

Programme Specification for BA (Hons) Filmmaking

This document applies to Academic Year 2025/26 onwards

1.	Awarding institution/body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	University of Worcester
3.	Programme accredited by	N/A
4.	Final award	BA Hons
5.	Programme title	Filmmaking
6.	Pathways available	Single, Joint, Major, and Minor. Options for current Joint Honours combinations and UCAS codes can be found at: https://www.worcester.ac.uk/study/find-a-course/joint-degrees/joint-degrees.aspx
7.	Mode and/or site of delivery	Standard taught programme.
8.	Mode of attendance	Full time and Part Time some modules may be offered in the evening
9.	UCAS Code	Filmmaking BA (Single Honours) - W612 BA/DFP
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement	QAA Subject Benchmark Statements: Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies 2019 Art and Design 2017
11.	Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision	January 2013. August 2017 – AQU amendments. August 2018 – AQU amendments. December 2018 – Amendments to award map. April 2019 – DFPR1104 withdrawn and replaced with new module DFPR1106. (AQU July 2019). August 2019 - AQU amendments to Section 19. July 2020 – DFPR3106 reinstated. August 2020 – AQU amendments to Section 19. Nov 2020 - Dissertation-equivalent module noted on award map (AQU). Re-approved at DPR 2020/2021. August 2021 – AQU amendments. July 2022 – Addition of DFPR1107 August 2022 – AQU Amendments July 2023 – annual updates August 2024 – Title change to Filmmaking

12. Educational aims of the programme

The course aims to:

- Encourage students to engage with debate and to develop creatively and practically within the area of film and moving image production develop creative, imaginative, technical and problem solving skills

- Facilitate the development of critical and analytic skills and the ability to derive and apply principles and concepts from practical experiences
- Offer opportunities for achievement across a range of communication forms
- Facilitate students in becoming reflective, autonomous learners
- Make students aware of the range of possibilities for employment and professional development in the field.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning, teaching and assessment

Knowledge and understanding:

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

- demonstrate a detailed knowledge in the area of filmmaking in its diverse formations.
- engage critically with current debates and issues in film.
- apply and develop current theory and practice to the creation of new and original work
- critically engage with and apply theory and techniques to a diverse range of situations and audiences
- understand and apply specific film language, concepts and terminology.
- apply practical skills in creative approaches to the preparation of video and filmmaking work.
- use and evaluate a range of research.
- devise, research, develop, present and/or write an extended piece of independent work.
- compose balanced, informed and self-critical evaluations through written and oral presentation.

Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:

There are a variety of session types employed in filmmaking that include seminars, lectures, and tutorials. The nature of the sessions depends on the content of the module.

Assessment methods also vary across the modules and include: essays, written reports and evaluations, applied written work and research. Where possible a variety of assessment types have been employed.

Communication Skills:

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

- present written and oral accounts in a clear, lucid and coherent fashion.
- respond to constructive feedback both formally and informally from tutors and peers.
- 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 of key themes and debates in filmmaking.
- use the medium of digital film in imaginative and creative forms to communicate ideas.

Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:

Students work on a variety of group research and practical projects. This type of learning involves written, verbal and visual communication between group members and is evidenced in the final product. Examples of this might be a written report, a presentation, a piece of sound work or a film.

Practical Skills Relevant to Employment:

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

- produce work which demonstrates the effective manipulation of sound, image and/or the written word;
- produce work showing competence in operational aspects of digital film technologies, techniques and professional practices;
- initiate and develop distinctive and creative work
- work within the context of professional expectations and working practices.

Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:

Filmmaking makes use of the workshop format, whereby student's work is continually worked on throughout the academic year. There are practical exercises, skills training, guided and independent project work and exercises in pitching that encourage students to see themselves as engaging with industry standards.

Transferable / Key Skills:

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

- an independent, organised approach to learning, and thereby practise time management skills through working to deadlines.
- the learning process and how to become independent learners;
- confidence in written, oral and visual communication;
- an ability to use a range of IT and technological skills;
- skill and confidence in self-presentation;
- the ability to make decisions in complex and unpredictable contexts;
- critical and interpretive skills;
- initiative and personal responsibility;
- the ability to collaborate with others and work in a team;
- competence in the use of media resources;
- the learning ability necessary in order to further professional or equivalent development;
- an ability to produce work to a given length, format, brief and deadline.

Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:

The transferable skills of graduates in this domain are much sought after in other environments such as business and commerce and enhance students' profile and employability.

The learning, teaching and assessment methods employed throughout the course support the above by offering a range of opportunities including individual and group research projects, written and oral forms of presentation and the creation of new work. Filmmaking engages with a wide range of teaching methods: practical workshops, lectures, seminars, screenings, large and small group discussion and presentations, it is therefore inclusive for a variety of learning styles.

The emphasis within Filmmaking is on learning through doing and many modules involve some form of practical work. These would normally be timetabled into four-hour slots. Tutors often require students to work independently and/or in small groups on set tasks during contact time. To engage in individual or group practical work it is necessary to work during periods when the Studio is not timetabled for teaching and students are encouraged to take advantage of the facilities wherever possible.

14. Assessment Strategy

Filmmaking demands a diversity of skills, which involve complex processes and the application of study in a variety of ways and towards a range of outcomes. A level of creativity is central to the requirements and assessment is designed to be appropriate for creative activity and to promote independent learning.

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 Filmmaking;
- is both course-led and student-centred and can be negotiated where appropriate;
- is process and product based.

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

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

Some module assessment is disaggregated whilst others, normally those focussing on a production based output, carry a single 100% weighting that comprises research, application, and learning report. 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 Filmmaking encourages critical thinking and analysis and is founded upon a range of theoretical perspectives, social contexts and practical methodologies. In assessments requiring group work, individual grades can be disaggregated via oral assessment, reflective commentary and/or the learning report.

The course includes a range of assessment strategies including assessment of written reports, presentations, practical submissions, live project work, producing professional documents and critical analysis. The strategy is to encourage students to identify their own abilities and to take control of their learning process. Students will work individually, in self-organised groups, and in pre-defined group structures. The range of assessment will reflect this variety of working relationships and will help to develop a professional sense of responsibility.

Level 4 will lay the foundations for future work, ensuring that differences in prior knowledge and experience are addressed. Students will be introduced to the range of technical skills and fundamental concepts they will require to progress. They will be introduced to the range of assessments used across the course and encouraged to take control of this process.

Level 5 Students will build on their knowledge from level 4, exploring their own areas of interest in more depth. They will be introduced to professional approaches to working and will undertake major production projects. Assessment will encourage students to identify their own strengths and weaknesses, place their work in context and develop their critical skills.

Level 6 Drawing on what they have learned at levels 4 and 5 students will continue to hone their skills through practice and will undertake a major project of their own devising. The focus will be on demonstrating their skills and knowledge through this practical work and preparing for progression into a professional environment, employment or further study.

15. Programme structures and requirements

The course is available full and part-time modules. Students may combine their study of Filmmaking with another subject in Joint or Major/Minor combination.

Please see the Award Map at Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

16. QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality

The course reflects the Art and Design and the Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies subject benchmark statements. The work is underpinned by appropriate theoretical approaches to production e.g. analytic, critical, and contextual and prepares students for vocational destinations. This award is located at Level 6 of the [OfS sector recognised standards](#).

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

- an applied understanding of processes and professional practices involved in the production of digital film.
- a critical and practical awareness of form and aesthetics.
- research - practical and/or theoretical, locating practice within an appropriate framework to inform ideas and skills.
- creative, innovative and imaginative skills combining both the conceptual and the practical.
- self-management, initiative and independent learning

17. Support for students

The Filmmaking Course Team is committed to ensuring that all students are given consideration and support throughout their time at the University of Worcester.

Student's transition into University life is assisted by an initial short, one week's induction programme which through a range of activities introduces students to their course, the staff who will be teaching them and the School. Students are for example invited to attend the Institute of Arts and Humanities Freshers' Party in induction week.

During this initial induction week, students are involved in a range of activities which support them in developing an understanding of the expectations of their course, undergraduate study and the University's systems and services. They have talks or tours, for example, which introduce them to the Library and IT facilities, Media Services, the Careers and the Counselling Service.

Students are also provided with a brief induction into their second and third year in the mandatory production modules, followed up during the first Progress week.

All students are allocated an academic tutor who will advise them on issues related to their course throughout their study at the University and who monitors their progress. Academic tutor sessions usually take one of two forms: either one-to-one sessions where notes are taken and stored on SOLE, or group based sessions where general points and issues relating to the course are dealt with. Students are invited to meet their academic tutor twice a semester. Group academic tutoring sessions are built into DFPR1102, DFPR2102, DFPR3102 with individual slots scheduled in Progress weeks.

There are two societies closely linked to filmmaking, the Screen Production Society and the Film Society. The course team offer support to these activities as much as possible and many of our students are actively involved in both.

Staff teaching students on modules support students through one – to- one and small group tutorials; and provide students with clear indications of when they will be available to see students either on their office door, via email or in module outlines.

Students are further supported through a range of online –support, for example via email or skype tutorials. All modules are supported through the virtual learning environment accessed through Blackboard. The Course Handbook is also available online. There is a dedicated course website, mailing list, Facebook page and several Facebook groups. Through these resources we offer a range of ways for students to contact the staff team, collaborate in the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities engage with the course community. Specifically we: offer regular work and experience opportunities; publicise events competitions etc.; connect with alumni and prospective students; link to the student societies and their activities; keep in touch with student productions offering informal input and advice.

Furthermore, the Course team liaises with a range of centrally provided support services to ensure that students access all appropriate channels of support, these include for example:

- The [Disability and Dyslexia Service](#) within [Student Services](#) specialist support on a one to one basis.
- Writing support from the Royal Literary Fund Writers in Residence.
- Writing support for international and EU students from the Language Centre.
- The Students' Union which as an independent charity, devoted to the educational interests and welfare of all students studying at the University, represents student views within the University.

18 Admissions

Admissions Policy

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

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entry requirement for undergraduate degree courses is the possession of 4 GCSEs (Grade C/4 or above) and a minimum of 2 A Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications).

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus and on the UW website <https://www.worc.ac.uk/journey/a-z-of-courses.html>

See [Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.

Recognition 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 recognition 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 (W612, W690, WP393, PW36, WW6V)

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. They should show knowledge of production methods and how they might fit into industry standards, they should also show some prior knowledge and experience of the theoretical elements of their studies. Applicants may be invited to interview to explore any aspect of their application that may require further clarification

19. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#)

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.
- 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 7 days (one week) 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 7 days (one week) of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations see [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped 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); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

Requirements for Progression

- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 4 to Level 5 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4. Outstanding Level 4 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.
- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 5 to Level 6 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 210 credits, including 90 credits at Level 5. Outstanding Level 5 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.

- A student who, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, has failed 90 credits or more (after exhausting all reassessment opportunities) during the academic year, will have their registration with the University terminated
- If a student has not passed at least 90 credits by the reassessment Board of Examiners, the student is not permitted to progress to the next level and will be required to either complete outstanding reassessment or retake the failed modules the following academic year. Students will be able to carry forward any passed 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 90 credits at Level 5 or higher.
Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6, including the mandatory modules for Level 5 and Level 6 of the award (not the Dissertation/Project module) as specified on the award map.
Degree with honours	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 90 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 120 credits attained at Level 5 and 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades are weighted on a ratio of 1:2
OR
- Classification determined on the profile of the 120 credits attained at Level 6 only
- Classification will be based on the weighted average grade together with a requirement for at least half of the Level 6 grades to be in the higher class.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#)

Please Note: The above methods apply to students entering Level 4 of three or four year degree programmes who commence Level 4 from September 2022.

20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

Graduate destinations

Recent examples of graduate destinations include:

- entry level positions such as traineeships with production companies such as Endemol and the BBC

- Paid internships and employment in the media production departments of other organisations such as Dolphin Training in Worcester and Yoga bugs in London.
- Self-employment and freelance work in the moving image industries including camera department, special effects, post production, and production departments
- Postgraduate training
- Other careers including project management, marketing and education.

Student employability

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. There are a range of highly desirable skills inherent to most of the practical and project based modules on the course:

- communication,
- project management
- problem solving
- Creative thinking
- Technological competence

In addition, students are encouraged to make external links and build professional relationships from the second year onward. There are opportunities to engage in live projects with external organisations and to take up work placements. In the third year there is a Professional Practice module, which encourages students to focus on employability skills and prepare them for entering the job market.

Links with employers

The subject area continues to create valuable links with employers and students have a wide range of opportunities to further their careers. An online forum run by Filmmaking staff aims to match students with local employment opportunities as well as film competitions and other opportunities. The module DFPR3107 also specifically matches local sponsors with student filmmakers, encouraging connections between the University and local businesses.

There are several opportunities for students to research and connect with professionals in the field as part of the curriculum, as well as opportunities within the curriculum to engage with live projects with external clients and organisations.

In addition, we support students who wish to engage with project work outside taught modules and regularly offer project and work experience opportunities in partnership with external organisations. These include small commercial companies, charities and public sector organisations.

We have also developed relationships with local employers who are able to offer internships and work experience.

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 associated course documentation e.g. course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.

Appendix 1 Award Map

Course Title: Filmmaking	
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Level 4						
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))		Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes*
			Single Hons	Joint Hons		
DFPR1101	Crafting the Moving Image	30	M	M	None	None
DFPR1102	Fiction: History and Production	30	M	M	None	None
DFPR1106	Storytelling and The Screen	15	M	N/A	None	None
DFPR1107	Making the Short Film	15	M	N/A	None	None
DFPR1105	Directing Performance for the Screen	15	O	N/A	None	None
DFPR1212	Truth Reality and the Documentary Film	15	O	N/A	None	None
CODE xxxx	Optional modules offered by Centre for Academic English and Skills/Institute of Education	15/30	O	N/A	None	None

Single Honours Requirements at Level 4

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total to include all mandatory modules, DFPR1101, DFPR1102, DFPR1106 and DFPR1107, and optional modules - which can include up to 15/30 credits drawn from a range of Language Centre modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English; and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and modules in Tutoring. Details of the available modules can be found here: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/language-centre/optional-modules.aspx>

Joint Honours Requirements at Level 4

Joint Honours students must take 60 credits from the table above to include DFPR1101 (30 credits) and DFPR1102 (30 credits).

Level 5								
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))				Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			SH	Maj	JH	Min		
DFPR2101	Specialist production Skills	30	M	M	M	O	None	None
DFPR2102	Single Camera Drama	30	M	M	O	O	None	None
DFPR2103	Experimental Filmmaking	15	M	O	O	O	None	None
DFPR2104	Factual Film	15	M	O	O	O	None	None
DFPR2105	Music Video Production	15	O	O	O	O	None	None
DFPR2106	Realism & Performance	15	O	O	N/A	N/A	None	None
SCRN2002	Writing The Feature Film	15	O	O	N/A	N/A	None	None
LANG xxxx	Optional modules offered by Centre for Academic English and Skills/Institute of Education	15/30	O	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	None

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total to include all mandatory modules DFPR2101, DFPR2102, DFPR2103 and DFPR2104.

Optional modules can include up to 15/30 credits drawn from a range of modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and modules in Tutoring. Details of the available modules can be found here: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/centre-for-academic-english-and-skills/optional-modules.aspx>

Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 5

Students following Joint Honours pathways can adjust their studies at level 5 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 – for further information see the table at the end of this document.

Major Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Major Pathway students must take at least 60 and no more than 90 credits from the table above to include DFPR2101 (30 credits) and DFPR2102 (30 credits).

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Joint Pathway students must take at least 45 credits and no more than 75 credits from the table above to include DFPR2101 (30 credits).

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 5

Minor Pathway students must take at least 30 credits and no more than 60 credits from the table above to include **either** DFPR2101 (30 credits) **or** DFPR2102 (30 credits).

Level 6								
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))				Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			SH	Maj	JH	Min		
DFPR3102	Final Production (Dissertation equivalent module)	30	M	O	O	O	None	None
DFPR3103	Professional Practice	15	M	M	O	O	None	Excluded GDES3012, ILTN3009
DFPR3104	Factual Filmmaking	30	M	O	O	O	DFPR2101 or DFPR2104	None
DFPR3105	Advance Specialism	15	O	O	O	O	None	None
DFPR3106	Extension module	15	N/A	O	O	O	None	None
DFPR3107	Corporate or Commercial production	15	O	O	O	O	DFPR2101 or DFPR2102	None
DFPR3108	Group Filmmaking	30	M	O	O	O	None	None

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take 120 credits from the table above to include DFPR3102 (30 credits), DFPR3103 (15 credits) and DFPR3104 (30 credit).

Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 6

Students following pathways in two subjects can adjust their studies at level 6 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 – for further information see table at the end of this document.

Major Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Major Pathway students must take either 75 or 90 credits from the table above to include DFPR3103 (15 credits).

Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Joint pathway students must take 45, 60 or 75 credits (to make at least 105 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject, and no more than 135 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject), from the table above.

Joint pathway students who choose to take their Dissertation (or equivalent Project) in this subject must take DFPR3102 (30 credits).

Joint pathway students who choose to place their Dissertation (or equivalent Project) in their other joint subject must take 45, 60 or 75 credits from the table above (excluding DFPR3102).

Joint pathway students must take one Dissertation (or equivalent Project), either in this subject, in their other joint subject, or take JOIN3001/2 where the Dissertation covers both joint subjects.

Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Minor pathway students must take either 30 or 45 credits from the table above.

Credit requirements for awards involving two subjects

In determining whether an award derived from two subjects is Joint Honours (subject 1 and subject 2) or Major/Minor Honours (subject 1 with subject 2) credits taken in each subject at levels 5 and 6 will count as follows:

Subject 1	Subject 2	Award
120	120	Joint Hons
135	105	Joint Hons
150	90	Major/minor Hons
165	75	Major/minor Hons
180	60	Major/minor Hons