

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MA Screenwriting PG Screenwriting (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip Screenwriting PG Cert Screenwriting
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home Department/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time, 1 year Part-time, 2 years September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMASCRWR_C (MA) TPCSCRWR_C (PG Cert)
HECoS Code	100729.
Start date of programme	Autumn 2010
Date of programme approval	Summer 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2024
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Programme Director	Paul Gallagher
Date of last revision to document	26.11.24

Admissions requirements

A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in any related subject; other qualifications will be considered. Evidence of creative writing in English is required, but applications are encouraged from those with or without prior screenwriting experience.

MA Screenwriting: As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit the following in a single file (3000 words max).

- The opening ten pages of script for a film or TV drama

PG Cert Screenwriting (separate entry point): No writing sample required.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

This screenwriting course offers the opportunity to develop practical screenwriting skills and techniques and to apply them to writing briefs, together with the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of communicating ideas in script form.

Offered as a full-time, one year, and part-time, two year, course, a distinctive feature is a fast-track core module. This introductory module enables graduates in other fields to gain detailed knowledge of screenwriting conventions, an understanding of common formats, and the ability to analyse a brief and evaluate one's own writing within a commercial context. Armed with the core skills of the fast-track course, students take a compulsory module Scriptwriting in Different Genres, and then choose two options, completing the degree with a final project/portfolio in the medium of their choice.

The course aims

- To develop ideas and scripts for screen media;
- To develop techniques and skills in writing for screen media;
- To understand the relationship between script writing and its conditions of creation and production by learning from industry leaders;
- To understand the writer's role in different sites and contexts of creative production;
- To understand historical debates and ideas underpinning the practices of screenwriting;
- To explore the connection between writing and performance in film, TV and other screen media.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	SC04025S7	Scriptwriting in Different Genres	30	Comp	T1
7	ARMC043S7	Fast Track to Screenwriting	30	Core	T1
Two 30 credit options taken from:					
7	FDME005S7	Developing a Feature Film Script	30	Option	T2
7	ARMC046S7	Developing a TV Series	30	Option	T2
7	SC04006S7	Writing for Gaming	30	Option	T2
7	SC04024S7	History and Theory of Screenwriting	30	Option	T3
7	ARMC227D7	Final Project	60	Core	T3

Part-Time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	ARMC043S7	Fast Track to Screenwriting	30	Core	T1
7	FDME005S7	Developing a Feature Film Script	30	Option	T2
7	SC04006S7	Writing for Gaming	30	Option	T2
7	SC04024S7	History and Theory of Screenwriting	30	Option	T3
Year 2					
7	SC04025S7	Scriptwriting in Different Genres	30	Comp	T1
7	ARMC046S7	Developing a TV Series	30	Option	2
7	ARMC227D7	Final Project	60	Core	T3
PG Cert Screenwriting, Part-time, 1 year					
L7	ARMC043S7	Fast Track to Screenwriting	30	Core	T1
7	FDME005S7	Developing a Feature Film Script	30	Option	T2
	OR ARMC046S7	Developing a TV Series	30	Option	T2

Note: part-time students take **two** of the 30 credit options shown (either both in year 1 or for example, if selecting two options running in Term 2, 1 can be taken in year 1 and the other in year 2)

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be through a combination of writing workshops, seminars, lectures, guest visits by industry professionals, screenings and performance visits, independent learning tasks and assessments.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

- Script development and writing (for film, TV, gaming and other screen media)
- Portfolios
- Essays
- Presentations
- Final creative project

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

Subject-specific:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of different forms, genres, traditions and theories of screenwriting and production in national, transnational, international contexts;
2. Evidence an understanding of the techniques and skills required for writing for different media;
3. Understand the relationship between conceptualising ideas and using practical formats to realise them;
4. Evidence an understanding of screenwriting as an artistic output underpinned by research;
5. Develop, critically analyse and contextualise scripts for different forms and media;
6. Analyse a creative brief and identify appropriate creative models;
7. Apply screenwriting techniques to the communication of ideas in specific formats;
8. Write complex scripts in the formats chosen;
9. Understand the relationship between writing for performance, script writing, development, creative production and the culture industries;
10. Evidence an ability to work collectively and collaboratively in the production of research and artistic outputs.

Intellectual:

11. Show a comprehensive understanding of different research techniques and methodologies appropriate to taught postgraduate study;
12. Demonstrate original and rigorous approaches to artistic practice and research;
13. Refine skills in critical and contextual analysis;

Practical:

14. Participate in writing workshops to receive and offer constructive feedback from/to peers and your tutor.

Careers and further study

You will find Screenwriting graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Writer for TV
- Writer for film
- Writer for screen media
- Writer for gaming
- Script development
- Criticism and journalism
- Careers in the creative arts and industries

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website.](#)

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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