



Module Specification

Documentary Research and Development

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Documentary Research and Development

Module code: UALB5W-45-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 45

ECTS credit rating: 22.5

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Field: Lens and Moving Image

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module provides students with a broad overview of the process of taking a documentary idea from concept, through research and development, to successfully achieving greenlight approval from a commissioning authority.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: It explores the theoretical, practical and social aspects of developing and selling a documentary film, taking students step-by-step through the

process of primary and secondary research, writing and developing the proposal, pitch and other sales materials, and including an understanding of how distribution and sales strategy are related. The module also explores the creative aspects of writing for documentary from first proposal through to treatment, shooting script, and synopsis, as well as the practical and logistical considerations of budgeting, scheduling, risk assessment, and any legal and sustainability requirements.

The module further explores how to develop trust relationships in the context of working with potential documentary subjects, funding partners and creative collaborators, and to understand the moral, ethical and legal aspects to these relationships.

Outline syllabus: Documentary research skills

Professional and creative relationships in the preparation of a documentary project

Requirements of the film commissioning process

Planning, budgeting and scheduling

Pitching and presenting the documentary film project

Revising the project proposal and second stage research

The final commissioning presentation

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The tutor-led teaching is integrated with the development of the student's own documentary concepts, giving them the opportunity to apply their knowledge to the expression of their own ideas.

Group seminars develop the core principles and skills of the development of a

documentary concept into an active research exercise.

Workshops teach skills in preparing the key documents required by film commissioners.

Industry professionals help assess and guide students in the pitching and presentation stages of the module.

Individual tutorials provide focused guidance in project development.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 synthesise within their own work the processes of developing a documentary idea into a commercially persuasive proposition.

MO2 demonstrate through practice the personal and investigative skills involved in the research preparation of a documentary film.

MO3 deploy their broad knowledge of the creative, practical, moral and legal requirements involved with the documentary film research and development process.

MO4 orally present their own documentary film project ideas, utilising established film industry conventions, and engage critically in the review process.

MO5 draft, critically reflect on, and redraft a portfolio of documentation required in the documentary commissioning process.

Hours to be allocated: 450

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 360 hours

Face-to-face learning = 90 hours

Total = 450

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

<https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/BADC5EF1-60CF-A154-3EDC-A26884B7E29C.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module is assessed in two parts:

The student will pitch their final documentary project to a panel, providing an industry standard Pitch Deck and Sizzle Reel (50%);

The student submits a Portfolio of research and development work, providing research and test shoot materials, and development and planning documents, for the greenlighting of their individual documentary film project, plus a critical discussion of their process (indicative word count: 4000-5000 words, or equivalent audio/visual response) (50%)

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio of documents for the greenlighting of an individual documentary film project. Research and Development work (indicative word count: 4000-5000 words, or equivalent audio/visual response)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Pitch presentation for a final documentary project to a panel, providing an industry standard Pitch Deck and Sizzle Reel (15 minutes)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio of Research and Development work (indicative word count: 4000-5000 words, or equivalent audio/visual response)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Pitch Presentation for a final documentary project to a panel, providing an industry standard Pitch Deck and Sizzle Reel (15 minutes)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Screen Production (Documentary) [Bower] MA 2023-24