

## **Programme Specification: PGCert / PGDip / MA Television Production**

**NOTE:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/pme>, (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

<b>Awarding Institution / Body</b>	<b>Birmingham City University</b>
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	<b>Birmingham City University</b>
<b>Interim Awards and Final Award:</b>	<b>Post-Graduate Certificate; Post-Graduate Diploma; Master of Arts</b>
<b>Programme Title:</b>	<b>Television Production</b>
<b>Main fields of Study:</b>	<b>Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies</b>
<b>Modes of Study:</b>	<b>Full-time; Part-time;</b>
<b>Language of Study:</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>JACS Code:</b>	

**Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:**

Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies

### **Programme philosophy and aims**

This award is part of a wider suite of postgraduate programmes within the Birmingham School of Media. They all seek to develop agile and reflexive professionals in the media, creative and cultural industries, who can operate at the forefront of the academic discipline and of professional practice. The content and approach of the curriculum has a strong emphasis on enterprise skills, engagement with new communication technologies, and promoting innovation. Each award in the suite is part of a wider community of postgraduate students, and a culture of learning and investigation. Each module in the award is integrated into a systematic process of professional development and students are encouraged to organise and extend their learning in a way that suits their individual ambitions and needs.

#### **The aims of the programme are to:**

- Provide an appropriate range and depth of theoretical and professional knowledge to enable students to understand the key issues and challenges within television production;
- Create challenging simulations of professional practice in which students can work in television production environments, and especially their relationship interactive and online media;
- Ensure that students engage with academic and professional debates, and evaluate the current state of academic knowledge, professional practice, and their own scholarly work;
- Encourage students to become reflexive television production professionals, with a commitment to continuing professional practice.

**Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:**

**Learning Outcomes.**

**At the end of this award students will be able to:**

1. Map the core knowledge of the key theoretical approaches to understanding television production, and the professional practices in the television industry, along with current intellectual challenges, and professional techniques;
2. Work independently and in teams to systematically produce television programmes, developing strategies for innovation by applying traditions of research and craft to deal with complex issues in original cases;
3. Critically evaluate professional practice in television production, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
4. Reflect on the implications of critical evaluations, in order to develop knowledge, understanding and skill in television production.

**Learning teaching, and assessment methods used**

Each taught module consists of ten class sessions, in which students will be introduced to topics through lectures, seminar discussions and workshop activities. There will often be guest lectures from leading practitioners in the field. We place a strong emphasis on lecturer and peer review of student presentations and work-in-progress. These sessions are supported by structured material available on the university's Moodle on-line system. Each week, students are set independent study tasks, often based upon production activities, and there are two further weeks of directed study. Many modules make significant use of new social media, and students are often asked to post to forums, write blogs, or produce podcasts to chart personal and professional development, and to engage with the work of others.

Each student will also participate in three tutorials as the taught module progresses, to support their professional development and plan their learning. Two weeks of each semester are set aside for key extension work, which can include a work-based placement.

Assessments usually emphasise scholarly or professional practice through which the key learning objectives are tested. Three weeks are set aside for assessment work.

## **Criteria for admission**

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

## **Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students**

All modules and awards within the Birmingham School of Media are reviewed regularly, and the views of all students are taken into account when learning and teaching are planned.

Informal feedback is elicited from students throughout the programme and students are invited to evaluate their learning experience at the end of each module. There is a Programme Board of Studies which meets twice a year with student representatives from each award and mode of study. The teaching team will produce an annual report evaluating quality and standards on the award each year, and this will contain the views of students and will outline a plan for continuous enhancement of the organisation of learning and teaching on the award.

The marking of all modules within the award will be subject to moderation in line with university procedures, and external examiners will check the process of marking and moderation. The external examiners will produce an annual report, and this will also form part of the annual programme report and plan.

The university's registry and the Quality Assurance Agency will audit the processes of evaluation and enhancement in the programme.

## **Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards**

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

### **Module structure**

<b>Television Documentaries &amp; Features (30 Credits)</b>	<b>Enterprise (30 Credits)</b>
<b>Television Factual Entertainment (30 Credits)</b>	<b>Production Lab (30 Credits)</b>
<b>MA by Practice Project (60 Credits)</b>	

### **Progression**

#### **Stages 1 and 2**

The modules at stage 1 and stage 2 are all at 'M' level 7. Full-time students will normally complete stage 1 prior to stage 2.

#### **Stage 3**

Students must complete stages 1 and 2 before beginning stage 3. The modules and the learning experiences of stages 1 and 2 provide the necessary knowledge and skills for engaging in stage 3 work.

### **Credit and Qualifications**

The course has a modular structure providing a progressive experience with the curriculum.

### **Contact Hours**

Below are the formal contact hours for each module in the MA TVP award.

Television Documentaries & Features – 25 hours lectures/workshops and tutorials

Enterprise – 20 hours lectures/workshops

Television Factual Entertainment – 25 hours lectures/workshops and tutorials

Production Lab – 20 hours lectures/workshops

MA by Practice – 4 hours individual tutorials

### **Module Credit Value**

30 credits will be awarded for successful completion of each taught module

60 credits will be awarded for successful completion of a practice project

## **The Organisation of Teaching and Learning**

Each taught module in each award consists of ten class sessions, in which students will be introduced to topics through lectures, seminar discussions and workshop activities. There will often be guest lectures from leading practitioners in the field. We place a strong emphasis on lecturer and peer review of student presentations and work-in-progress. These sessions are supported by structured material available on the university's Moodle on-line system. Each week, students are set independent study tasks, often based upon production activities, and there are two further weeks of directed study. Many modules make significant use of new social media, and students are often asked to post to or, write blogs, or produce podcasts to chart personal and professional development, and to engage with the work of others.

Each student will also participate in three tutorials as the taught module progresses, to support their professional development and plan their learning. Two weeks of each semester are set aside for key extension work, which can include a work-based placement.

Assessments usually emphasise scholarly or professional practice through which the key learning objectives are tested. Three weeks are set aside for assessment work.

Each module has a module leader who will have responsibility for the administration and coordination of learning and assessment in that module.

## **Classes**

At the beginning of each module you will be provided with a module outline which will identify the taught classes, their topics, dates and times, any set readings or background papers, and the assessment profile with an indication of the deadlines. This will allow you to have an overview of the module and what work you will have to do and when.

Full details of the module structures, learning packages and assessment briefs will also be displayed on a designated notice board on the third floor of Baker Building.

We take pride in the classes that are held. You can expect them to start punctually, be well prepared and ready to participate in the exchange of knowledge that take place in these sessions. Staff will make it clear what sort of role you should take in the class, sometimes it will involve note taking, contributing to discussion, or being part of a group solving a set task. If you are unclear please do not 'suffer in silence', but ask for clarification.

The work in these sessions is a central part of the learning in the module, and it is the means by which we will distribute any additional material. You should make every effort to attend. If for any reason you cannot attend a particular class we would appreciate if you would let the member of staff know before the class starts, either directly, or through the Department office. It is your responsibility to catch up on any sessions that you have missed, as well as collecting all learning materials that may have been given out in classes during your absence.

*Some of your modules may include online learning support. If this is applicable, more information will be provided by your course tutors and in the relevant module descriptions.*