced throughout the course. Through practical workshops you will engage in many aspects of the production process, enabling an informed and guided choice of specialisms at the end of the year. The first year of the course aims to immerse you in the community and practice of making film.

## **Level 5**

During Level 5, your specialist skills are developed, your practical and critical abilities are enhanced, and you become accustomed to the teamwork which is an essential feature of the film production process. You deepen your specialist learning and develop your ability to reflect on and evaluate your work. Your contextual knowledge and understanding are extended, and you become prepared for the more rigorous pace and scale of work demanded by Level 6. Relevant health and safety practice will continue to be emphasised throughout the year of study.

## **Level 6**

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

For those students who would like to spend more time researching and writing from a theoretical and critical perspective, there will be an optional route through Level 6 which includes the following:

**Study Option 1:** this option emphasises specialist learning on the Graduation Films unit, comprising 60 credits for the unit. You will also complete the following units – Research Project (20 credits), Short Production Project (20 credits), and Professional Development (20 Credits).

**Study Option 2:** this option allows you to devote more of your study to academic writing and research. It comprises an Extended Research Project (40 credits), and removes the Short Production unit. The Graduation Films unit (60 credits) and Professional Development unit (20 credits) remain the same.

The choice between these options will form part of the Learning Agreement that you will complete, with tutorial guidance, at the start of your third year (Level 6).

## **Named Awards**

You may be entitled to a named award if you have studied a single specialism at Level 6 and have achieved a minimum of 60 credits in the Graduation Films unit within that specialism. It is expected that your single specialism at Level 6 will be one of those that you have followed in Specialist Practice at Level 5. The decision to pursue a named award will be negotiated with your tutors through your Learning Agreement at the beginning of the Graduation Films unit. The named awards available are:

BA (Hons) Film Production (Cinematography)  
BA (Hons) Film Production (Directing)  
BA (Hons) Film Production (Documentary)  
BA (Hons) Film Production (Editing/ Post Production)  
BA (Hons) Film Production (Producing with Script)  
BA (Hons) Film Production (Production Design)  
BA (Hons) Film Production (Sound)

You may opt for the award of BA (Hons) Film Production if you prefer.

## **Course Specific Resources**

### Physical Resource and Equipment

The Film Subject area at AUB is fortunate in having some of the best specialist facilities on the UK HE sector. These include the following:  
Post Production Facilities:

- Eight Avid Media Composer Editing Suites.
- Two Avid Media Composer & Pro Tools dual-purpose Editing Suites.
- One Online Avid Symphony Nitris DX Editing Suite.
- Avid Teaching Lab c/w 21 Workstations running Media Composer & Pro Tools. The room has been fully blacked out. The Lab is used for teaching Avid certified courses, After Effects Courses and Protools Courses that run year wide.
- Avid NEXIS E4 120TB Media Server, Connected to all Edit Suites.
- Four Avid Pro Tools Audio Editing Suites with Avid Artist Mix audio control surfaces.
- Three Sound Recording Booths for Voice Over & Foley.
- DaVinci Resolve Digital Picture Grading Suite.
- Two Full HD Screening Rooms with 5.1 Surround Sound Systems.
- Two Lecture Theatres each equipped with a Barco 2K DCI Projector & 5.1 Surround Sound System.
- The Student Hub which provides study and meeting areas, and production offices, with 3 dedicated Production Rooms all with internet access and 8 dedicated Computers with internet access and 2 Steenbeck Editing Tables with a separate Picture Synchroniser.

### **Studio space**

#### On campus:

- Studio 1 (Sound Stage) 12.2 metres x 7.4 metres



## **Course Units**

<b>Unit Code</b>	<b>Unit Title</b>	<b>Credit Weighting</b>
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### **Level 4**

FLP464	Fundamentals 1	20
FLP461	Film History and Culture	20
FLP462	Fundamentals 2	40
FLP463	Storytelling	40

### **Level 5**

FLP560	Specialist Practice 1	40
FLP561	Contemporary Film	20
FLP562	Specialist Practice 2	20
FLP564	Production in Practice	40

### **Level 6**

#### **Study Option 1**

FLP660	Research Project	20
FLP661	Short Production Project	20
FLP663	Graduation Films	60
FLP664	Professional Development	20

#### **Study Option 2**

FLP662	Extended Research Project	40
FLP663	Graduation Films	60
FLP664	Professional Development	20

## Course Diagram

This diagram shows the proposed start/end dates for each unit and shows teaching weeks only; holiday periods are not included.

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
Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term										
Induction week	<b>FLP464 Fundamentals 1</b> (weeks 1-12) (20 credits)										Assess ment + crits		<b>FLP462 Fundamentals 2</b> (weeks 13-27) (40 credits)										Assess ment		Assessment					
													Block 1 (crits week 17)					Block 2 (crits week 24)												
	<b>FLP461 Film History and Culture</b> (weeks 1-15) (20 credits)												Assess ment																	
										<b>FLP463 Storytelling</b> (weeks 10-30) (40 credits) (critical feedback week 17)																				

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
Autumn Term											Spring Term											Summer Term								
<b>FLP561 Contemporary Film</b> (weeks 1-16) (20 credits)													Assessment		<b>FLP564 Production in Practice</b> (weeks 13-24) (40 credits)						Assessment								Assessment	
<b>FLP560 Specialist Practice 1</b> (weeks 1-15) (40 credits)													Assessment		<b>FLP562 Specialist Practice 2</b> (weeks 16-30) (20 credits)															

Level 6 option one																														
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
Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term										
<b>FLP663 Graduation Films</b> (weeks 1-30) (60 credits)																											Assessment			
<b>FLP660 Research Project</b> (weeks 1-17) (20 credits)														Assessment																
<b>FLP661 Short Production Project</b> (weeks 1-19) (20 credits)																Assessment					<b>FLP664 Professional Development</b> (weeks 21-30) (20 credits)					Assessment				

Level 6 option two																														
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
Autumn Term										Spring Term										Summer Term										
<b>FLP663 Graduation Films</b> (weeks 1-30) (60 credits)																											Assessment			
<b>FLP662 Extended Research Project</b> (weeks 1-20) (40 credits)																Assessment					<b>FLP664 Professional Development</b> (weeks 21-30) (20 credits)					Assessment				



