

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	September 2017

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 your work and in discussion/presentation of your work

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

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

Other Attributes

Intellectual Engagement

As evidenced in discussion/presentation of your work and the work of others

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

- initiate and develop project ideas which offer you challenges in terms of learning, understanding, research, technical realisation and communication at an advanced level (i.e. which will engage you in questioning and challenging the existing parameters of your chosen discipline)
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary practice, ideas and debate in areas of particular relevance to your individual practice so as to be able to

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contextualise your own achievements

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

Technical Skills

As evidenced in your work

Having completed a Master of Arts programme at the NFTS you 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 your approach to your studies and your participation in the life of the department and the school.

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

- define personal aims at an appropriate level and evaluate your own progress against these during the course of your studies
- engage in focused, independent, self-motivated learning, research and practice making use of technical and learning resources appropriate to the work you are doing
- respond creatively to new and complex problems and challenges
- communicate your 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 your time, the resources available to you and your working environment effectively for your own work and with responsibility towards others

Professional Orientation

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

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

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

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3. Programme Structure and Curriculum

Specialisations

There are 18 pathways on this Master's degree:

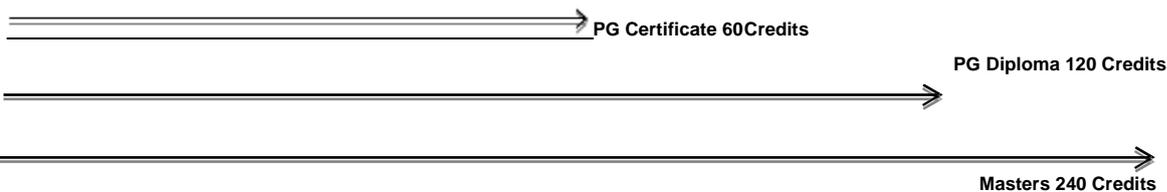
- Cinematography
- Composing for Film and Television
- Creative Business for Entrepreneurs and Executives
- Digital Effects
- Directing Animation
- Directing Fiction
- Directing Documentary
- Directing & Producing Science and Natural History
- Directing & Producing Television Entertainment
- Editing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

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Credit Framework

The School 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 number of credits achieved.

First Year			Second Year		
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Unit 1: Practice Frameworks (80 Credits)			Unit 3: Expanding and Situating Practice (120 Credits)		
Unit 2: Dissertation (40 Credits)					
	PR 1	Interim Exam		PR3	Final Exam



Students shall be eligible for the following awards based on the number of credits attained:

- PG Certificate (60 Credits) - 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 (120 Credits) - 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 (240 Credits) - 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.

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. They will follow the Screen Arts module too, and are expected to complete a dissertation or research project.

Cross MA Teaching and Learning Strands

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Screen Arts, Masterclasses, Cinema Club and Beauty of Business

Screen Arts

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 digital effects, they bring to the School a widely differing experience of Screen History and of the various aspects of wider film and media culture. Screen Arts is there to create a forum where these differing levels of experience can meet and, through exposure to a wide range of films and related material linked to seminars and discussion, stimulate an engagement with the language, culture and history of the screen. The Screen Arts programme seeks to foster in each individual student a greater understanding of film, television and other aspects of moving image media and the ability to carry this understanding over into their own practice.

Screen Arts seeks to operate in conjunction with each of the departments to ensure that students at the NFTS engage both in areas of study directly relevant to their own practice and wider conceptual ideas about creativity in screen culture. In close collaboration with all areas of NFTS teaching, the programme provides a focus for review, discovery and a free flow of ideas around the whole arena of screen arts past, present and future, where imagination and creative vision can find stimulation and nourishment.

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.

Masterclasses

The NFTS regularly arranges Masterclasses for students, both 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

Every Wednesday evening during term time students can see a forthcoming or newly released film in the School'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.

Beauty of Business

Designed to be accessible to any MA student at the school, the 8 week lecture series gives a navigational map of the entire business ecology of the audio-visual entertainment business, and is intended to tempt creative and technical students into thinking about their place, and their opportunities, in the world of rights creation and rights exploitation.

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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.

Seminars and Screenings

The NFTS screening programme runs throughout the year, and takes place on Monday evenings in the NFTS Cinema. Screenings are usually linked to the content of the afternoon seminars, and are introduced by NFTS core tutors or by visiting experts. The screenings take in a wide variety of films from different periods, countries and genres, and include work made for television. The aim is to screen essential films, whether historical or contemporary, and to provide a forum to discuss and debate them in a fresh and open context. The programme is deliberately broad in scope, giving access to differing forms of film language.

The seminars take place on Mondays throughout the year. They are coordinated to complement the screening programme and to respond to needs felt by students and by the departments representing the different specialist areas within the School. Seminars are led by a mixture of guest speakers, Screen Studies core tutors, tutors from other departments within the School and visiting tutors. During the mornings, there will be space for regular seminars for the students within their departments. 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 School.

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 External Assessor 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 external assessor 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 course webpages.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees range from £10, 000 a year for home and EU students to £29, 000 for overseas applicants. The fees policy is contained within the Student Information Handbook ([available here](#)), which also includes the other regulations. If you have any queries please contact Registry.

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.