LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Course information for applicants

This information applies to the course as it will be delivered to students starting the course in 2027/28.
Information provided here was confirmed on 08/10/2026

General information

Programme code
MSFCS

Target award
If you complete this course successfully you will be eligible for the award of:
MA Screenwriting Feature Film and Continuing Series

Delivery mode
✓ On campus
☐ Distance learning

Where you will study
The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.

Awarding body
Leeds Beckett University

Regulator
Office for Students

Level of qualification
Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Course duration
If you are made an offer of a place on the course, your offer letter will include the start date.

This course can be studied:

18 months full-time
36 months part-time

Part-time study
This course can be studied part-time.

If you study the course part-time, it will usually take twice as long to complete compared with the equivalent full-time course. The modules may be delivered in a different sequence than on the full-time course, but you will study the same modules at each academic level. With the agreement of the course team, you may be able to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration.

As a part-time student, you will not usually have the option of a work placement.

Entry requirements

Admissions criteria are available on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have previous relevant qualifications or experience, you could be exempt from certain parts of your course. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) allows you to start your course at a point appropriate to the learning and skills that you may have developed in a professional, vocational or community setting.

Find out more here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning
If you have questions about entry requirements and admissions, contact AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course fees

Course fees and a breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have questions about fees for this course, contact Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Timetable

You will receive your full timetable for the year during induction week.

What you will study

Course aims

The aims of the course are to:

-Develop and stimulate a community of critical enquiry into contemporary screenwriting practices through local, national, and global contexts;
-Expand and uncover students' potential through the encouragement and support of working on (self) directed projects across a range of practice-based writing exercises;
-Foster critical and creative dialogues between students, academics and industry professionals;
-Develop and test ideas across a range of appropriate platforms exploring the creative potential and visual nature of writing for the screen;
-Develop public exposure for students' work;
-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;

-Appreciate the impact of new technologies;
-Empower students to make effective use of reflective strategies for the development and evaluation of self-managed learning and professional practice

Teaching and learning activities

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.

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 of 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.

Course structure

This information is correct for students progressing through the course within standard timescales. If you have to repeat study or take time out during your course, you may be taught alternative modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes.

The option modules listed may vary. Those listed here are likely to be offered in a typical year.

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Storytelling	20	1
Creative Screenwriting	20	1
Genre	20	1
Writing for an Industry Context	20	1 + 2
Feature Film	20	2
The Writer's Room	20	2
Final Project	60	3
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	180	

Assessment and feedback

The balance of assessment may change depending on which option modules you choose.

Level 7

This course is assessed by coursework.

Workload

You can expect to spend a total of 100 hours learning per 10 credits.
Typically, a student on this course can expect to divide their time like this:

Overall workload	**Level 4**
Teaching, learning and assessment	164 hours
Independent study	1636 hours
Placement study	X hours