

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 **MA Film Practice** 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.

<u>Key Course Information</u>	
Final Award	Master of Arts
Course Title	Film Practice
Award Title	MA Film Practice
Teaching institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Awarding Institution	Arts University Bournemouth
Offered in the School of:	Graduate School
Contact details: Telephone number	01202 363706
Email	graduateschooloffice@aub.ac.uk
Professional accreditation	None
Length of course / mode of study	53 weeks/Full Time
Level of final award (in FHEQ)	Level 7
Subject benchmark statement	QAA Master's degree characteristics
UCAS code	TBC
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	2019
Date of most recent review	2019
Date programme specification written/revised	September 2019

Course Description

MA Film Practice is a uniquely positioned specialist programme that offers students the opportunity to develop and realise their creative ambitions through practice-based research, in an inclusive, integrated and highly stimulating environment. The course is underpinned by a team of specialist tutors and researchers in a wide variety of film practice modes.

The MA Film Practice course asks reflective practitioners to interrogate the nature, context and position of their work in relation to the film and wider creative industries. It recognises and celebrates an expansive understanding of film practice, its audience and the sites and contexts in which it can be presented. Your practice-based research will be developed across the specialist programme of study, through a critical approach to individual and collaborative practice and reflective enquiry.

The course gives you the opportunity to potentially produce short films, that show an awareness of contemporary life and ideas, industry polish and specialist expertise, but also experimental dramas, documentary hybrid forms and art films, all works that emphasize innovation, a commitment to examining form and content.

The course has very experienced and multi-talented staff, who cover a broad range of professional and research activities; from feature films to art projects. These individuals have the necessary awareness and range to nurture the development of diverse and challenging projects. Each student will have two supervisors (overview and specialist) who are responsible for their pastoral and tutorial cares.

You may enter the course as an industry professional and/or film graduate who wants to develop your specialist practice through intensive practice-based research. Or, you may arrive as a graduate from subject areas outside of film, which could include animation, photography, fine art, creative writing, graphic design, drawing and painting, amongst others. If so, you should already be using film within your creative practice and be able to demonstrate a clear rationale for doing so.

Whatever your background, the course will encourage you to further your own ideas and realise your aspirations for future employment and/or freelance practice. Your work will be considered in a global context, and critically examine the emergence of approaches that challenge orthodox practices.

Course Aims

The course aims to:

1. Encourage intellectual progression by providing a stimulating forum for critical debate and inter-disciplinary approaches to film practice.
2. Support you in developing the research methods and skills required in the gathering, sampling and analysing of data, in order to find and solve complex problems.

3. Encourage you to reflect critically on your achievements and to evaluate them within a challenging environment that will enable you to meaningfully extend your practice professionally and/or towards PhD study.
4. Enable you to develop professional maturity and to understand and discuss your work in the context of your discipline as well as the social, political and cultural spheres in which your work will be situated.
5. Develop a rich cultural community that actively engages creative practice in issues of ethics and sustainability.

Course Outcomes

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

1. Produce a high level of individual and collaborative work that acknowledges, and potentially challenges, current orthodoxies within film practice and the disciplines and communities associated with it.
2. Demonstrate advanced ability through making and thinking to research, investigate, describe and critique issues and situations to provide original insights into contemporary practice.
3. Demonstrate and apply highly developed and advanced practical and conceptual understanding of film techniques and processes to raise questions for further study or professional development.
4. Show acquisition of appropriate skills and acumen in communication, presentation and autonomous learning in relation to career aspirations.
5. Develop your work with respect to relevant issues of sustainability, ethics and the cultural and political environment in which your practice sits.

Reference Points

UK Quality Code for higher education, including:

- Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's degree characteristics
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

AUB Regulatory Framework and Postgraduate Assessment Regulations

AUB Creative Learning Plan

AUB Strategic Plan

AUB Employability Framework

Statement of Student Entitlement:

- All students are entitled to two supervisory tutorials per unit, totalling six over the course. In addition, specialist feedback tutorials and group critiques will accompany each of the units' projects.
- Staff and student-led lectures and seminars.

- Regularly timetabled group meetings with MA Course Leader and/or relevant tutors.
- Access to the Quiet Study Room during Library hours.
- Access to relevant resources agreed through your Course Leader.
- 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 programmes.
- Attendance at Gallery events, Research days and other appropriate AUB events.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Lectures and Screenings

Lectures are used to focus on aspects of film practice and provide information as you progress through the course. They are generally followed by question and answer sessions. Screenings of historical and contemporary film practice artefacts are designed to provide context and inspiration for the students in the development of their own work. These will often involve an introduction and/or discussion by a tutor or visiting professional. Masters students will also screen work as part of their growing critical skillset.

Practical Workshops & Exercises

Practical workshops will provide students with technical skills and creative knowledge in the fundamental components of film practice. Sessions will focus on specialist areas including storytelling and script development, cinematography, producing, production design, directing, sound and editing. A series of technical and creative exercises will challenge students to put their new knowledge into practice and link their learning outcomes to their own research goals.

Seminars, Group Criticism & Peer Learning

Discussion seminars and group criticisms are important opportunities for generating dialogue and interrogating practice. These tutor and student-led sessions primarily focus on the individual and collaborative work produced in the units. You will become confident in discussing and verbally articulating your practice and that of your collaborators in preparation for working within the creative industries or further study.

Tutorials and self-directed study

You will be allocated a personal tutor, who will provide academic guidance at tutorials and present an overview of individual progress. Personal tutors will normally have extensive and current professional experience in your specialist area 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. This provision is complemented by a second tutorial supervisor, usually the Course Leader, who has overall responsibility. The dual tutorial combination provides for a focused and comprehensive tutorial and pastoral oversight.

At Masters level you are expected to undertake a high proportion of self-directed study. You are required to determine appropriate research and practical resource requirements and, with the agreement of the Course Leader, your personal tutor and other designated staff, ensure that access to these resources is agreed under course and AUB guidelines.

Visiting Professionals

The course invites visiting film practitioners to contribute to the Professional Lecture Programme. These talks are vital, in that they enable you to understand how the creative industries really operate. These practitioners and industry specialists discuss their work, professional practice and industry experience. These visits energise the course as they engender lively and current debate.

Study Visits

These can involve visits to cinemas, festivals, galleries and exhibitions. There are added costs notified in advance of the visits.

Postgraduate network

While students at undergraduate level are encouraged to learn through their peers, at MA Level this is an imperative through peer learning and group work. Each member of the MA cohort across AUB is an active participant in learning and teaching, and through this postgraduate network, the sharing of good practice is established. Through involvement in cross-course study groups, shared lectures and other MA activities you will work together with other postgraduate students to form the a network that will facilitate a wider dialogue around sustainability, ethics, the creative industries and the cultural and political environment in which your practice sits.

Assessment

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

For each 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 will be made available through Unit Information, which is on your course blog.

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.

You are assessed, broadly speaking in two ways: formatively and summatively.

Formative assessment provides feedback that will help you to develop your learning. It should be seen as 'ongoing' assessment in the sense that it enables you to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses and address them appropriately. Formative

assessment may take place in tutorials, seminars, critiques and other discussions about your work.

Summative assessment generally takes place at the end of a unit of study. It is an overall evaluation of your acquisition of the skills and knowledge developed in that part of the course.

There will be specific tutorials and formative assessment events at least once per term to make you fully aware of your progress on the course and monitor your development.

Description of Assessment Components

Body of Work

The body of work is guided by your understanding of your own practice-based research and your discussions and negotiations with your tutors and peers. Each unit has instructions regarding the specific definition of Body of Work but in general it will comprise of:

- Your film exercises and completed works; evidence of your creative audio/visual work that allows you to meaningfully demonstrate and display the outcome of your specialist study.
- A research portfolio of written and visual work that evidences the progress of your work, the course's collaborative film exercises, provides a context for its production, sets out a theoretical framework and offers synthesis of your developmental process.
- A critical and analytical evaluation. A series of analytical papers, one per unit, that evidences research methods, academic protocols, analysis, the development of a theoretical argument, critical evaluation and reflection.

Presentation

During the course, you will be asked to give presentations – some assessed, some not assessed. Although you may 'present' your work in other contexts (e.g. pitches, group critiques, tutorials), the term 'presentation' usually refers to a formal process where you talk about work-in-progress, placing it in context, using visual aids such as Powerpoint and test shoots. The expectation with a presentation is that you do not simply 'show' work, but that you critically contextualise it.

Postgraduate Study Plan (PSP)

You will complete a Postgraduate Study Plan as part of the assessment for the Strategies for Practice: Identification unit. This is a crucial document that allows you to define and negotiate the focus of the research and work that you will produce on subsequent two 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, it underpins both the Master's Project 1: Research and Master's Project 2: Resolution units, and will remain as a record of your initial learning agreement and a point of reference as you progress through the course.

This 3,000word document will consist of an evaluatory text, with accompanying

research and exploratory images, that cover your practice related requirements - technical necessities, the development of your research methodology, contextual and critical awareness, conceptual considerations, intended dissemination and work schedule. A template will be provided and the content of the document will be discussed with your personal tutor.

Professional Development Portfolio (PDP)

The PDP forms a portion of your assessment in the second and third units of study. It is an on-going, working document in which skills learnt and understanding and knowledge gained are recorded, in order to facilitate planning, the identification of new learning needs and the dissemination of a profile that articulates your film practice, and reflects your future employment or freelance aspirations. The exact format of your PDP will depend on your specialist practice, but it will include curriculum vitae, personal profile, contact list and a skills check list. A template will be provided and the content of the document will be discussed with your personal tutor.

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.

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

This uniquely positioned specialist programme offers the opportunity for students to develop and realise their creative ambitions through practice-based research. The course is underpinned by a team of specialist tutors who are experienced practitioners and researchers in a wide variety of film practice modes.

All three units require the completion of set film exercises, which display an awareness of specialist study and evidence of progress towards your research goals, through individual and collaborative experimentation;

1. Strategies for Practice: Identification, 16 mm Bolex project;
2. Master's Project 1: Research, Experimental Practices;

3. Master's Project 2: Resolution, final project.

You are required to produce a critical and analytical evaluation, which evidences research methods, academic protocols, critical, contextual and conceptual analysis and applied reflection;

1. Strategies for Practice: Identification, 3,000 word research positional paper, which examines your original research question and clearly identifies contextual and conceptual intentions;

2. Master's Project 1: Research, 3,000 word research development paper, which advances your research and indicates its direct application;

3. Master's Project 2: Resolution, 3,000 word research resolution paper, which shows evidence of practical and analytical conclusions and outcomes to your original research question.

Each unit is assessed separately, the assessment criteria informs the unit, and they consist of two components, a body of work and a Postgraduate Study Plan. The former develops over the course of the unit, indicates creative and contextual research, practical outcomes, and equates to 90% of the assessment. The latter indicates the student's intended project work (its form, content, context, rationale, timeline) and equates to 10% of the assessment.

Strategies for Practice: Identification

This unit is designed to orientate and offer an introduction to all that follows. Through a series of lectures, film exercises, workshops, critiques and seminars; film, and your relationship to it, is examined. These different elements are structured to relate your practice, the work that you desire to make, and research, the critical questions you want to answer, to historic and contemporary film discourses, that consider aesthetics, technology, form, content, cultural and social concerns, and develop your work's conceptual purpose within an informed frame of reference. A skills audit will allow you to identify particular areas in which you may need revision or tuition.

This unit, through its varied elements, encourages independent study and collaborative work, focused through a 16mm Bolex film project, which aims to facilitate authorial awareness and direction. Undertaking practice-based research means that your film exercises and experiments form the basis for your project development; an ethos that relates to every level of filmmaker, no matter their experience or focus, and offers the opportunity to build on existing knowledge and generate new understanding.

Your progress through the unit will focus your developmental intent and aid the formulation of the next two units (Master's Project Research and Resolution). This is supported by specialised and personal tuition. The process of making work (and critiquing it in individual and group tutorials), better understanding your field of practice, analysing and composing your research (through developing a written and practical body of work), will further enhance your practice related awareness and will help you become a more complete and reflective practitioner.

Master's Project 1: Research

The second unit builds on all you have accomplished in the first. It encourages you to further develop your specific practice related interests and apply them directly to your research question. Your research, through practical tests, contextual investigations and interrogative analysis, will expand your understanding, whilst, also focusing your own purpose, form and content of your final project.

The proposed nature of your project will, in many ways, decide the direction of your research. For instance, a film drama requires a different approach and resources to a documentary, and these considerations will determine your focus, requirements, degree of collaborative engagement, creative relationships, and how you plan to present the completed project. Experimentation is a vital part of this process, focused through the collaborative film exercise, because only through genuine exploration (sometimes taking a leap of faith) will you find a satisfying creative and applicable solution.

Your research will interrogate related conceptual and contextual concerns, analysing your position and developing the best strategy for facilitating your final project. An important part of this process is 'testing' your perspective and engaging with other opinions, therefore, personal and specialist tutorials, presentations and critiques with both staff and students are a vital part of this process. Your critical awareness, working methods, relatable structures, will help make the final stage of your study achievable, one which will find worthwhile fruition in the final unit, Master's Project 2: Resolution.

Master's Project 2: Resolution

In the third unit you will implement your final project, which was identified in the Postgraduate Study Plan and then developed, researched and refined in Master's Project 1, to produce a completed major project of audio/visual work(s). You will assess the project's means of presentation (e.g. single screen and/or installation) and dissemination (e.g. festival and/or digital platform), resolving the outcomes of your project in ways that communicate to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. You will also complete a critical and analytical evaluation of your progress, which considers the practical and conceptual outcomes to your original research question, that applies appropriate research methods, academic protocols, critical analysis and displays active reflection.

Both the Master's Project 1: Research and Master's Project 2: Resolution units will be underpinned by your **Professional Development Portfolio (PDP)**.

Course Units

Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Weighting
FRF751	Strategies for Practice: Identification Materials, methods, contexts	60
FRF752	Master's Project 1: Research Investigate, propose, experiment	60
FRF753	Master's Project 2: Resolution Resolution, presentation, evaluation	60

