LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Screenwriting: Film & Continuing Series

Course Code: MSFCS

2023/24

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Award and Title: MA Screenwriting: Feature Film & Continuing Series (MSFCS)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2023/24 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at MAR/2023

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Screenwriting: Feature Film & Continuing Series
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Diploma Screenwriting: Feature Film & Continuing Series Postgraduate Certificate Screenwriting: Feature Film & Continuing Series
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: • 18 months (full time, campus based) • 36 months (part-time, campus based)
Part Time Study	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
Location(s) of Delivery	City Campus, Leeds
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/

	Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.
Course Fees	Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director	Laura Taylor
Your Academic Advisor	Laura Taylor
Your Course Administrator	Adnan Khanzada, FilmCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

N/A

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

1. Develop and stimulate a community of critical enquiry into contemporary screenwriting practices through local, national, and global contexts.

2. Expand and uncover students' potential through the encouragement and support of working on (self) directed projects across a range of practice-based writing exercises.

3. Foster critical and creative dialogues between students, academics, and industry professionals.

4. Develop and test ideas across a range of appropriate platforms exploring the creative potential and visual nature of writing for the screen.

5. Develop public exposure for students' work.

6. Provide an environment and ethos for graduates, practitioners, professionals, and those working within a diverse context to come together in supportive, collaborative enquiries, whilst intensifying and deepening their own contextual practices.

7. Appreciate the impact of new technologies.

8. Empower students to make effective use of reflective strategies for the development and evaluation of self-managed learning and professional practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the broad knowledge and skills which underpin and contextualise the professional practice in the field of Screenwriting.

2. Evidence the ability to undertake effective self-directed learning and professional practice in a range of appropriate contexts.

3. Demonstrate the ability to critically appraise and apply appropriate research techniques relevant to the field, and to communicate these findings through a range of formats appropriate to both scholarly and professional contexts.

4. Demonstrate originality and synthesis in the application of theory and techniques, drawn from earlier studies, through the production of a final project, a significant piece of high-level independent work.

5. Successfully create innovative and original work for a variety of screen contexts.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Activities are provided through lectures, seminars, tutorials, talks, discussions, and screenings, encouraging students to explore, debate and reflect upon questions of creativity. We recognise that students bring to the Northern Film School widely differing experiences of writing and media culture and so have devised our programme to be able to meet different interests and levels of experience. The emphasis is on giving access to a wide range of ideas from industry and informed speakers, as well as providing a broad variety of films and other forms of moving image material to debate and discuss.

Critical discussion and peer and staff formative feedback is embedded in all project written work. Lectures, workshops, seminars, and tutorials will provide opportunities for staff to discuss student work at planning, preparation and ongoing stages. There will be opportunities for feedback from professional bodies such as writers, producers, agents, and filmmakers.

The intention is to provide a firm grounding in key concepts and concerns of screenwriting for a range of screen media, whilst also giving emphasis to the creation of new ideas through provocation, stimulation, and inspiration. We aim to build the student's confidence through a range of exercises and processes that encourage them to evaluate their own and other people's work independently and effectively.

Our aim is to provide regular Masterclasses for students, both at the school and at other venues. Masterclasses and seminars with filmmakers give students the opportunity to learn from and interact with established and experienced professionals. These opportunities can be organised throughout the year but may also be concentrated in a yearly student conference or event organised by the students. Here students have the opportunity to hear from, question and be inspired by distinguished filmmakers, writers for different genres and platforms, to actors and to commissioners.

The course places peer review and formative assessment at the heart of the course delivery through regular seminars, tutorials, conferences, and workshops. These assessments are key to developing student learning and are closely aligned to the intended learning outcomes. Opportunities for formative feedback are scheduled explicitly into all modules. The aim is to engage all students in critical debate about their own and their peer's work in order to develop a supportive community where the learning that takes place between them is as important as the learning delivered by staff. Individual tutorials are made available to support individual student work prior to summative submissions. We offer a mix of theory and practice in all our modules.

We define the *masterclass* as a practice-based workshop, lecture or seminar usually led by prominent industry specialists who come to the University as visiting lecturers. In this context it is often the case that these sessions are open to a larger body of students from across the University.

Mentoring is at the heart of our final project and aims to replicate professional practice from within the Screenwriting industry. Students are encouraged to understand and engage with the process of script development with a *'client'*. This enables the students to be well supported by relevant people but also challenged in a useful and managed way in order to create work of a standard expected at level 7 study.

Students will have the opportunity to engage with current film practice from within the school, such as the opportunity to work on various types of live projects. These could be practical, visual and sonic exercises or short film shoots for example. Students will also have the potential to submit short scripts to script pools to

be considered for potential production on the BA(Hons) Filmmaking course that currently runs within the school.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7			
Semester 1	**Core (Y/N)**	**Semester 2**	**Core (Y/N)**
Storytelling (20 credits)	Y	Feature Film (20 credits)	Y
Creative Screenwriting (20 credits)	Y	The Writers Room (20 credits)	Y
Writing for an Industry Context (20 credits)	Y	Writing for an Industry Context (20 credits)	Y
Genre (20 credits)	Y		
Semester 3	**Core (Y/N)**		
Final Project (60 credits)	Y		

Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study.

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities, and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Assessment on this course will predominantly be coursework based.

Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	164 hours
Independent Study	1636 hours
Placement	N/A

Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and opportunities

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.