



Programme Specification

Screen Production (Documentary) [Bower]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Screen Production (Documentary) [Bower]

Highest award: MA Screen Production (Documentary) [Bower]

Interim award: PGCert Screen Production (Documentary) [Bower]

Interim award: PGDip Screen Production (Documentary) [Bower]

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Affiliated institutions: Not applicable

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

Department responsible for the programme: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries, Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Contributing departments: Not applicable

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Apprenticeship: Not applicable

Mode of delivery: Full-time

Entry requirements: Undergraduate qualification of Upper Second or above in an associated field of study. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate some experience of film, video or documentary production.

For applicants whose first language is not English: a minimum grade of 6.5 overall on the British Council International English Language Test (IELTS), with 7.0 a preferred level.

For implementation from: 01 January 2022

Programme code: P31M12

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The MA Screen Production (Documentary) is part of an integrated suite of taught postgraduate programmes in the Screen domain. Students on this course study alongside film creatives in a wide range of areas, including wildlife filmmaking, virtual reality and screen business. They are part of an expansive cohort of UWE Bristol postgraduate students building their futures in the screen industries.

Core study modules develop students' documentary filmmaking skills. Practice is central to this course, with students required to begin shooting short documentary projects within weeks of starting on the programme. In the first semester, the module 'Diverse Documentary Forms' introduces students to the huge range of types of documentary, the theoretical discussions around varied forms and how this can impact their own practice. A film project allows students to experiment with these ideas and develops practical skills. The second semester core module guides students in the preparation of a major documentary film project, through an exercise that reflects industry practice in the commissioning process. The final semester is centred on a student-led production, a challenging piece of film work that allows students to express themselves in their chosen form of documentary.

Alongside their core studies, students of MA Screen Production (Documentary) share modules with other screen postgraduates. These include: 'Screen Criticism and Analysis', which is based on a festival of films across multiple forms; and 'Creative Enterprise and Entrepreneurship', which develops the skills that graduates require to act as freelancers or to launch start-up businesses in the screen sector. An emphasis of this course is the preparation of students to work effectively in the

documentary industry.

Students' research will include a field trip to IDFA – the world-renowned international documentary festival in Amsterdam - and an opportunity to visit the Berlinale International Film Festival (February).

Educational Aims: The MA Screen Production (Documentary) aims to extend students' knowledge and skills in the practice of documentary filmmaking. The programme provides a space for the exploration of the multiple modes and forms of documentary, in a practice-focused course that allows students to experiment with new techniques and approaches to production. Students learn approaches to traditional documentary narratives, as well as emerging forms of interactive and immersive documentaries.

The course develops students' understanding of both production and the proliferating platforms for the dissemination of their documentary filmwork. Students gain knowledge of the range of opportunities available to them, from making micro-documentaries, online content, terrestrial broadcasts, and feature-length documentary films.

Students learn to critically analyse film texts, interpreting the creative work and techniques of documentary filmmakers in recent decades. These critical skills are deployed to nourish students' own decision-making in creating their personal documentary projects.

Students learn research skills alongside creative idea generation, editorial content design, format development, writing treatment and pitch documents and shooting scripts. They also learn interviewing techniques and key people and communication skills that will enable them to get the best from contributors and presenters.

Students conceive of, research, plan, make and deliver their own documentary projects, which introduce and develop key understandings and frameworks, practices and skills. The first projects involve rapid turnaround exercises, while the later learning demands more substantial, in-depth productions. As well as a range of

technical, team working and craft skills, including broadcast-standard digital camera operation and techniques, sound recording, lighting, editing and post-production workflows, these projects are also designed to build critical understandings and skills in narrative design.

A core aim of the programme is to give its students opportunities to build creative and business relationships with other postgraduate students following parallel courses in the Screen area. MA Screen Production (Documentary) students share modules and study spaces with those on other MA programmes, allowing its students to develop relationships that may be central to their future.

This course aims to prepare students for the working realities of their future careers as documentary filmmakers. The programme provides an educational context that situates the skills of creating documentaries within an understanding of the business environment of the screen industries. As well as modules developing their skills as documentary practitioners, students follow modules that:

teach them the value systems by which documentary commissioners will assess their film projects;

develop their knowledge of the industry's models of production and distribution;

develop the entrepreneurial skills that will enable them to succeed in a career as an independent documentary filmmaker, or to work within a larger production company.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

PO1. Students will be able to demonstrate through practice the creative, analytical, evaluative and organisational skills necessary for the conception, development and production to professional standards of documentary films.

- PO2. Students will be able to analyse key factors affecting documentary filmmaking in the screen industries, including sustainability, social responsibility, diversity, intellectual property, creativity, and ethics. They will be able to apply their knowledge of current value systems based on creative, cultural and economic worth to their own original film projects.
- PO3. Students will be able to synthesise and apply advanced knowledge of cultural, technological & creative developments.
- PO4. Students will be able to think critically and creatively in the analysis of screen content and the screen industry.
- PO5. Students will demonstrate a command of the skills and processes required to found a start-up business within the screen sector. They will be able to apply knowledge of the institutional and regulatory environment to their own business proposal.
- PO6. Students will be able to apply their knowledge of major issues and debates within the cultural and creative industries.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

The student must take 180 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UALB3U-15-M	Developing a Screen Business Concept for the Marketplace 2023-24	15
UALB5X-45-M	Documentary Films: Diversity of Forms 2023-24	45
UALB5W-45-M	Documentary Research and Development 2023-24	45
UALB3S-15-M	Entrepreneurship in the Creative Economy 2023-24	15

Year 1 Optional Modules

Students must select one 60 credit project

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UALB3X-60-M	Screen Production Final Project 2023-24	60
UALB3Q-60-M	Screen Research Final Project 2023-24	60

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Students successfully passing the course will have developed an advanced knowledge of documentary film culture and production. They will have developed practical skills in creating original documentary films, and extensive knowledge about the cultural and commercial means of distribution. Their experience of preparing documentary projects for greenlighting will have included rigorous engagement with industry figures. Graduates will have strong research skills applied to the development of documentary projects. They will have proven technical skills in the production and postproduction of documentary films.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures

<https://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/departmentsandservices/professionalservices/studentandacademicservices/regulationspoliciesquality/regulationsandprocedures.aspx>