



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (Hons) Screenwriting

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	BA (Hons) Screenwriting
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, BA
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U3342PYC / W810
Mode of study	Full time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2024 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Creative and Cultural Industries
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Film, Media, and Creative Technologies
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/school-of-film-media-and-creative-technologies
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-screenwriting
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	N/A
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 6

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The Screenwriting course aims to deliver world-class film studies, in commercial and independent cinema, to students with a particular interest in writing and producing their own screenplays:

- To support, through a stimulating programme of study, the development of writing skills in a range of creative, critical and professional forms;
- To introduce students to speculative and reflective approaches to writing and reading, inspiring enthusiasm for the subject and an appreciation of its continuing social, cultural, political and economic importance.
- To provide an opportunity of studying a range of literary, performance and media texts, from a variety of historical periods, world cultures and arts- and media-based institutions, developing students' ability to contextualise their own work within the writing traditions that precede and surround them;
- To enable students to develop a high standard of literacy, communication skills, and aptitudes for critical argument and persuasion;
- To encourage students to recognise the skills and insights they develop through the programme and help them identify career opportunities to use them in a global context.
- To allow Combined Honours students to take a range of core and optional subjects in Creative Writing, Film Studies and Film Production, enhancing their practical awareness of filmmaking, their critical understanding of theoretical issues and their creative experimentation with key forms such as short or full-length TV and film scripts.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	The processes by which original and adapted texts are created, realised and managed, such as the processes of drafting, writing, editing and others as appropriate in the production of written texts in a range of genres (DDP) and the power of imagination in literary creation (E)	Annotated drafts, tutor-led writing workshops, peer review, formative feedback Lectures and seminars, creative writing workshops with prompts and in-class tasks	Annotated drafts, creative artefacts, oral presentations or 'pitches', critical/reflective/evaluative essays, formative and summative feedback Short fiction and non-fiction, poetry portfolios, scripts for stage and screen
A2	Writing in publishing and performance contexts, opportunities and audiences in the wider world, and the historical and cultural development of such contexts [CW]	Daily/weekly workshop tasks with 'homework' in a range of forms and styles, including research methods	Marking scheme gauges 'originality, significance, rigour' at incremental levels
A3	The principal literary genres of prose, poetry, and drama; this includes writing for various media such as film, radio and stage, but also evolving media such as writing for digital and new media [CW]	Lecturer input of inspiring prompts, tutor and peer group formative feedback	Marking scheme aims to recognise and reward a 'publishable quality' in creative outputs
A4	Critical awareness of the context in which writing is produced and how individual practice relates to that of predecessors and contemporaries, peers and established practitioners [CW]	Lecturer input of critical, historical and social theory, including post-colonial; and facilitation of independent study in these areas	Marking scheme takes into account students' engagement with critical, historical and social theory as it relates to creative writing and film industry study

A5	The development of new writing strategies drawn from critical reflection upon their writing practice; and conscious, controlled interplay between practice, criticism and theory within their chosen form(s) [CW]	Lecturer input of inspiring prompts, tutor and peer group formative feedback	Creative and critical artefacts, often interlinked. Citation and referencing skills
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B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Describe, analyse and critically examine the processes by which new work is created, realised or managed, such as the processes of drafting, devising, editing, production and the use of new technologies as appropriate (DDP)	Lectures with historical, cultural, critical input Seminars with writing prompts and discussion tasks	Essays (critical and reflective); portfolios of creative writing Oral presentation/pitches; in-class tests and written examinations
B2	Initiate, develop and realise distinctive and creative work within various forms of writing or other media (CMFCS)	Creative workshops with opportunity for peer review and tutor feedback	Critical evaluation of creative skills such as plotting, characterisation, dialogue, use of imagery
B3	Produce clear, accurate, artistically coherent and technically sophisticated written work, which articulates a combination of research and creative ideas [CW]	Creative workshops with opportunity for peer review and tutor feedback	Critical evaluation of creative skills such as plotting, characterisation, dialogue, use of imagery
B4	Communicate orally and through the written word concrete ideas and abstract concepts [CW]		Blogs and other professional writing artefacts
B5	Employ an imaginative and divergent mode of thinking which is integral to identifying and solving problems, to the making of critical and reflective judgements, to the generation of alternatives and new ideas, and to engaging with broader issues of value [CW]	Offering students the chance to engage with global and post-colonial agendas in critically-informed creative artefacts	Assessing students' engagement with global and post-colonial agendas in critically-informed creative artefacts

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Initiate, research and complete original work in creative writing across a range of genres and in a variety of contexts, whether individually or collaboratively	Specialist training in script and magazine layout, with the potential to use industry software	Creative and critical artefacts; including in script and poetry formats
C2	Command a broad range of vocabulary and structural styles in the production of original texts and artefacts	Instil the use of thesaurus, stylistic techniques, etc	Proof reading and copy-editing activities
C3	Be aware of (simulated) timescales, budgets and editorial requirements for writing project work (SS)	Mock-submission briefs to real life journals	Group presentations and peer review exercises
C4	Demonstrate an active engagement with the craft of writing in the use of journals and other reflective practices and work with other writers on their projects, assisting them in developing their ideas and reaching their best potential (SS)	Encourage the use of peer review opportunities to draft and craft coursework in collaboration with course mates	Group presentations and peer review exercises
C5	Use bibliographical skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate and consistent use of scholarly conventions of presentation (E)	Referencing and citation skills	

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:			
LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Produce original and adapted written work of a high standard, suitable for presentation, exhibition, performance or publication within the University or local / national / international contexts	Lectures, seminars, writing workshop, drop-in sessions, one-to-one or small group tutorials	Creative and critical artefacts; including in script and poetry formats Group presentations and peer review exercises
D2	Demonstrate advanced communication skills, both oral and written, including the ability to present a rhetorically effective, coherent, well supported and sustained argument	Critical theory underpins all creative writing practice, and occurs in core module syllabi at all levels	Proof reading and copy-editing activities
D3	Demonstrate time-management, organisational and administrative skills, including the ability to plan and work to clear goals and objectives and demonstrate word-processing and other IT skills and familiarity with electronic search tools	Encouragement to submit to in-house publications	Evident in timely meeting of deadlines (both course and extra-curricular)
D4	Demonstrate research skills, including scholarly information retrieval skills, involving the ability to gather, sift and organise material independently and critically, and evaluate its significance (E)	Blended and bespoke provision for all cohorts from specialist UoP librarians	Summative evaluation of APA citation and reference skills in submissions
D5	Initiate and take responsibility for their own work, identifying strengths and needs, in reflecting on personal development; showing considerable personal qualities, including an enthusiasm for enquiry and the motivation to sustain it; and working flexibly, both independently and collaboratively [CW]	Offering the chance to form professional liaisons with lecturers who can inspire and influence in academic and employability fields	CV and covering letter drafts Opportunities for formative as well as summative feedback

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides:

CCI Creative Careers: Support to add degree-related and relevant work experience for CV building including a work placement year, summer or short internships and part-time work.

CCI Creative Skills: One to one support sessions and group tutorials in creative software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: Access to resources to support learning strategies and techniques through one to one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Support Advisor: Help to find appropriate academic, pastoral or practical support.

Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for English [E]; Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies [CMFCS]; Dance, Drama and Performance [DDP]; Creative Writing [CW]
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **N/A**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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