Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**MA Screenwriting**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TMASCRWR_C
5	**UCAS code**	N/A
6	**Home Department**	Film, Media and Cultural Studies
7	**Exit Award(s)**	PG Dip, PG Cert
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	1 or 2 years

9	**Mode of Study**	FT	x	PT	x	DL	

10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	7
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	N/A
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Group**	N/A

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**
	This screenwriting course offers the opportunity to develop practical screenwriting skills and techniques and to apply them to writing briefs, together with the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of communicating ideas in script form.
	Offered as a full-time, one year, and part-time, two year, course, a distinctive feature is a fast-track core module. This introductory module enables graduates in other fields to gain detailed knowledge of screenwriting conventions, an understanding of common formats, and the ability to analyse a brief and evaluate one's own writing within a commercial context. Armed with the core skills of the fast-track course, a subsequent module will develop students' skills in writing a draft script in either film or television formats. Additionally students take 2 core modules, History and Theory of Screenwriting and Scriptwriting in Different Genres, and then choose options on a pathway on developing a feature film script or developing a television series, completing the degree with a final project/portfolio in the medium of their choice.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in any related subject; other qualifications will be considered. Evidence of creative writing in English is required, but applications are encouraged from those with or without prior screenwriting experience.
	International entry requirements
	If English is not the student's first language or s/he has not previously studied in English, the requirement for this programme is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 7.0, with not less than 6.0 in each of the sub-tests.

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	The MA will provide core courses and option modules which will allow the student to:

Subject Specific:

1. Understand the history and theory of screenwriting in national, transnational, international contexts.
2. Understand the practice of screenwriting in a variety of historical, cultural and commercial contexts.
3. Apply theoretical understanding to synthetic practices.
4. Understand the relationship between conceptualising ideas and using practical (screenwriting) formats to realise them.
5. Analyse the different ways in which creative practice developments have been conceptualised.
6. Be able to relate the theoretical and professional discourses of screenwriting.
7. Create connections between the history, theory and practices of screenwriting and the history and theory of film and media.
8. Understand the historical, social and political context of media production, markets and institutions.
9. Have knowledge of mainstream media forms and alternatives to the mainstream, of media genres and national and international movements.
10. Analyse a creative brief and to identify appropriate creative models.
11. Apply screenwriting techniques to the communication of ideas in specific formats.
12. Write complex scripts in the formats chosen

Intellectual:

13. Assess a wide variety of information in media form, and to communicate ideas in the appropriate script format
14. Plan own learning and skill development.
15. Analyse the effectiveness of their own creative work.
16. Be able to integrate abstract conceptual frameworks and knowledge with creative and practical production skills.

Practical:

17. Through discussion groups and through team work, develop the ability to work with others and to respect their views.
18. Ability to write clearly and concisely.
19. Ability to make informed decisions.
20. Produce a portfolio with drafts of scripts and development materials.

Personal and Social

21. Demonstrate interpersonal skills such as the ability to work in a group or as a member of a team.
22. Take responsibility for own learning and time management.
23. Find creative solutions to problems.
24. Work under pressure.

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	Each full module consists of forty four hours of class work, which will take the form of eleven three-hour weekly meetings and one-to one tutorial provision; and a half module is

twenty two hours of class work, usually taking the form of eleven two-hour meetings. Learning is student-centred through workshops, practical exercises, lecturer presentations, individual and group work, discussion and productions, research, evaluation of practice and skills.
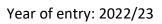
In addition to the existing teaching and learning methods, one core theory course, *History and Theory of Screenwriting*, will be introduced with other optional theory modules offered from the MA in Media and Creative Developments (starting in 2011), the MA in Film and Visual Media and MA in Television History and Practice. The core theoretical course will be assessed by script research and a written project of no more than 4,000 words. The Final Project/Dissertation will be a 90 – 150 mins Script * or a TV series with accompanying development materials and a 3,000 word critical analysis = Total 60 CATS (*The standard evaluation of screenplay length is pages which approximate to running time, in film format this is based with screenwriting layout with one page to one minute, word count is not used because it does not necessarily equate to running time. As regards outlines and treatment, draft scripts and other development materials, the industry also usually uses the number of pages as the guide to length. It is more important that the length be appropriate to the project rather than satisfying a word count).

Supervision for theoretical modules and projects will available for student learning. Teaching will be in the form of workshops, lectures, presentations, writing exercises and research methodologies exercises.

18	**Programme Description**

The MA in Screenwriting offers an integrated programme in the history, theory and practice of screenwriting. The programme offers the opportunity to the student to develop practical screenwriting skills and techniques in depth, the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of communicating ideas in script form. A core module in the history and theory of screenwriting encourages students to study the history of the discourse and practices of screenwriting to bring a conceptual and analytical framework to their final project in screenwriting. Students complete the degree with a portfolio of script work that can be used for their professional development.

19	**Programme Structure**

Full-Time programme - 1 year

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	ARMC043S7	Fast Track to Screenwriting	30	Core
7	FDME004S7	Writing a Draft Script	30	Core
7	ARMC048H7	Scriptwriting in Different Genres	15	Core
7	ARMC044H7	History and Theory of Screenwriting	15	Core
7	ARMC046S7	Developing a TV Series	30	Option
		OR		
7	FDME005S7	Developing a Feature Film Script	30	Option
7	ARMC227D7	Final Project/Portfolio MA Screenwriting	60	Core

Part-Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	ARMC043S7	Fast Track to Screenwriting	30	Core
7	FDME004S7	Writing a Draft Script	30	Core
7	ARMC048H7	Scriptwriting in Different Genres	15	Core
Year 2				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7	ARMC044H7	History and Theory of Screenwriting	15	Core
7	ARMC046S7	Developing a TV Series OR	30	Option
7	FDME005S7	Developing a Feature Film Script	30	Option
7	ARMC227D7	Final Project/Portfolio MA Screenwriting	60	Core

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	**Programme Director**	Emma Sandon
21	**Start Date** (term/year)	Autumn 2010
22	**Date approved by TQEC**	Spring 2010
23	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer 2010
24	**Date(s) updated/amended**	14 May 2015