

Programme Specification

Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of Study
Master's	Master of Arts in Film and Television	2 Years	Full Time only

Teaching Institution	National Film and Television School
Awarding Institution	Royal College of Art
Qualifications Framework	M in the FHEQ Benchmarked to Level 7 descriptor
Date of most recent validation	October 2015
Programme Specification Date	August 2020

1. Educational Aims of the Programme

The NFTS MA aims

- to provide a learning environment which encourages diversity, creativity, collaboration and independent study leading to future practice and continuing development after graduation
- to enable the development of the students' creative, intellectual and critical potential and to encourage new perceptions and innovative work
- to provide education and training at postgraduate level in the skills required for a variety of relevant professional practices
- to graduate students who will contribute to aid advance future practice in the media industries

2. Intended Learning Outcomes of the Programme

These address identified learning areas:

- Creativity and quality of work
- Knowledge and understanding
- Intellectual engagement
- Practical Skills
- Transferable/key skills/personal development
- Professional Orientation

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On completion, students will be able to demonstrate:

- the ability to prepare, organise and produce work of increasing ambition and quality
- an ability to collaborate with colleagues and professional practitioners in other disciplines across film, television and interactive media
- knowledge of and ability in the technical skills associated with realising their work
- an understanding of the theoretical, cultural, aesthetic and historical contexts of their work
- a high level of critical awareness and the ability to articulate and communicate ideas, both visually and verbally
- engagement in visual and intellectual research as nourishment for their practice and creative energies
- an ability to practise and research independently in a manner appropriate to their particular discipline
- knowledge of the professional practices, which will form the basis of their future career
- tangible evidence of professional practice in their chosen discipline

Key Attributes (these are considered as part of the assessment process)

Creativity and Quality of Work

As evidenced in students' work and in discussion/presentation of their work.

Having completed a Master of Arts programme at the NFTS, students should be able to:

- develop high quality responses to projects that question, challenge and further their understanding of their own practice and their chosen specialism.
- produce work at an advanced level i.e. which is at or near the forefront of their discipline and demonstrates their ability to make a creative, imaginative, innovative and individual response to their chosen field.
- articulate clearly (by oral, written and/or visual means) the intentions of the work they produce and the approaches, knowledge, skills and reasoning they have employed in its production.

Other Attributes

Intellectual Engagement

As evidenced in discussion/presentation of their work and the work of others.

Having completed a Master of Arts programme at the NFTS, students should be able to:

- initiate and develop project ideas which offer them challenges in terms of learning, understanding, research, technical realisation and communication at an advanced level (i.e. which will engage students in questioning and challenging the existing parameters of their chosen discipline)
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary practice, ideas

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and debate in areas of particular relevance to their individual practice so as to be able to contextualise their own achievements

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of the methods of enquiry, investigation and research appropriate to their individual practice and the ability to apply them in the development of their work. This includes their dissertation/research project
- relate their theoretical understanding, ethical and intellectual position to the ideas expressed in their work
- analyse, evaluate and debate both their own achievements and those of others who have worked or are working in areas relevant to their own practice

Technical Skills

As evidenced in their work.

Having completed a Master of Arts programme at the NFTS, students should have:

- an advanced level of skills in the area of film studies, programming, and curation
- the ability to develop your existing practice and acquire new technical skills when required

Personal Development

As evidenced in their approach to their studies and their participation in the life of the department and the the NFTS.

Having completed a Master of Arts programme at the NFTS, students should be able to:

- define personal aims at an appropriate level and evaluate their own progress against these during the course of their studies
- engage in focused, independent, self-motivated learning, research and practice making use of technical and learning resources appropriate to the work they are doing
- respond creatively to new and complex problems and challenges
- communicate their ideas, achievements and ambitions effectively using oral, written and visual means and with regard for context and audience
- work effectively as an individual and in a team (as appropriate) and participate as a responsible, active member of the NFTS community
- manage their time, the resources available to them and their working environment effectively for their own work and with responsibility towards others

Professional Orientation

As evidenced in discussion/presentation of their work, achievements and ambitions.

Having completed a Master of Arts programme at the NFTS, students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the professional contexts in which they might work beyond graduation and the demands and responsibilities they will face in professional life
- identify their own strengths and weaknesses, individual interests and concerns and relate these to their future career plans
- demonstrate the ability and motivation to continue to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding beyond graduation in line with their career plans
- demonstrate their ability to develop Industry contacts
- demonstrate a professional attitude and approach to their work

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3. Programme Structure and Curriculum

Specialisations

There are 17 pathways on this Master's degree:

- Cinematography
- Composing for Film and Television
- Creative Business for Entrepreneurs and Executives
- Digital Effects
- Directing Animation
- Directing Fiction
- Directing Documentary
- Directing & Producing Science and Natural History
- Directing & Producing Television Entertainment
- Editing
- Film Studies, Programming and Curation
- Games Design and Development
- Marketing, Distribution, Sales and Exhibition
- Producing
- Production Design
- Screenwriting
- Sound Design for Film and Television

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Credit Framework

The NFTS operates a credit framework in accordance with which the course is rated at 240 credits. Students who attain an insufficient number of credits for the award of a Master's degree may be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma, depending on the volume of work successfully completed.

First Year			Second Year		
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Unit 1: Practice Frameworks			Unit 3: Expanding and Situating Practice		
Unit 2: Dissertation					
	PR 1	Interim Exam		PR3	Final Exam

Students shall be eligible for the following awards based on the volume of work successfully completed:

- PG Certificate - all first year workshops and projects have been completed satisfactorily and the Interim Exam at the end of the first year recommends progression.
- PG Diploma - in addition to all first year workshops and projects having been completed satisfactorily, the student has also completed and achieved a satisfactory grade in the dissertation.
- Masters - all first year and second year workshops and projects have been completed satisfactorily and the student has received a satisfactory grade in their dissertation. The student is then able to participate in the final exam and be considered for the award of Masters.

Teaching Weeks and Contact Time

In the first year, students receive some 40 weeks of teaching, normally with 20 contact hours per week, and are expected to follow the Screen Arts module as well.

Students will follow a programme of learning in their second year. There is more flexibility in terms of optional modules, and students receive more than 40 weeks of teaching. Students are also expected to complete a dissertation or research project.

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Cross MA Teaching and Learning Strands

Screen Arts, Masterclasses and the Cinema Club

Screen Arts

Screen Arts is a unique programme designed to give each student at the NFTS the opportunity to engage with the history, contemporary practice and wider culture of the moving image. Throughout the year it provides a series of talks, discussions and screenings, encouraging students to explore, debate and reflect upon questions of creativity. This in turn can inform and inspire students' own development as practitioners, enabling them to understand their work in context.

Although the students who come to study at the NFTS are all united by the desire to engage with the process of creating for the screen, be it in film, television, games and/or digital effects, they bring to the NFTS widely differing experiences of screen history and media culture. Screen Arts is there to create a forum where these differing levels of experience can meet. The emphasis is on giving access to a wide range of ideas from informed and expert speakers, as well as providing a broad variety of films and other forms of moving image material to watch and discuss.

The programme provides a focus for discovery, review and a free flow of ideas around screen arts past, present and future, where imagination and creative vision can find stimulation and nourishment.

The aim is to bring together a broad range of contributors, not just from the worlds of film, television and games, but from the arts, culture and beyond. The intention is to provide a firm grounding in key concepts and concerns, whilst also giving space for provocation, stimulation and inspiration.

The goal is, finally, to cultivate each student's confidence in their own informed judgement, fostering their ability to assess and evaluate their own and other people's work independently and effectively.

The Screen Arts programme also underpins the tutorial and practical support given to all NFTS students during the writing of the MA dissertation.

Masterclasses

The NFTS regularly arranges Masterclasses for students online, at the school and at venues in London. Masterclasses and seminars with filmmakers give students the opportunity to learn from and interact with established and experienced professionals as they discuss their approach to filmmaking. These are organised throughout the year, they are optional and open to all students. Students have the opportunity to hear from, question and be inspired by distinguished filmmakers from around the world. The NFTS invites a wide range of leading filmmakers to give seminars and Masterclasses.

Cinema Club

Normally every Wednesday evening during term time students can see a forthcoming or newly released film in the NFTS's cinema arranged by the NFTS Events team. Films cover the spectrum of international production, from Oscar nominated shorts, low-budget independent features to Hollywood blockbusters and include all genres including animation, documentary as well as fiction feature films.

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4. Learning and Teaching Methods

Individual Tutorials

Tutors in individual departments are available for consultation, with students allocated separate tutors for different aspects of the curriculum. During the course there are regular tutorials to ensure that there is an opportunity to discuss and develop understanding and skills. The aim of the tutorials is to encourage the student to get the best out of themselves and to apply a critical, self-reflexive approach to their own practice. Supportive and enabling tutorials allow for discussion and constructive challenge, providing space for the student to step back and reflect on their own work. Group tutorials are held to discuss questions and issues arising from the curriculum.

One-on-one mentoring will also be available to the students from the tutors and allocated industry professionals to provide them with more individual and tailored feedback and support.

Talks and Screenings

The NFTS screening programme runs throughout the year on Monday afternoons in the NFTS Cinema. Screenings are generally linked to the content of the day's Talks and Events programme and are introduced by NFTS core tutors or by visiting experts, who also lead a discussion following the screening. Intentionally broad in scope, the screenings include work made for television and other platforms, alongside a wide variety of films from different periods, countries and genres. The aim is to screen essential works, whether historical or contemporary, and to provide a forum to discuss and debate them in a lively and open context.

The cross-departmental Talks and Events programme also takes place on Mondays. The programme takes a range of forms, from single speaker keynotes to panel discussions, but the emphasis is always on student participation and engagement. The purpose of the programme is to encourage original thought and to create a forum for the discussion of screen production from the perspectives of all the teaching areas at the NFTS.

Seminars are led by a mixture of guest speakers, Screen Studies core tutors, tutors from other departments within the NFTS and visiting tutors. The purpose of the programme is to look at key areas in moving image media and to study history, movements, genres and film aesthetics, as well as the work of influential makers in moving image media. They are designed to provide inspiration, to encourage original thought and to create a forum for discussion of screen production from the perspectives of all the teaching areas at the NFTS.

Self Evaluation

Student progress is monitored and assessed by means of written self-evaluations supported by tutorial feedback and assessments.

Health and Safety

As an employer and a place of higher education, the NFTS holds the principles of Health & Safety as important – both as a legal responsibility and as an educational opportunity.

The safety management elements of all the courses at the NFTS are tailored to fulfil both the requirements for the production activities of the practical training at the school, but also to prepare students for the Health & Safety needs of their future professional careers.

Upon enrolment every student is given the NFTS Health & Safety Policy.

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Production Costs

Unlike other schools, all production costs for those on filmmaking courses are met by the NFTS.

5. Assessment

General

Self-assessment is an important element of the programme and students are invited to discuss their progress with their tutors on a regular basis.

There are three or four Progress Reviews during the two-year course where students receive a written report from their Head of Department and can compare this with their own self-assessment.

Students are seen by an Industry Reviewer at the end of each year and have an opportunity to show their work and receive an objective opinion from an external industry practitioner. The report from the Industry Reviewer forms part of the end of year Progress Review.

6. Admissions

Entry Requirements

These are detailed on the website - <https://nfts.co.uk/sign-me-up/entry-requirements>

Further information can be found on each of the specific course webpages.

7. Key statistics

School performance indicators

- 96% of our graduates are in employment, 6 months after graduation.
- 72% of our students are happy with the teaching support received from staff.
- 73% state that feedback from tutors on their work has helped them to clarify things they did not understand.
- 82% of students feel better prepared for future employment as a result of the course.