



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Screenwriting: Film & Continuing Series

Course Code: MSFCS

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 11/2025

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
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 are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**Professional body**

N/A

Timetable

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.

Key Contacts**Your course director**

Dr Laura Taylor

Your course administrator

Adnan Khanzada, FilmCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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 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.
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.

Our seminars are on our city campus in the Leeds School of Arts building. From time to time we may have guests that attend our seminars via MS Teams or other online platforms. Tutorials may be held online depending on student preference, or for our final project module, the location of the professional mentor. Our annual pitching sessions are online as we find that we attract more guests this way. Some of our sessions may be recorded, but due to the practical nature of our teaching it is not possible or appropriate to record all of them.

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

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Storytelling	20	1
Creative Screenwriting	20	1
Writing for an Industry Context	20	1 and 2
Genre	20	1
Feature Film	20	2
The Writers Room	20	2
Final Project	60	3
Number of credits of compulsory modules	180	

Assessment 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

Level 7

This course is assessed by coursework.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	164 hours
Independent study	1636 hours
Placement	-