University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business

School of Art, Design and Architecture

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Filmmaking

Definitive Document Approved 12/9/16

Amended by Minor Change: 4/12/19 & 28/04/21

1. **BA (Hons) Filmmaking**

   Final award title
   BA Hons Filmmaking

   Level 4 Intermediate award title(s)
   Certificate in Higher Education

   Level 5 Intermediate award title(s)
   Diploma in Higher Education

   UCAS code P313
   JACS code P313

2. **Awarding Institution:**   University of Plymouth

   Teaching institution(s):   University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body**(ies)   **N/A**

4. **Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

Learn by making films taught by filmmakers!

The BA Filmmaking programme employs a creative-driven, participatory ethos underpinned with industry standards and an independent spirit. The programme is designed to emphasise the value of learning through practical investigation and filmmaking, informed by critical understanding.

Over the course of the degree, you will develop skills and key specialisms, including directing, editing, cinematography, writing, art design, sound and producing, making work *collaboratively* and *independently* in a creatively challenging but supportive teaching and learning environment.

You will explore and identify themes, stories and structures through ongoing filmmaking practice, with an emphasis on experimentation, imagination and innovation. You will be pushed to take risks, to explore new crafts, cinematic skills and experiences. You will be taught by filmmakers, artists and industry-based professionals, with special guest talks and masterclasses to support specialist practice. You will have the opportunity to engage in common challenges across the school alongside responding to live briefs inside and outside the institution, exploring contemporary issues and developing professional skills and industry practices.

The programme makes use of high-end production equipment, with Netflix-approved cameras, dedicated studio spaces, editing and production and postproduction labs

and a fully-functioning professional cinema. Our filmmaking baseroom is in the Scott building which features our own moving image library supplied to us by the Bill Douiglas museum, but also acts as a space for you socialize, edit and engage in filmmaking project work. The Scott building also houses several digital suites for editing, two greenscreen film studios and a bespoke daylight studio, analogue darkrooms, sound booths, dedicated editing spaces, print facilities and a major Letterpress, Printmaking and Silkscreen facility. Nearby to the Scott building is the Universities café and Jill Craigie Cinema, which Filmmaking utilises as a teaching, work in progress and final screening space.

Your creative filmmaking practice will be *supported* and *informed* through ongoing engagement with theoretical and historical contexts, critically underpinning your work and allowing you to expand your ideas through the histories and practices of the *exciting* world of cinema!

The programme is very much an outward looking course. This includes: field trips, festival engagement, public exhbitions, and industry visits all part of the experience. Our students constantly look towards embracing public audiences and work on live-brief's and projects with professional organisations, communities and individuals beyond the university; producing rich and exciting opportunities to engage with creative filmmaking with real purpose in the world, be that creative, cultural, promotional, academic or educational.

Our staff are filmmakers and creative practitioners who offer expertise in idea generation, production, producing and research as well as contemporary postproduction techniques and emerging technologies and creative moving image and sound practices. Our recent visiting lecturers and guest talks has included Oscar winning cinematographer Roger Deakins, Director of Photography John Sorapure and Bafta wining director Esther May Campbell. We continually draw from emerging professional filmmakers and eminent figures across our industries, offering students invaluable insights into a range of filmmaking practices.

There are possibilities for Filmmaking graduates to progress to Masters Level PGT and PGR programmes within the University leading to possibilities for MPhil or PhD research degrees.

Key Features

- Creative-driven programme designed to emphasise the value of learning by making films and practical investigation, informed by critical understanding.

- High level technical and creative skills are fostered throughout the programme.

- Developing critical, philosophical and contextual awareness and skills, which will provide students with the knowledge from which to make

imaginative and innovative film work and contribute to the development of filmmaking.

- Outward-looking, embracing public audiences as well as developing projects with industries, communities, organisations and individuals beyond the university.

- The opportunity to potentially study abroad through a network of European exchange partners, as well as North American partners with emphasis on filmmaking practices.

5. **Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)**
Communication, Media, Film and Cultural studies. Links to paragraphs within the QAA subject benchmark statements are given in the Programme Intended Learning Outcomes Map (Appendix).

6. Programme Structure

Level 4	Code	Credits	Semester	CORE
Film School	FILM411	40	1	Y
Screen Dialogues	FILM412	40	1 & 2	Y
Storyteller	FILM413	40	2	Y

Level 5	Code	Credits	Semester	CORE
Filmmaker	FILM511	40	1	Y
Cinematic Crafts	FILM512	20	1	Y
Imperfect Cinema	FILM513	40	2	Y
Professional Filmmaker (Common Challenge)	FILM514	20	2	N

Level 6	Code	Credits	Semester	CORE
Experimentation	FILM611	20	1	Y
Common Dissertation: Critical Practices	ADA600	20	1	Y
Film Production	FILM612	60	1 & 2	Y
Beyond Film	FILM613	20	2	Y

7. Programme aims

BA Filmmaking aims to provide:

1   The opportunity to work with hands-on filmmaking practices, emphasising the value of learning through creative practical investigation informed by critical understanding.

2   A multi-disciplinary environment of teaching and learning that is designed to foster reflective, creative practice, collaboration and a flexible approach to the development of methods and processes in filmmaking cultural production.

3   A developmental context for the acquisition and application of theoretical, conceptual and transferable skills.

4   The opportunity to respond to changing film/media technologies and cultural and professional contexts.

5   A framework within which to explore the synthesis between the potential of the individual practitioner and the requirements of collaborative working.

6   Resourceful, adaptive and self-motivated graduates who are industry ready and able to respond to challenges and opportunities.

7   Graduates with transformative skills with the ability to understand the cultural impact of filmmaking on culture and society and are able to lead the way in shaping the future.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1 Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. An in depth technical, historical, theoretical and cultural understanding of filmmaking specialist areas, with the ability to make creative links between them

2. The ability to generate ideas, concepts, proposals, solutions or arguments independently and/or collaboratively in response to set briefs, problems and/or as self-initiated activity

3. The ability to employ both convergent and divergent thinking in the processes of observation, investigation, speculative enquiry, visualisation and/or making

4. The ability to synthesise, interpret and evaluate information from a number of sources to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice

5. A detailed understanding of the significance of the works of other practitioners, allowing for an understanding of innovative and, or, significant cultural production

8.2 Cognitive/Intellectual Skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. A detailed understanding of the critical and contextual dimensions of the student's discipline(s) in particular, and of filmmaking practice in general, for example the cultural, economic, environmental, ethical, global, historical, political, societal, and/or theoretical contexts

2. The ability to analyse sources and experiences, formulate independent judgements, and articulate reasoned arguments through reflection, review and evaluation

3. The ability to manage and make appropriate use of the interaction between intention, process, outcome, context, and the methods of dissemination

4. A detailed understanding of the implications and potential for their discipline(s) presented by the key developments in current and emerging film/media technologies, and in interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary practice in film

8.3 Key/Transferable Skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. The ability to select, test and make appropriate use of materials, processes and environments

2. The ability to study independently, set goals, manage their own workloads and meet deadlines

3. The ability to interact effectively with others, for example through collaboration, collective endeavor and negotiation formulating reasoned responses to the critical judgments of others

4. The ability to anticipate and accommodate change, and work within contexts of ambiguity, uncertainty, and unfamiliarity

5. The ability to articulate ideas and creative processes comprehensibly in visual, oral and written forms

8.4 Practical Skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. An understanding of the requirements of professional practice within filmmaking or their chosen field

2. The ability to select, use and understand appropriate film/media equipment in an effective and creative manner, in accordance with good professional practice and applied to a variety of situations and contexts

3. The ability to realise their intentions through the articulation of ideas and responses in appropriate forms

4. The ability to present and complete an appropriate 'portfolio' of work suitable for practice in professional life

5. The ability to contribute to contemporary culture through the application of skills, imagination, and inventiveness

8.5 Employment Related Skills

1. The confidence and ability to liaise effectively with professional practitioners/individuals and organisations

2. The ability to respond to briefs and subsequently plan, time manage and organise projects

3. The ability to demonstrate independent thinking, to take on responsibility and decision-making

4. An awareness of appropriate codes of practice in the professional context

5. A capacity to initiate and innovate in professional arenas

6. The ability to develop existing skills and acquire new competences mapped across professional processes and health and safety considerations, enabling students to assume professional responsibilities and prepare for career pathways

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

Entry Requirements for BA (Hons) Filmmaking	
A-level/AS-level	112 points on the UCAS tariff or equivalent, **including** General Studies

BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	**18 Unit BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma**: DMM **12 Unit BTEC Diploma:** D*D*
UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma	Merit (120 points)
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Pass a named Access to HE Diploma (e.g. Preferably Art and Design, Humanities or Combined) with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	Awards additional A-level equivalent points, depending on grade (A-E)
Scottish Qualifications Authority	112 points to include 2 Advanced Highers
Irish Leaving Certificate	Irish Highers Grades H2 H2 H3 H3 H3 (112 points) or equivalent
International Baccalaureate	28 overall English & Maths accepted within If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have **IELTS**: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements
Proficiency in English	GCSE/IGCSE English Grade C/4 or IELTS 6.0 (5.5 in all elements) or equivalent

Progression accords with a number of partner colleges which means that graduates of FdA programmes at these colleges can join at level 6.

Disability Assist (DAS) offer advice and guidance to current and prospective Plymouth University students and staff. This includes arranging the appropriate provision for students with disabilities. Students who declare they have a disability are invited with to meet with a staff member from Disability Assist and the Programme Manager to discuss their learning needs and support at the start of their studies.

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

There is direct progression with AP partner colleges onto the final year of degree.

Students achieving a total of 120 credits will be entitled to receive a Certificate on Higher Education. Students achieving a total of 240 credits (of which at least 120 are at level 5 or above) will be entitled to a Diploma of Higher Education. 320 credits (of which 80 are at level 6 and a further 120 at Level 5 or above) qualify a student for an

Ordinary Degree. 360 credits will entitle the student to be awarded the BA (Hons) Filmmaking Degree.

11. Exceptions to Regulations

PARM Board assessments
A Provisional Assessment Referral Meeting (PARM) is held that allows for in-year referrals of Semester 1 studio modules (practice-based modules) to be undertaken within 'term' time, when students are still based in Plymouth and there is full technical support still available.

If a student fails a module in Stage 1 or 2 prior to the end of the first semester, they may be given an opportunity to undertake referred assignments and to be reassessed for that module prior to the meeting of the Subject Assessment Panels at the end of the academic year.
This applies to the following modules:

FILM411
FILM412
FILM413

All level 4 Pass/Fail assessment
Compensation is not available for modules that are pass/fail. In this programme, this is all Level 4 (Year 1) modules.

12. Transitional Arrangements

N/A

13.Mapping and Appendices:

13.1 ILO's against Modules Mapping

Level 4

FHEQ Descriptors	Subject Benchmark(s)	Programme Aims	Programme Outcomes	Core Modules linked to outcomes
Students will have demonstrated: Knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with their areas of study; Ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study; Ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data;	4.1 4.2 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 6.3 6.4 6.6	7.1; 7.3	Understanding of key techniques and ideas associated with Filmmaking and the ability to make creative links between them Awareness of some key of concepts and debates that inform and influence Filmmaking Production practice Awareness of the broader social and cultural contexts within which contemporary Filmmaking operates	FILM411 FILM412 FILM413
Students will be able to: Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to their area of study; Communicate the results of their study accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent argument	4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.6 5.8	**7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6**	The ability to problem solve using critical, analytical and practical skills The ability to question, research, explore and respond to ideas, processes, materials and other stimuli The ability to take risks and other speculative actions, to make constructive use of failure, and	FILM411 FILM412 FILM413

| | 6.3
6.4
6.6 | | to recognise these as integral aspects of the creative process

The ability to organise, plan and time manage within a project framework
Understand the importance of integration of research and practice in the making of creative works | |
| Undertake further training and develop new skills within a structured and managed environment | | | To understand the key requirements for effective project development and be able to document this process

the ability to use and understand a range of filmmaking equipment in an effective and creative manner

the ability to realise their intentions through the articulation of ideas and responses in appropriate forms | FILM411
FILM412
FILM413 |

Students will also have: The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility	4.1 4.3 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 5.6 5.8 6.3 6.6	**7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6**	To evaluate their own abilities, achievement and understanding and reflect on their own learning To work independently and in collaboration with others To demonstrate literacy through various forms of written work To use relevant technologies as communication and research tools through the internet, archives and library The ability to respond to briefs and subsequently plan, time manage and organise projects To take personal responsibility for development of existing skills and acquire new competences mapped across PDP processes	FILM411 FILM412 FILM413

Level 5

FHEQ Descriptors	Subject Benchmark(s)	Programme Aims	Programme Outcomes	Core Modules linked to outcomes
Students will have demonstrated: Knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of their area of study and the way in which those principles have developed; Ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context; Knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study; An understanding of the limits of the knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge	4.1 4.2 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 6.3 6.4 6.6	**7.1, 7.3**	Understanding of a wide range of technical processes and theory associated with Filmmaking and the ability to make creative links between them Awareness of a range of concepts, values and debates that inform and influence Filmmaking practice A critical understanding of the broader social and cultural contexts within which contemporary Filmmaking operates	FILM511 FILM512 FILM513 FILM514

Students will be able to:	4.2	7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6	The ability to problem solve using critical, analytical and practical skills	FILM511
	4.4			FILM512
Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis;	4.6			FILM513
	5.4		the ability to synthesise, interpret and evaluate information from a number of sources to gain a coherent understanding of history, theory and practice	FILM514
	5.8			
	6.3			
	6.4			
Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively;	6.6		the ability to question, research, explore and respond to ideas, processes, materials and other stimuli	
			the ability to take risks and other speculative actions, to make constructive use of failure, and to recognise these as integral aspects of the creative process	
Undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.			The ability to critically understand and apply different concepts and terminology	
			organisational, planning and time management skills associated with Filmmaking practice	
			the integration of research and practice in the making of practical works	
			the ability to challenge established principles in order to extend creative work	

Students will also have: The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making	4.1 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.2 5.6 5.8 6.3 6.4 6.6	**7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6**	organise and manage an effective pattern of work utilise problem solving skills in theoretical and practical contexts evaluate their own abilities, achievement and understanding and reflect on their own learning work independently and in collaboration with others demonstrate literacy through various forms of written work negotiate and collaborate with external agencies/professions use relevant technologies as communication and research tools through the internet, archives and library Effectively develop a practical project from initiation to realisation and be able to document this process. To be able to use a range of film equipment in an effective and creative manner, in accordance with good professional practice. The ability to autonomously select and use appropriate technologies and processes for particular contexts	FILM511 FILM512 FILM513 FILM514

			The ability to realise their intentions supported by critical and cultural awareness and in appropriate forms	
			The confidence and ability to liaise effectively with professional practitioners/ individuals and organisations	
			The ability to respond to briefs and subsequently plan, time manage and organise projects	
			The ability to demonstrate independent thinking, to take on responsibility and decision-making	
			The ability to develop existing skills and acquire new competences mapped across PDP processes, enabling students to assume professional responsibilities and prepare for career pathways	
			The ability to plan and organise a substantial collaborative project	

Level 6

FHEQ Descriptors	Subject Benchmark(s)	Programme Aims	Programme Outcomes	Core Modules linked to outcomes
Students will have demonstrated: A systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline; An ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline; Conceptual understanding to enable them to (a) devise and sustain arguments and/or solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline; (b) describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research or equivalent advanced scholarship in the discipline; An appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge;	4.1 4.2 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 6.3 6.4 6.6	**7.1, 7.3**	An in depth technical, historical, theoretical and cultural understanding of one (or more) Film specialist area, with the ability to make creative links between them The ability to generate ideas, concepts, proposals, solutions or arguments independently and/or collaboratively in response to set briefs and/or as self-initiated activity The ability to employ both convergent and divergent thinking in the processes of observation, investigation, speculative enquiry, visualisation and/or making. A practical and theoretical understanding of the practitioners relationship with audiences, clients, markets, users, consumers, and/or participants; A detailed understanding of the significance of the works of other practitioners.	ADA600 FILM603 FILM611 FILM601

The ability to manage their own learning and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources;				
Students will be able to: Apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects; Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data, to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution or a range of solutions to a problem; Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.6 5.8 6.3 6.4 6.6	**7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6**	A detailed understanding of the critical and contextual dimensions of the student's discipline(s) in particular, and of Filmmaking in general, for example the cultural, economic, environmental, ethical, global, historical, political, societal, and/or theoretical contexts; The ability to analyse information and experiences, formulate independent judgements, and articulate reasoned arguments through reflection, review and evaluation. The ability to manage and make appropriate use of the interaction between intention, process, outcome, context, and the methods of dissemination. A detailed understanding of the implications and potential for their discipline(s) presented by the key developments in current and emerging media and technologies, and in interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary practice in Filmmaking. an understanding of the requirements of professional practice within their chosen field	ADA600 FILM603 FILM611 FILM601

			the ability to select, use and understand appropriate film equipment in an effective and creative manner, in accordance with good professional practice and applied to a variety of situations and contexts	
			the ability to realise their intentions through the articulation of ideas and responses in appropriate forms	
			the ability to present work to an audience/client in a coherent and professional manner	
			the ability to complete an appropriate 'portfolio' of work suitable for practice in professional life	
			the ability to contribute to contemporary culture through the application of skills, imagination, and inventiveness	
Students will also have: The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts (c) the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.	4.1 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.2 5.3 5.4 5.6 5.8 6.3	**7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6**	The ability to select, test and make appropriate use of materials, processes and environments; The ability to develop ideas through to material outcomes, for example images, artefacts, products, systems and processes, or texts. The ability to study independently, set goals, manage their own workloads and meet deadlines.	ADA600 FILM603 FILM611 FILM601

| | 6.4
6.6 | | The ability to interact effectively with others, for example through collaboration, collective endeavour and negotiation.

The ability to anticipate and accommodate change, and work within contexts of ambiguity, uncertainty, and unfamiliarity.

The ability to formulate reasoned responses to the critical judgements of others;

The ability to identify personal strengths and needs.

The ability to articulate ideas and information comprehensibly in visual, oral and written forms.

the confidence and ability to liaise effectively with professional practitioners/ individuals and organisations

the ability to respond to briefs and subsequently plan, time manage and organise projects

the ability to demonstrate independent thinking, to take on responsibility and decision-making

awareness of appropriate codes of practice in the professional context | |

			a capacity to initiate and innovate in professional arenas the ability to develop existing skills and acquire new competences mapped across PDP processes, enabling students to assume professional responsibilities and prepare for career pathways	

13.2 Assessment against Modules Mapping

Level 4		C1	P1	
Film School	**FILM411**	PASS/FAIL PASS/FAIL		Portfolio Submission
Screen Dialogues	**FILM412**	PASS/FAIL PASS/FAIL		Portfolio Submission
Storyteller	**FILM4113**	PASS/FAIL PASS/FAIL		Portfolio Submission
Level 5		**C1**	**P1**	
Filmmaker	**FILM511**	100%		Portfolio Submission
Cinematic Crafts	**FILM512**	100%		Portfolio Submission
Imperfect Cinema	**FILM513**	100%		Portfolio Submission
Professional Filmmaker (Common Challenge)	**FILM514**	100%		Portfolio Submission
Level 6		**C1**	**P1**	
Experimentation	**FILM611**	100%		Portfolio Submission
Common Dissertation: Critical Practices	**ADA600**	100%		Dissertation
Film Production	**FILM612**	100%		Portfolio Submission
Beyond Film	**FILM613**	100%		Portfolio Submission

13.3   Skills against Modules Mapping

Level 4		Benchmark
FILM411	Film School	4.1 4.2 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 6.3 6.4 6.6
FILM412	Screen Dialogues	4.2 4.4 4.6 5.4 5.8 6.3 6.4 6.6
FILM413	Storyteller	4.2 4.4 4.6 5.4 5.8 6.3 6.4 6.6
Level 5		
FILM511	Filmmaker	4.1 4.2 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 6.3 6.4 6.6

		4.1 4.2 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 6.3 6.4 6.6
FILM512	Cinematic Crafts	
FILM513	Imperfect Cinema	4.1 4.2 4.4 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 6.3 6.4 6.6
FILM514	Professional Filmmaker (Common Challenge)	4.3 4.5 4.6 5.2 5.3 5.6 6.3 6.4 6.6
Level 6		
FILM611	Experimentation	4.1 4.3 4.5 4.6 5.3 5.4 5.6 5.8 6.3 6.6
ADA600	Common Dissertation: Critical Practices	4.2 4.4 4.6 5.4 5.8 6.3

		6.4 6.6
FILM612	Film Production	4.2 4.4 4.6 5.4 5.8 6.3 6.4 6.6
FILM613	Beyond Film	4.2 4.4 4.6 5.4 5.8 6.3 6.4 6.6