

MA Screenwriting (CFS)

Award Document 2021/22

Course Map - MA Screenwriting (CFS)

Stage 1

Study Block 1	Study Block 2	Study Block 3
SCR01 Screen Studies & Genre Compulsory (30 credits)	SCR02 Narrative and Structure Compulsory (30 credits)	SCR03 Contextual Studies: Transcultural Narratives Compulsory (30 credits)

Stage 2

Study Block 1	Study Block 2	Study Block 3
SCR04 Treatment and Outline Compulsory (30 credits)	SCR05 Major Project: Screenplay Compulsory (30 credits)	SCR06 Major Project: Pitch Compulsory (30 credits)

General Course Information

Status	Approved
Qualification (course type)	Postgraduate Course
Course Title	MA Screenwriting (CFS)
Intermediate Qualification(s)	PG Cert, PG Dip
Awarding Institution	
Location of Delivery	Validated Partners
Duration of course	2 years
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body Accreditation	
Accreditation Renewal Date	
UCAS Code	
Relevant External Benchmarking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's Degree Characteristics Statement (2020) - QAA

Course Aims

MA Screenwriting at Central Film School develops from our successful undergraduate programmes that nurtures screenwriters to enter the professional film and television industries. The course is designed as a part-time, on-line course to develop and inspire your craft, creativity and ambition.

We aim to foster future screenwriting talent to develop your craft skills together with your contextual knowledge and analytical skills. Furthermore, we aim to prepare you to engage confidently with, and adapt to, the fast changing media landscape and content creation across media platforms.

You will participate in a distance learning programme with opportunities to engage in the inclusive and collaborative environment of the School. The technical and craft aspects of the programme will mirror real-world expectations from initial concepts, outlines and treatments through to final draft delivery.

In small teams of diverse, dedicated and talented students, you will participate online in the exchange of ideas, skills and experiences. You will have an opportunity to interact with high-profile film and television industry practitioners available via our Professional Perspectives programme of visiting industry practitioners.

The course is structured with core practical modules that will hone your screenwriting skills to produce practical deliverables. It will culminate in two major project modules that will develop a feature or television script package ready for pitching to industry.

You will be taught by industry practitioners with an emphasis on professional and personal development in order to build your skills and confidence to enter the contemporary media job market.

Course specific employability skills

MA Screenwriting at Central Film School will offer you an opportunity to practice the following skills that can be used in professional settings in film, television and creative industries, as well as in academia and beyond:

Industry & Business Knowledge: You will develop an ability to research and apply relevant terminologies, technologies and processes to your creative practice or evaluation of others' work.

Critical Thinking & Analysis: You will develop an ability to look below the surface of film and television, make connections and reflect on different social and creative perspectives. Through this process, you will build a more profound understanding not only of film and television but also of values and attitudes in contemporary global societies that influence what you see on the screen.

Expanded Worldview: You will research and develop a range of diverse creative practices and modes of expression. You will also develop social and political sensitivity, especially regarding representation.

Ethical and Legal Responsibilities: You will progress your understanding of how to work professionally within industry-standard ethical and legal frameworks.

Problem Solving and Innovation: You will grow your capability to research and critically evaluate the currently available film and television practices and progress your creativity towards innovation by applying conceptual models to practical challenges.

Imagination and Creativity: You will gain confidence to determine your potential contribution to the creative industries, finding the courage to use artistic solutions and produce unique and original work.

Collaboration: You will develop a positive attitude when working with others in a respectful, organised and collaborative manner.

Organisation: You will advance your project and time management skills.

Entrepreneurial skills: You will learn to identify and take advantage of professional and personal opportunities. You will develop your business awareness and understand what effort is required should you choose to work as a freelancer.

Communication skills: You will practice an ability to articulate your ideas in writing and speech in a coherent and clear manner that can be understood by non-specialist audiences.

Personal Development: You will be advised on how to define your priorities, manage your time effectively, develop an understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses and find ways of responding to constructive criticism and feedback.

Despite its immediate subject focus on screenwriting, the course will also prepare you for other types of creative industry careers. All the above skills are transferable, which means that they can be adapted and deployed in a variety of fields and careers.

Career/future study opportunities

The course will help you become an adaptive thinker, a creator and a supportive contributing team player joining the next generation of filmmakers.

Typical career destinations of our graduates include:

- Screenwriter/Scriptwriter (Film and Television Narrative)

- Screenwriter/Scriptwriter (Film and Television Factual)
- Script Reader
- Storyliner
- Script Consultant
- Script Editor
- Story Producer
- Development Assistant
- Drama Development Editor
- Drama Development Producer
- Development Executive
- Film Critic / Reviewer
- Journalist
- Video Games Narrative Designer
- Podcast Content Creator
- Researcher
- Internet Content Generator
- Podcaster

Further academic study: Postgraduate Practice & Research (PhD, ProfDoc) & PGCHE (Teaching Programme)

Structure of Course Delivery

Your creative journey with MA Screenwriting begins in Term 1 with Screen Studies. This module gives a grounding in researching and assessing classic cross-cultural examples of historic and contemporary genre narratives and how they are shaped globally by financial, social and political factors. You will examine how these factors inform your own creative and cultural development.

Term 2 continues with a deep and thorough investigation into the development of your own personal analysis of storytelling by exploring in detail the fundamentals of dramaturgy through critical research in conjunction with the application of standard industry script formatting and structuring narrative for different dramatic formats and deliverables.

Term 3 further explores transcultural narratives, begun in Term 1. You will examine non-western films and filmmakers and their cinematic influences from a cultural and global perspective as well as examining emerging technology and media platforms in relation to your work.

The second year begins in term 4 with developing the foundation of your long-form project (a feature film or a television series), specifically the treatments and outlines. This process is delivered through lectures, seminars and personal tutorials. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with MA Filmmakers to receive feedback on your concepts and development documents.

In Term 5 you continue to expand on your major project with guided research, plot development and structure, as well as more in-depth peer and tutor workshops and individual tutorials.

You will also submit two drafts of your final project for assessment.

Your MA Screenwriting journey culminates in Term 6 with developing the sales and pitching skills you will need in order to reach your project's full potential and take it into the marketplace. You complete your studies with an industry-ready project pitch for your major project.

Pedagogy

The course delivers the curriculum online using strategies that encourage and underpin independence, self-reliance as well as collaboration. As befits Level 7 studies, you are expected to take responsibility for your learning and development as a screenwriter.

Self-directed study allows you to research and explore material for use in a variety of ways, such as creative film & television project work and essay or video-essay production. It provides opportunities for you to explore areas of interest and demonstrate autonomous learning. CFS tutors will facilitate this mode of learning by providing guidance and feedback on your research and practice.

The teaching of creative practice centres on the development and execution of ideas and the professionalism required to deliver innovative content. Our industry-practitioner module leaders will guide you in developing these competencies.

Teaching Sessions

Module teaching, learning and assessment take a variety of forms to offer an inclusive, safe and supportive online learning environment for all students. This enables multiple possibilities for constructive feedback so you can fulfil your potential. Our programmes are led by experienced specialist academics and practicing filmmakers who share their real-world film and television knowledge. Your learning is further enhanced by regular opportunities to listen and talk to visiting speakers through our Professional Perspectives Programme. You will be taught by staff in a variety of ways:

Seminars: At MA level, seminars are the primary mechanism for learning. Students are required to take a proactive approach to contributing to these sessions. Through formalised, student-led group discussion, predicated on in-depth reading and preparation, a space is provided in which ideas, analytical approaches and your work in progress can be tested through discussion and application with peers and tutors. Seminars are the central forum for expression of your ideas and concepts.

Professional Masterclasses: This core learning is supplemented by a programme of guest speakers who

deliver talks and masterclasses across a range of specialisms and career paths.

Crits/Peer Learning: We have a wide variety of approaches to peer learning including Learning Teams, Pitching/Feedback Sessions and Crits, where you share work in progress and support each other in honing projects for assessment and beyond. This activity helps you learn how to critique constructively and how to improve your work from reading others' approaches and acting on their feedback.

Cross-course Collaboration: Course cohorts within the School will have the opportunity to engage with each other in formal and informal collaborations.

Individual Tutorials: These sessions allow you to enhance your understanding of a module and/or an assignment and to discuss your progress and seek support in terms of time, project and personal management.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and Online Learning: As a distance learning programme, all the modules will employ forms of online teaching & learning which will be delivered through the School's VLE. Online spaces are used to provide a safe and supportive environment to help you stay engaged with work and peers across the modules and between periods of teaching and assessment.

Module 1 - SCR01: Screen Studies and Genre (30) - B1

Module 2 - SCR02: Structure and Narrative (30) - B2

Module 3 - SCR03: Contextual Studies: Transcultural Narratives (30) - B3

Module 4 - SCR04: Treatment and Outline (30) - B4

Module 5 - SCR05: Major Project: Screenplay (30) - B5

Module 6 - SCR06: Major Project: Pitch (30) - B6

Course Assessment Strategy

The purpose of assessment is to measure your progress and achievement throughout the course and to confirm that the learning outcomes for each module have been met. It is the method by which you receive summative feedback in order to help you develop your craft, performance and professionalism.

Assessment is governed by the Assessment Regulations as detailed in Central Film School's Academic Framework. Information about this is available on the Central Film School website - details and links are provided in your Course Handbook.

Studying screenwriting requires you to understand the technical aspects and industry expectations of writing for the screen as well as the collaborative nature of filmmaking. We, therefore, use formative and summative feedback throughout the course. Learning outcomes and assessment criteria, as specified at the end of this document, relate to specific periods of growth and development.

Formative assessment is concerned with progress, development and growth, and summative assessment measures achievement and accomplishment demonstrated at the end of each module.

Each module of study is assessed using the common assessment criteria of Central Film School. Feedback is delivered formatively and following summative assessment.

The purpose of assessment is to provide you with:

- An active process that recognises and supports learning and achievement
- As an experience itself it contributes to the integration of learning and practice
- Feedback on progress which identifies strengths and recommendations for improvement
- Opportunities to present work, and articulate ideas and attitudes in a progressively professional manner

Evaluation and assessment provide the course team with:

- A means of offering you guidance in the evaluation of your progress
- A means of offering you advice and guidance on your work
- A means of monitoring and evaluating the course
- A basis for accreditation of modules
- A basis for progression from one term to the next
- A basis for the conferring of a Masters degree

Each module will have specific requirements and these will be clearly briefed at the appropriate stages of the course. At these points, you will be issued with a Module Guide containing a summary of the briefs, elements of assessment, learning outcomes, assessment methods, marking scheme and the work required for assessment. Please thoroughly read the Module Guide so that you have an understanding how the learning outcomes relate more specifically to the project work you will be completing. Ask questions if you are unsure of anything.

Regular seminars, tutorials and peer review opportunities, as well as bookable tutorials provide formative feedback on work-in-progress against the learning outcomes and project deliverables. These staff and peer interactions offer you with opportunities to ask questions, seek clarification, discuss and share significant findings, areas of research, methods employed and discoveries made.

Summative assessment provides you with marks that contribute to your academic grade and details the successful parts of the work, as well as advice on how to improve your work going forward. Summative feedback is given at the end of each module.

Course Learning Outcomes

LO name	Level 7
1. Technical	Demonstrate the technical requirements of the screenwriting process that lead to an industry standard delivery of a project.
2. Collaboration	Analyse interpersonal skills and self-discipline to support working in diverse teams to deliver a successful project.
3. Communication	Demonstrate a command of diverse professional, effective communication and presentation skills
4. Professionalism	Demonstrate a professional engagement and personal progression of learning throughout the screenwriting process.
5. Research	Analyse resources and research methodologies that inform critical contextual debates in film and television studies.
6. Analysis	Analyse critical texts and discourse to formulate a reasoned argument and offer evidence for your claims.
7. Innovation	Analyse the creative elements required in various stages to formulate the development and execution of a narrative project.
8. Industry	Demonstrate vocabulary, knowledge and understanding to evaluate your engagement with the industry and enable you to present and support your work in the commercial marketplace.

TPA Table

Module Code	Level	Module Name	Credits	Study Block	Compulsory (C) or Option (O)	Assessment Methods*	Contributing towards the Learning Outcomes* (Taught (T), Practised (P) and/or Assessed (A))							
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SCR01	7	Screen Studies & Genre	30	1	C	PW	TP	TPA	TPA	TP	TP	TPA	TP	T
SCR02	7	Narrative and Structure	30	2	C	OT	TPA		T	TPA	TP	TP	TPA	TP
SCR03	7	Contextual Studies: Transcultural Narratives	30	3	C	ES	TP		TPA	TPA	TPA	TPA	TP	T
SCR04	7	Treatment and Outline	30	1	C	PO	TPA	TP	T	TPA	TPA	TP	TPA	TP
SCR05	7	Major Project: Screenplay	30	2	C	AR	TPA	TP	TP	TPA	TP	TP	TPA	TPA
SCR06	7	Major Project: Pitch	30	3	C	PW	TP	TP	TPA	TPA	TP	TPA	TP	TPA

Learning Outcomes*
1. Technical
2. Collaboration
3. Communication
4. Professionalism
5. Research
6. Analysis
7. Innovation
8. Industry

