

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2	Teaching institution	University of Worcester
3	Programme accredited by	Not applicable
4	Final award	BA Honours
5	Programme title	Screenwriting
6	Pathways available	Joint and Minor
7	Mode and/or site of delivery	On site, University of Worcester
8	Mode of attendance	Full time and part time
9	UCAS Code	Screenwriting and Animation (WW68) Screenwriting and Creative Digital Media (WW28) Screenwriting and Digital Film Production (WW6V) Screenwriting and Drama & Performance (WW48) Screenwriting and English Language Studies (QW3V) Screenwriting and English Literary Studies (QW38) Screenwriting and Film Studies (PW38) Screenwriting and Journalism (PW58) Screenwriting and Media & Cultural Studies (PW3V)
10	Subject Benchmark statement	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies 2002; Dance, Drama & Performance, 2007
11	Date of Programme Specification preparation/revision	May 2008. Updated November 2010. Updated July 2011. March 2012 Level 6 Joint Pathway requirements amended. Addition of new module WRIT1006 and deletion of WRIT1000 & WRIT1001. WRIT2001 pre-requisites amended.

12 Educational aims of the programme

The course takes students through the processes, debates and practical skills involved in writing for the screen. It comprises film and television, fact and fiction, comedy and drama and is offered as a joint honours pathway alongside a range of complimentary subjects. The course aims to ensure that that all students will:

- develop a critical understanding of narrative processes, generic forms and modes of representation at work in film and television;
- acquire an understanding of the form through effective practical application;
- develop independent judgment, self-reliance and ability to work co-operatively with others;
- achieve the intellectual maturity to devise, research, develop, present and write an extended piece of independent work;
- develop the ability to assimilate, and judiciously use, the insights of scholarship and criticism in appreciating screenwriting;
- acquire and develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills and qualities which will support students in academic study, graduate employment and/or postgraduate study;
- engage with independent and collective practice with the aim of developing a positive work ethic;

- develop creative and performance related skills consummate with those evident in professional practice.

13 Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

On successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- produce screenplays that demonstrate the effective manipulation of the written word and use of visual narrative;
- produce work that evidences competence in operational aspects of screenwriting techniques and professional practices;
- create a range of scripts, scores and other textual or documentary outputs;
- produce work which is informed by and contextualised within, relevant theoretical issues and debates;
- experiment with and develop, as appropriate, forms, conventions, languages, techniques and practices;
- describe, theorise, interpret and evaluate film and television texts from a range of critical perspectives;
- manage time and resources effectively, by drawing on planning and organisational skills;
- draw upon and bring together ideas from different sources of knowledge and different academic disciplines;
- use industry standard software

Additionally there are a range of competences needed for successful completion of the work and it is these transferable skills that make graduates in this domain much sought after in other environments, thereby enhancing a students' profile and employability. These include the following:

Communication Skills, where students will be expected to evidence the ability to:

- present written and oral accounts in a clear, lucid and coherent fashion;
- exchange views with others in a constructive and open-minded context so as to work co-operatively with students from diverse backgrounds;
- express their own opinions and defend their own critical judgments;
- use the medium of screenwriting in imaginative and creative ways to communicate ideas

Personal Skills, where students will be able to evidence the ability to:

- acquire a range of transferable skills, graduate attributes and personal qualities, which will enhance their confidence and independence both during and after their studies;
- develop an independent, organised approach to learning, and thereby practise time management skills through working to deadlines;
- develop the ability to work productively with others in groups so as to sustain exploratory discussions, plan work and explore diverse opinions with respect and critical acumen;
- work collectively on practical tasks and performances offering and accepting constructive criticism, meeting group deadlines, making decisions and fulfilling group objectives;
- develop the autonomy to construct and sustain a programme of study that allows for varying degrees of specialisation in the area of screenwriting;
- work in flexible, creative and independent ways, showing self-discipline, self-direction and reflexivity.

A range of learning, teaching and assessment methods supports the above learning outcomes.

Screenwriting employs a wide range of learning and teaching methods such as practical workshops, lecture/seminars, screenings, large and small group discussion and presentations and as such is inclusive for a variety of learning styles. The duration of the teaching sessions for a 15-credit module would

normally be three hours and students will be required to work independently and/or in small groups both within and outside of timetabled sessions.

There are no formal examinations in Screenwriting; students are expected to meet submission deadlines for written and practical work. Assessment opportunities are also varied and include individual and collaborative projects, written and oral forms of analysis, evaluation and reflection and the creation of new work.

A full account of the assessment policy can be found in the Definitive Validated Document and Course Handbook.

14 Assessment Strategy

The assessment programme is such that it:

- has module learning outcomes which relate to the course outcomes;
- has assessment criteria that can be applied to all learning outcomes in Screenwriting;
- is a both course-led and student-centred and can be negotiated where appropriate;
- is process and product based.

The assessed learning which students may achieve on the course can be classified under four different headings, or domains:

- **the conceptual** involves research, selection and analysis;
- **the productive** demands the interpretation and application of research;
- **the contextual/critical** evidences critical thinking and;
- **the personal/interpersonal** tracks the development of those skills pertinent to organisation and successful completion of a project.

The assessment strategy reflects the QAA Codes of Practice - section 6 (September 2006) and offers opportunities for formative, summative and synoptic learning.

Each module carries an assessment requirement based on the Scheme limit. In Screenwriting there has to be a system of equivalence because of the nature of the work. A Screenwriting module assessment that requires a combination of practical work, for example a 15 minute opening extract of screenplay (normally around 15 pages) could also be supplemented by written work such as a 1500 word essay, critical analysis, creative treatment or learning report. Not all modules involve the disaggregation of marks because of the integrated nature of applying research to practice. Such modules carry a single 100% weighting that comprises research, application, learning journal and written analysis. This synoptic approach allows students to make positive connections across the course and the nature of the work enables them to practise and receive feedback via formative assessment. All work in Screenwriting encourages critical thinking and analysis and is founded upon a range of theoretical perspectives, social contexts and practical methodologies.

Tutors exercise discretion in the amount of advice they give **before** assignment deadlines and this is normally given in the context of teaching sessions.

As with other courses in the University, Screenwriting has a variety of assessment types which are both formative and summative. Formative assessments normally carry no weighting but are critical for the students' development and preparation for the related summative assessment. Formative assessment can take the form of learning team or peer review or presentations and rehearsed readings. In addition formative assessment can be a part of the individual tutorial system. Each assessment is aligned with its intended learning outcomes and learning activities so it is clear what is being assessed.

15 Programme structures and requirements

The course is available in full and part-time modes and across the full range of pathways. In the first year students enter onto the Joint Honours pathway but thereafter have the opportunity to remain as joint honours or reduce to a Minor Pathway. As a way of further broadening knowledge and experience, there is the opportunity to choose up to two “free choice” modules at each level, which can be drawn from other subject areas.

The degree programme has three levels, within the definitions of the National Qualifications Framework and each level should total 120 credits.

Normally a single module is worth 15 credits but there are exceptions; the second year, level 5 module, *WRIT2001: Advanced Screenwriting* is worth 30 credits and runs across both semesters and similarly the third year, level 6 Independent Study module, *WRIT3001/2* is worth 30 credits and can be taken over either one or two semesters.

Refer to Appendix 1: Award Map

16 QAA Academic Infrastructure

The course reflects the subject benchmark statements for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2002) and Dance, Drama and Performance (2007), The work is underpinned by appropriate theoretical approaches to production e.g. analytical, critical, contextual and the preparation for vocational destinations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and the QAA Codes of Practice which are central to course design, assessment and student opportunity.

The course embraces the common features characterising the discipline such as:

- an applied understanding of processes and professional practices involved in the production of a screenplay;
- a critical and practical awareness of form and aesthetics;
- an understanding of narrative processes and representation;
- creative, innovative and imaginative skills combining both the conceptual and the practical;
- research - practical and/or theoretical and the location of practice within an appropriate framework of informing ideas and skills;
- intellectual analysis and critical reflection;
- self-management, initiative and independent learning;
- the acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding through processes of research, action, reflection and evaluation;
- collaborative learning and heuristic principles, on 'learning through doing' in group contexts which fosters a range and high level of communication skills;
- analysis of theory and of performance texts, which may be written or notated and/or the study of the design and creation of performance as an event or process;
- research - practical and/or theoretical and the location of practice within an appropriate framework of informing ideas, history and skills.

Screenwriting is offered as a joint honours pathway and can be studied alongside other subject areas such as Film Studies, Digital Film Production, Media and Cultural Studies, English Language or Drama & Performance.

The work is rigorously underpinned by appropriate theoretical approaches e.g. analytic, historical, critical, contextual and the preparation for vocational destinations and complies with the Framework for Higher

Education Qualifications and the QAA Code of Practice. The combination of subject areas creates the flavour for the course and reflects the subject benchmark statements by incorporating the opportunity to engage with video production, performance and the integration of a variety of modes of performance and creation, including other media and new technology.

17 Support for students

- Screenwriting students experience a wide variety of teaching and learning e.g. lectures, seminar group work, screenings, practical group workshops, workshops with visiting professionals, internet resources;
- students benefit from being taught by experienced professionals and active researchers;
- there are opportunities to engage with professional practice both within the University and via Industrial links;
- a one week induction programme is devised for first year students with shorter inductions at each level thereafter. A Summer school is available for direct entry students;
- course handbook;
- information for students available on subject intranet pages and Blackboard
- all students have an academic/personal tutor who offers guidance on Personal Development general support and referral to the Universities Welfare and Support Services;
- library induction and information skills packages;
- opportunities to develop Information Technology skills as part of the programme;
- study skills provided within the course and separately by the Equal Opportunities Centre;
- opportunities to study abroad;
- students well supported by Information and Learning Support Services (Library, IT, Media and Print);
- the University's Careers Service provides training opportunities for career planning;
- resources in place to allow equal access to appropriate technical equipment for all students.

18 Admissions Policy

Admissions Policy for the course

The admissions policy for Screenwriting seeks to be inclusive, and the course is committed to widening participation to include all groups in society.

Entry requirements

The University's standard entry requirements apply: 4 GCSEs at Grade C or above, including English, plus a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3½ A Levels or equivalent Level 3 qualifications. The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to the course are published in the prospectus.

Accreditation of Prior Learning

Details of acceptable level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for accreditation of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the University webpages or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

Admissions procedures

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS Screenwriting and Animation (WW68, WW28, WW6V, WW48, QW3V, QW38, PW38, PW58, PW3V)

Part-time applicants apply directly to University of Worcester (UW)

Admissions/selection criteria

The UCAS application form is used to ensure that the applicant has sufficient academic qualifications and experience to be able to engage with the course.

Applicants may be invited to interview to explore any aspect of their application that may require further clarification.

19 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

- annual review of the quality of the Course and subject area;
- external examiner reports;
- student evaluation is gathered and recorded for all modules and provides the basis for monitoring the courses;
- course committees provide further opportunities for student representatives to feedback from each year group;
- staff development opportunities provided by the University's Academic Development and Practice Unit promotes good practice and advancement in learning and teaching within each subject area;
- peer assessment and discussion of teaching by staff;
- staff perform a range of roles across the University sector as external examiners, peer reviewers and consultants;
- staff have attracted funding for activities relating to improving the quality of teaching and learning:
- a teacher accreditation course (PG Cert in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education) for new staff and Higher Education Academy accreditation;
- staff dedicated to equal opportunities.

20 Regulation of assessment (UMS)

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Some modules have attendance requirements.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- Students who fail to submit an item of assessment lose their right to reassessment in that module, and will be required to retake the module.
- For full details of submission regulations see Undergraduate Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade, unless the failure was due to non-attendance or non-submission.

- Reassessment items that are passed are graded at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module).

Requirements for Progression

- Students at Level 4 may be permitted to progress to Level 5 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4.
- Students at Level 5 may be permitted to progress to Level 6 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 5.
- A student who fails 90 credits or more due to non-submission will be required to withdraw from the University.
- Students who pass less than 90 credits but have submitted all items of assessment will be required to retake modules.

Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
CertHE	Passed 120 credits at Level 4 or higher
DipHE	Passed a minimum of 240 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher
Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6
Degree with honours	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6

Classification

The honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification:

- Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 45 credits attained at Level 5 and the best grades from 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades count equally in the profile.
- Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 120 credits attained at Level 6 only. Institute-level Assessment Boards review and confirm results for modules, and the Board of Examiners considers students' mark profiles to make decisions about progression, awards and degree classifications as appropriate.

For further information on honours degree classification, see Section 17 of the [Undergraduate Regulatory Framework](#).

21 Indicators of quality and standards

The University underwent a QAA Institutional Audit in March 2011. The audit confirmed that confidence can be placed in the soundness of the institution's current and likely future management of the academic standards of its awards and the quality of the learning opportunities available to students. The audit team highlighted several aspects of good practice, including the student academic representative (StARs) initiative, the proactive approach which supports the student experience for disabled students, the comprehensiveness of the student online environment (SOLE), the wide range of opportunities afforded

to students to enhance their employability, the institution's commitment to enhancement, and the inclusive approach to working with its collaborative partners.

22 Employability and graduate destinations

The subject area continues to create valuable links with employers and students have a wide range of opportunities to further their careers. There are connections with Raindance Films in London, the Producers Forum in Birmingham, key Universities in America offering screenwriting, the Writers Guild of Great Britain and the Directors Guild of Great Britain.

There is an emphasis within the course on developing a strong work ethic together with transferable and subject skills, which are critical for career development. These skills afford a wider access to a range of career opportunities and students are now working in a range of related professions from AV and Video companies to the BBC and Independent Television, local exhibition and theatre.

There is also a Work Placement module, which has been designed and developed with the involvement of employers. Here a student has the opportunity to undergo a placement with an appropriate organisation. The type of placement offered may be directly related to the subject but could also be negotiated in a different area of interest. Additionally the Corporate Video Production module is founded upon student working with actual clients thereby further developing their portfolio, CV and awareness of professional practice.

The culture at the University of Worcester also serves to enhance students' career prospects. And there is a continuing opportunity for students to work with the community providing workshops and producing work with youngsters in and around the area. In addition links have also been made with the business sector, providing bespoke training and services. These opportunities also serve to enhance a student's CV and exist not only within the course structure but also offer the possibility for paid work. The foundations are now in place to host a new international film festival showcasing students' work
In addition to the world of work, students also enrol onto Post-graduate courses such as PGCEs, MAs or PhDs.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module study guide and course handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Appendix 1: Award Map

LEVEL 4

Module Code	Module Restrictions	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional(O))		Prerequisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites (Code of Module required)	Excluded combinations (Code of Module)
				Joint	Minor			
WRIT1006	Open	Scriptwriting – Ideas, Development, and Structure	30	M	M	-	-	-
DFPR1001	Closed	Directors on Screen	15	O	O	-	-	-
DFPR1003	Closed	Introduction to Digital Film Making	15	O	O	-	-	CDME1003
FLMS1200	Open	Hollywood and Beyond	30	O	O	-	-	

Joint and Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 4

Joint and Minor Pathway students must take 30 credits from the Mandatory module i.e. WRIT1006 plus 15 credits from one (1) Optional module from those listed above.

In addition:

All students on the Screenwriting course are permitted to choose modules to the value of 30 credits from other Open modules within the Undergraduate Regulatory Framework or further Optional modules to the value of 30 credits from Illustration as listed above (subject to availability and satisfying any pre-requisites).

LEVEL 5

Module Code	Module Restrictions	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional(O))		Prerequisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites (Code of Module required)	Excluded combinations (Code of Module)
				Joint	Minor			
WRIT2001	Open	Advanced Screenwriting	30	O	O	WRIT1001 or WRIT1006	-	-
WRIT2002	Open	True Stories	15	O	O	-	-	-
WRIT2003	Open	Writing for Television	15	O	O	-	-	-
FLMS2004	Open	Film Theory	15	M	O	FLMS1000	-	-
DFPR2000	Closed	Film Movements	15	O		-	-	-
DRAM2140	Open	From Stage to Screen	15	O	O	-	-	DRAM2045

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Joint Pathway Students must take 15 credits from the Mandatory Module i.e. FLMS2004 *plus* Optional modules to the value of 30 credits from those listed above.

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Minor Pathway students must take Optional modules to the value of 30 credits from those listed above.

In addition: All students on the Screenwriting course are permitted to choose modules to the value of 30 credits from other Open modules within the Undergraduate Regulatory Framework or further Optional modules to the value of 30 credits from Illustration as listed above (subject to availability and satisfying any pre-requisites).

LEVEL 6

Module Code	Module Restrictions	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional(O))		Prerequisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites (Code of Module required)	Excluded combinations (Code of Module)
				Joint	Minor			
WRIT3001	Closed	Independent Study (taken in one semester)	30	O		FLMS2004	-	WRIT3002
WRIT3002	Closed	Independent Study (taken over two semesters)	30	O		FLMS2004	-	WRIT3001
WRIT3003	Open	Screen Adaptation	15	O	O	-	-	-
WRIT3004	Closed	Extension Module	15	O	O	Related module from which this module develops	-	-
WRIT3005	Closed	Radio and Television Comedy	15	O	O	-	-	-
DFPR3007	Open	Corporate Digital Video Production	15	O	O	DFPR2003	-	CDME2019, CDME3019, DFPR2007
DRAM3104	Closed	Work Placement	15	O		-	-	BUSM3902, DRAM3028, EDST2023, SPOR3009
DRAM3140	Open	Contemporary TV Drama	15	O	O	-	-	-

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Joint Pathway students **must** take 30 credits from an Independent Study module (either WRIT3001/WRIT3002 or equivalent in their Joint subject)

Joint Pathway students who take their Independent Study in Journalism must take 30 credits from WRIT3001/WRIT3002 (30 credits), **plus an Optional module to the value of 15 credits** from those listed above (including those modules listed that are shared with another subject).

Joint pathway students who choose to place their Independent Study in their other Joint subject must choose Optional modules to the value of **45 credits** from those listed above (including those modules listed that are shared with another subject).

In addition, Joint Pathway students ***must*** take modules to the value of 30 credits from those Optional modules listed above, or from their Joint Subject, or a combination of both subjects.

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Minor Pathway students must take 30 credits from modules listed above (including those shared with another subject).