

### Programme Specification for BA (Hons) Film Studies

1.	<b>Awarding institution/body</b>	University of Worcester
2.	<b>Teaching institution</b>	University of Worcester
3.	<b>Programme accredited by</b>	N/A
4.	<b>Final award</b>	BA (Hons)
5.	<b>Programme title</b>	Film Studies
6.	<b>Pathways available</b>	Single, Major, Joint, Minor
7.	<b>Mode and/or site of delivery</b>	University of Worcester
8.	<b>Mode of attendance</b>	Full and part time, some evening attendance required
9.	<b>UCAS Code</b>	Film Studies (P303) Film Studies and Digital Film Production (PW36) Film Studies and Drama & Performance (WP4H) Film Studies and English Language Studies (QP3J) Film Studies and English Literary Studies (QP3H) Film Studies and Media & Cultural Studies (P390) Film Studies and Screen Writing (PW38)
10.	<b>Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement</b>	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies, 2008
11.	<b>Date of Programme Specification preparation/revision</b>	January 2013. July 2013 FLMS1212 made a designated rather than an optional module for Single honours. March 2014- new module FLMS3110 added April 2014- JOIN module codes added to Level 6 JH options. June 2014 - FLMS2000 deleted and replaced with new module FLMS2010 as mandatory for SH and optional for JH. FLMS2200 deleted and replaced with new module FLMS2250 as optional for SH and JH. August 2014 and October 2014 – regulations amended.

#### 12. Educational aims of the programme

The Film Studies programme is designed on the idea of film *praxis*; how theory informs practice and how practice, in turn, informs theory. The development along these lines has required a rethinking of what is meant by 'practice' beyond the narrowly defined roles of 'film maker' and 'screenwriter' to encompass, in addition to 'film maker' and 'screenwriter', areas of praxis including film marketing, distribution, exhibition, curation, festivals, film journalism and audience research. Film praxis is embedded into all mandatory/core modules across all three years of study.

The typical student who graduates with Film Studies as (or as part of) their degree will have had the opportunity to encounter a range of practical skills experiences through their mandatory/core modules across all three years, including in the second year, an opportunity to reflect on the

transferable skills an Arts & Humanities degree develops and enhance their own confidence for entry into the job market post-graduation.

The aims and outcomes for this programme are directly applied from the QAA Benchmark statement, and are inclusive of both theory and practice-based modules.

The general educational aims of the Film Studies programme are to:

- Develop a coherent knowledge of the various forms and processes of cinema;
- Develop an understanding of the range of concepts, theories and approaches appropriate to Film Studies, and the capacity to apply these;
- Develop skills in critical analysis, research, and (in some cases) production appropriate to Film Studies, as well as an array of generic and creative skills.
- Develop a working praxis for applying Film Studies knowledges within the practical world of post-graduate employment.

### **13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods**

#### **Knowledge and understanding:**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge in the area of film and film production in its diverse historical and contemporary formations.
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of debates and issues in Film Studies.
- Apply concepts from areas such as aesthetics, culture, politics and history to individual films and the film industry in general.
- Understand and apply specific film language, concepts and terminology.
- Demonstrate the ability to use and evaluate a range of research resources in Film Studies.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply practical skills in creative approaches to the preparation of video and film production work, including screenwriting.
- Demonstrate the ability to select areas of research for investigation from a variety of critical perspectives and to synthesise these into a coherent argument.
- Reflect critically upon their interpretations and be able to assess and challenge accepted opinion.

Assessment methods used to assess students' knowledge and understanding include essays, textual analyses, reviews & reports, group presentations, critical self- and/or group assessments, logbooks, portfolios of work, group projects and productions, and research exercises.

#### **Cognitive and intellectual skills:**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Present written and oral accounts in a clear, lucid and coherent fashion.
- Respond to constructive feedback both formally and informally from tutors and peers.
- Express their own opinions and defend their own critical judgments of key themes and debates in Film Studies.

Assessment methods used to assess students' cognitive and intellectual skills include essays, textual analyses, reviews & reports, group presentations, critical self- and/or group assessments, logbooks, portfolios of work, group projects and productions, and research exercises, as well as various specific skills assessments and work experience learning reports.

### **Practical skills relevant to employment**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Exchange views with others in a constructive and open-minded context so as to work co-operatively with students from diverse backgrounds.
- Develop an independent, organised approach to learning, and thereby practise time management skills through working to deadlines.
- Develop the ability to work productively with others in groups so as to sustain exploratory discussions, plan work and explore diverse opinions with respect and critical acumen.
- Develop the autonomy to construct and sustain a programme of study that allows for varying degrees of specialisation in the area of practical Film making

Assessment methods used to assess students' practical skills relevant to employment include essays, textual analyses, reviews & reports, group presentations, critical self- and/or group assessments, logbooks, portfolios of work, group projects and productions, and research exercises, as well as various specific skills assessments and work experience learning reports.

### **Transferable/key skills:**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Acquire a range of transferable skills, graduate attributes and personal qualities which will enhance their confidence and independence both during and after their studies.

Assessment methods used to assess students' transferable/key skills include essays, textual analyses, reviews & reports, group presentations, critical self- and/or group assessments, logbooks, portfolios of work, group projects and productions, and research exercises, as well as various specific skills assessments and work experience learning reports.

## **14. Assessment Strategy**

Film Studies uses a diverse range of assessment strategies designed to develop student engagement with the subject, while also challenging them to attempt exploration beyond their comfort zones. For example, at Level 4, and in part, to facilitate the student's transition to university level study, assignments include reviews & reports, group presentations, critical self- and peer-evaluations, learning logs, portfolios of work, some experience in producing creative work, in addition to university-level essay writing. The range of assessments included across all three years can be found in **Appendix 1**, and terminology used has been taken directly from the QAA's own benchmark statement's comments regarding appropriate assessment strategies.

Level 4 students are assessed on their development in acquiring a common base-level of skills – in academic research, in creative screenplay writing, and the basics of digital filmmaking. This base-level of skills is directly built upon in the later two years.

Level 5 students are challenged to begin to think 'theoretically' across the range of academic and practical skills modules. It is anticipated that students, across the range of assessment options, will begin to explore how theory informs practice, and how practice informs theory. The assessment strategy of Level 5 in Film Studies is designed to enable students to 'think critically' in all areas of their programme.

Level 6 is about research – both the student's own independent research and engaging with the staff's current research areas and interests. Level 6 offers, perhaps, less assessment diversity – focusing more exclusively on formal essay writing – but there are sufficient alternative options for students who wish to focus on other (employability) skills, like the Work Experience module.

Assessment criteria are made explicit in module handbooks, and are frequently discussed in seminar sessions and/or in one-on-one tutorials with students.

### **15. Programme structures and requirements**

The course is available full and part-time modules. Students may combine their study of Film Studies with another subject in Joint or Major/Minor combination.

## Award map

<b>Course Title: Film Studies</b>	<b>Year of entry: 2013</b>
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<b>Level 4</b>						
<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits (Number)</b>	<b>Status (Designated (D) or Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))</b>		<b>Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)</b>	<b>Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes</b>
			<b>Single Hons</b>	<b>Joint Hons</b>		
FLMS1100	Introduction to Film: Theory and Practice	30	M	M	None	Excluded combinations (DFPR1000) (DFPR1003) (FLMS1000) (FLMS1003)
FLMS1200	Hollywood and Beyond	30	M	M	None	Excluded combinations (DFPR1000) (DFPR1003) (FLMS1001) (FLMS1002)
FLMS1211	Contemporary World Cinema	15	O	O*	None	None
FLMS1212	Truth, Reality and the Documentary Film	15	D	O*	None	None
LANG1002	Improving English and Academic Style in Academic Writing	15	O	N/A	None	None
LANG1210	French Stage 1	15	O	N/A	None	None
LANG1230	German Stage 1	15	O	N/A	None	None
LANG1250	Spanish Stage 1	15	O	N/A	None	None
LANG1310	Italian Stage 1	15	O	N/A	None	None
MECS1007	Introduction to Television	15	O	N/A	None	Excluded combinations SOCG1102 (SOCG1004)

**Single Honours Requirements at Level 4**

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total, 90 of which must be drawn from the table above to include FLMS1100 (30 credits), FLMS1200 (30 credits) and FLMS1212 (15 Credits). Single Honours students may take only one LANG coded module.

Single Honours students may also choose to take elective modules to the value of 30 credits from the listing of elective modules provided for undergraduate degree programmes, or take additional modules from the table above to the value of 30 credits.

**Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 4**

Joint Honours students must take 60 credits from the table above to include FLMS1100 (30 credits) and FLMS1200 (30 credits), unless taking Film Studies and Screenwriting (see below).

\* If students are Joint Film Studies and Screenwriting, they are required to select SCRN1000 (30 credits) and FLMS1200 (30 credits), FLMS 1100 (30 credits) plus FLMS1211 (15 Credits) and FLMS1212 (15 Credits) to make 120 credits in total.

Level 5								
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))				Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			SH	Maj	JH	Min		
FLMS2010	Film Genre Studies	30	M	M	O	O	FLMS1100 or FLMS1200	FLMS2000
FLMS2100	Approaches to Film	30	M	M	M	M	None	Excluded combination (FLMS2004)
FLMS2001	British Cinema	15	O	O	N/A	O	None	None
FLMS2002	Representation of gender, sexuality and 'race' in film	15	O	O	N/A	N/A	None	None
FLMS2250	Film: Culture, Audience, Industry	15	O	O	O	O	FLMS1100 or FLMS1200	FLMS2200
MECS2017	Screening the Nation: Continuity and Change in British TV	15	O	O	N/A	N/A	None	None
SCRN2001	Screen Adaptation	15	O	O	N/A	N/A	None	Excluded combination (WRIT3003)
DFPR2102	Single Camera Drama	30	O	O	N/A	N/A	None	None
DFPR2104	Factual Film	15	O	O	N/A	N/A	None	None

### Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total, 90 of which must be drawn from the table above to include FLMS2100 (30 credits) and FLMS2010 (30 credits).

Single Honours students may also choose to take elective modules to the value of 30 credits from the listing of elective modules provided for undergraduate degree programmes, or take additional modules from the table above to the value of 30 credits

**Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 5**

Students following Joint Honours pathways can adjust their studies at level 5 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 – for further information see the table at the end of this document.

**Major Pathway Requirements at Level 5**

Major Pathway students must take at least 60 and no more than 90 credits from the table above to include FLMS2100 (30 credits) and FLMS2010 (30 credits).

**Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 5**

Joint pathway students must take at least 45 credits and no more than 75 credits from the table above to include FLMS2100 (30 credits)

**Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 5**

Minor Pathway students must take at least 30 credits and no more than 60 credits from the table above to include FLMS2100 (30 credits).



Level 6								
Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))				Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)	Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes
			SH	Maj	JH	Min		
FLMS3001/2	Independent Study	30	M	M	O	N/A	None	Taken in one or two semesters
FLMS3004	Work Experience	15	O	O	N/A	N/A	None	None
FLMS3006	Film & Folklore	15	O	O	O	O	None	None
FLMS3007	Film Reviewing	15	O	O	O	O	None	None
FLMS3008	Studies in Cult and Exploitation Cinema	15	O	O	O	O	None	None
FLMS3009	Underworld UK	15	O	O	O	O	None	None
FLMS3110	Cinema and Modern Life	30	M	M	O	O	None	None
DRPR3104	Factual Film Production	30	O	O	N/A	N/A	DFPR2010 or DFPR2104	None
MECS3004	TV Times	15	O	O	O	O	None	None

### Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take 120 credits from the table above to include FLMS3001/2 (30 credits) and FLMS3110 (30 credits).

### Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 6

Students following pathways in two subjects can adjust their studies at level 6 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 – for further information see table at the end of this document.

### Major Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Major Pathway students must take either 75 or 90 credits from the table above to include FLMS3001/2 (30 credits) and FLMS3110 (30 credits).

### Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 6

Joint pathway students must take 45, 60 or 75 credits (to make at least 105 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject, and no more than 135 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject), from the table above to include FLMS3100 (30 credits).

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Joint pathway students taking their independent study in this subject must take FLMS3001/2 (30 credits).

Joint pathway students who choose to place their Independent Study (equivalent) in their other joint subject must take 45, 60 or 75 credits from the table above (excluding FLMS3001/2).

Joint pathway students must take one Independent Study (equivalent), either in this subject, in their other joint subject, or take JOIN3001/2 or JOIN3003 where an Independent Study covers both joint subjects.

### **Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 6**

Minor pathway students must take either 30 or 45 credits from the table above.

### **Credit requirements for awards involving two subjects**

In determining whether an award derived from two subjects is Joint Honours (subject 1 **and** subject 2) or Major/Minor Honours (subject 1 **with** subject 2) credits taken in each subject at levels 5 and 6 will count as follows:

<b>Subject 1</b>	<b>Subject 2</b>	<b>Award</b>
120	120	Joint Hons
135	105	Joint Hons
150	90	Major/minor Hons
165	75	Major/minor Hons
180	60	Major/minor Hons

## **16. QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality**

The aims and learning outcomes for Film Studies are appropriate and commensurate with those in other higher education establishments. Film Studies is fully compliant with the QAA benchmark statements covering: Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (see heading 10 above). Details of how the Film Studies programme is mapped according to the MFCS benchmark.

## **17. Support for students**

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered support as appropriate to those needs at both University and subject level.

The Film Studies Course Team is committed to ensuring that all students are given consideration and support throughout their time at the University of Worcester. Student's transition into University life is assisted by an initial one week's induction programme which through a range of activities introduces students to their course, the staff who will be teaching them and the Institute. Students are for example invited to attend the IHCA Freshers' Party in induction week.

During this initial induction week and in the first Worcester Week students are involved in a range of activities which support them in developing an understanding of the expectations of their course, undergraduate study and the University's systems and services. They have talks or tours, for example, which introduce them to the Library and IT facilities, Media Services, the Careers and the Counselling Service. Students are also provided with a brief induction into their second and third year study.

In addition the Institute for Humanities & Creative Arts monitors attendance closely in first year and provides support for first year students through the First Year Tutor system. This comprises dedicated members of staff who are available every day for drop-in sessions during the semester between 12:00 & 14:00 and provide online support through email and Facebook within 24 hours all year around.

All students are allocated an academic tutor who will advise them on issues related to their course throughout their study at the University and who monitors their progress. Academic tutor sessions usually take one of two forms: either one-to-one sessions where notes are taken and stored on SOLE, or group based sessions where general points and issues relating to the course are dealt with. Students are invited to meet their academic tutor twice a semester. Tutorials are held on a one-to-one basis during all years of study.

Staff teaching students on module support students through one – to- one and small group tutorials; and provide students with clear indications of when they will be available to see students either on their office door, via email or in module outlines.

Students are further supported through a range of online –support, for example via email or skype tutorials. All modules are supported through the virtual learning environment accessed through Blackboard. The Course Handbook is also available online.

Furthermore, the Course team liaises with a range of centrally provided support services to ensure that students access all appropriate channels of support, these include for example:

- The Disability and Dyslexia Service within Student Services specialist support on a one to one basis.
- Writing support from the Royal Literary Fund Writers in Residence.

- Writing support for international and EU students from the Language Centre.
- The Students' Union which as an independent charity, devoted to the educational interests and welfare of all students studying at the University it represents student views within the University.

## **18. Admissions**

### **Admissions Policy**

Film Studies seeks to recruit students who are enthusiastic about studying cinema. In most cases, students are admitted to the programme through traditional means immediately after completing their secondary school education and applying through UCAS, however in some circumstances, students may be admitted who do not come through the UCAS system. Film Studies is committed to the policies of widening participating, equality and diversity and inclusion.

### **Entry requirements**

Film Studies does not require Film Studies or Media Studies A level as conditions of entry. The University's standard entry requirements apply: 4 GCSEs at Grade C or above plus a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3½ A Levels or equivalent Level 3 qualifications. The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to the course are published in the prospectus.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

Details of acceptable level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the [University webpages](#) or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

### **Admissions procedures**

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS (PW36, WP4H, QP3J, QP3H, PV31, WP65, P390, PW38, PL33).

Part-time applicants apply directly to University of Worcester (UW)

### **Admissions/selection criteria**

Students are selected on the basis of their UCAS forms or their applications to the University. Admission is largely determined by the enthusiasm for the subject students demonstrate in their personal statements and evidence of clear understanding of the expectations of the course.

### **Students with visual or hearing impairments**

While Film Studies is a programme open to all students regardless of any disability, please note that the nature of the analytical work required is based almost entirely on discussion of audio/visual texts. If a student experiences difficulty in accessing audio/visual texts it is highly recommended that they contact the course leader directly to discuss any support that might make the course accessible to you. The course team are keen to minimise or eradicate disability related barriers to study and will make reasonable adjustments wherever it is possible to do so.

## **19. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

The Film Studies Course Team is committed to a combination of formal and informal methods of Quality Assurance and Enhancement and operates within University and IHCA robust quality mechanisms.

The course team draws upon a range of evidence to reflect upon the quality and standards of the teaching and learning and to write an Annual Evaluation Report (AER). These include:

- External Examiner's reports
- statistical indicators of student progression and achievement
- a range of indicators of student satisfaction including the NSS

Reflection upon this material enables the course team to produce an action plan for future enhancements to the course and student experience.

In writing the AER, the course team benefits of from utilising feedback gathered throughout the academic year from students on their levels of satisfaction with their study experience and the extent to which their learning needs are being met. The mechanisms used for this include the following:

- **Student Academic Representatives (StARs)** - Students elect representatives for each year of the course. Their role is to gather students' opinions about the learning experience and the learning resources available and feed these back to tutors, external examiners and assessors, if required. The course representatives are members of the Course Management Committee and as such have a proactive and significant role in the development of the course.
- **Course Management Committee** - The committee comprises student representatives, course tutors and Information and Learning Services staff from the University of Worcester. Meetings take place once each semester (usually in week 10). An agenda is issued in advance so that representatives can canvass opinion. The records of the meetings are kept and will feed into the annual monitoring process, so that students' views are fed through to the University of Worcester Academic Board.
- **Module evaluation** - At any point during the module students have the opportunity to feedback to module tutors, all modules undertake informal mid-module evaluations. At the end of a module students are asked to complete the University of Worcester module evaluation form. This feedback is anonymous and is intended to give the tutors insight into how to make improvements in the future to that module. The forms are electronically scanned to calibrate student responses and the statistical data, student comments and the module results are all drawn upon by the module co-ordinator in writing their module report. These reports are read by the Chair of the Institute of Humanities & Creative Arts (IHCA) Quality Committee, course leaders and also sent to students on the module. Module evaluation results and reports are discussed at the IHCA Quality Committee, Course Management Committee and in Course / Subject Annual Evaluation Reports.
- **External Examiner** visits aim to include space where students can provide feedback to the External Examiner.

The Film Studies team benefits from the culture of engagement around how to enhance teaching and learning within IHCA. The Course Leader sits on the Institute Learning and Teaching Committee; discussions here and within course team meeting and at Institute away days explore ways of enhancing the student experience.

The Course Team participates in a range of Course, IHCA University and external activities aimed at enhancing the quality and standards of student learning these include:

- University Teaching and Learning Conferences and staff development workshops provided by ADPU

- IHCA Teaching and Learning Discussion Lunches held at least three times a semester
- Undertaking a Post Graduate Teaching Qualification or HEA Fellowship application
- IHCA training for HPLs
- Peer Learning through Observation Scheme
- Attendance and participation at Academic Conferences, HEA events
- An active research culture including seminars, symposiums and conferences held at the University

## 20. Regulation of assessment

### The course operates under the University's Undergraduate Regulatory Framework

#### Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Some modules have attendance requirements (*delete if this does not apply*).
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

#### Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations see [Undergraduate Regulatory Framework](#).

#### Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade, unless the failure was due to non-attendance.
- Reassessment items that are passed are graded at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module).

#### Requirements for Progression

- Students at Level 4 may be permitted to progress to Level 5 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4.
- Students at Level 5 may be permitted to progress to Level 6 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 5.
- A student who fails 90 credits or more due to non-submission will be required to withdraw from the University.
- Students who pass less than 90 credits but have submitted all items of assessment will be required to retake modules.

#### Requirements for Awards

Award	Requirement
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CertHE	Passed 120 credits at Level 4 or higher
DipHE	Passed a minimum of 240 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher
Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6
Degree with honours	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 105 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6

### **Classification**

The honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification:

Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 60 credits attained at Level 5 and the best grades from 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades count equally in the profile.

Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 120 credits attained at Level 6 only.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Undergraduate Regulatory Framework](#).

## **21. Indicators of quality and standards**

The Film Studies Course Team utilize a variety of methods to indicate the quality and standards of the programme. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **National Student Survey (NSS)**

The NSS results for Film Studies has increased tremendously over the past few years, to the point where the course now achieves higher results than the University average in most categories. Of the 22 Film Studies graduates at the 2012 graduation ceremony, 5 (almost 25%) graduated with a first class degree. Almost 100% of graduates enter full-time employment of one kind or another after graduating. Student satisfaction with the programme is quite high.

### **Periodic Review (2011)**

In early 2011, the Film Studies programme was highly commended as a joint honours programme during its Periodic Review. Specifically singled out was the programme's involvement in student development and in research-led teaching. Such external validation confirms what the teaching team, and annual comments from our External Examiners, have known for some time: that Film Studies is committed to ensuring both a robust and sustainable programme is offered to students for their personal and career development.

### **Student Feedback**

The course team regularly seek feedback from graduating students on the programme itself. Students have commented on how the programme has "taught me skills that employers are actively seeking [including] the ability to independently research and then apply ideas to a piece of work." Also, students have noted that Film Studies is "a versatile course that covered multiple areas and gave me the opportunity to develop many transferable skills that will be needed for a future job, not matter where it will be". Another student noted the "course has personally given me confidence".

## **Student Progression**

Student progression within Film Studies improves at Levels 5 & 6; while a few students find the course challenging at Level 4 (often requiring readjusting their own expectations of what a Film Studies degree is about), by Level 5, and continuing throughout Level 6, student progression is almost 100%.

## **External Examiner**

The Film Studies External Examiner commended the course team for “the standards set for the BA Film Studies course at Worcester [which] continue to be very high” noting “The work produced by students at Worcester continues to be of a high standard and this is testimony to the quality of the good students and the hard work the course team put in. In my experience the work compares favourably with other institutions and in case of my own [institution] ... I would say is often vastly superior” (2012) concluded,

I am pleased to see that ‘research-informed teaching’ is still place for this programme... The standard of teaching and assessment is high and the course team inject a great deal of enthusiasm into the programme.

## **QAA Institutional Audit**

The University underwent a QAA Institutional Audit in March 2011. The audit confirmed that confidence can be placed in the soundness of the institution’s current and likely future management of the academic standards of its awards and the quality of the learning opportunities available to students. The audit team highlighted several aspects of good practice, including the student academic representative (StARs) initiative, the proactive approach which supports the student experience for disabled students, the comprehensiveness of the student online environment (SOLE), the wide range of opportunities afforded to students to enhance their employability, the institution’s commitment to enhancement, and the inclusive approach to working with its collaborative partners.

## **22. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers Graduate destinations**

The first cohort of Joint honours students graduated in 2009 and are pursuing a range of employment and further training opportunities in areas which include: the service industry, the television and 3D animation industries and education. In light of that, and by way of keeping track of our alumni’s ‘first destinations’ beyond the programme, the course team have developed an alumni Facebook page which not only seeks to keep contact with our graduates, but also allows us to know how they progress with their careers.

### **Student employability**

While it is recognized that a number of students who complete a Film Studies degree are interested in career destinations on the creative end of the film and television industries, such options are not always realistic. Film Studies develops student employability skills explicitly for career destinations which *may* include the film/TV industries, but is not limited to them. The course team endeavour to develop well-rounded young people who have the skills to succeed in *any* industry, including, but not limited to, film and television careers.

To wit, Gregory et al.<sup>[1]</sup> identify the following ten skills as essential in developing Film Studies students’ future employability. Film Studies addresses all ten of these ‘transferable skills’

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<sup>[1]</sup> See Georgina Gregory, Ros Healy and Ewa Mazierska, 2007. *Careers in Media and Film: The Essential Guide*. London: Sage, pp. 26-27. These key skills were specifically cited, independently, through our engagement with employers directly.



across our lectures, seminars and in the assessed work. The chart below demonstrates how the course team address the development of these skills:

Key transferable skills	Lectures	Seminars	Assessed work
Communication		X	X
Teamwork		X	(sometimes)
Leadership		X	X
Initiative		X	X
Creative Problem Solving		X	X
Flexibility/adaptability	X	X	X
Self-Awareness	X	X	X
Commitment/motivation	X	X	X
Interpersonal Skills	X	X	X
Numeracy	X	X	X

Such a focus on transferable skills has recently been cited by Matthew Batstone in *The Guardian* (18 January, 2012) as the valuable fruits of a humanities degree, and is the cornerstone of the employability initiatives Peter Bryant and Co have implemented at the University of Greenwich. This focus (and the above chart specifically) has also been identified as really useful for students, by the programme's StARs, at a recent Course Management Committee meeting.

However, student expectations, at least initially, are often less pragmatic; and the Film Studies programme is designed around exposing students to a wide variety of employment options after a Film degree beyond being a filmmaker specifically. Through the programme's core (30 credit) modules, employability opportunities are specifically identified and attendant skills developed. At Level 4, Film Studies encourages students to explore creatively with video cameras and screenplays as part of their academic development; how knowledge and creative experiences are mutually informing. At Level 5, the course team expand the student's understanding of film-based employment options by directly addressing film cultures like festivals, programming special seasons, curation, audience research, marketing, and distribution & exhibition contexts. Level 6 enables students to explore more independently their own interests in further developing their employability options in two ways: potentially through their independent study projects and through the Film Reviewing module. Level 6 also has an optional Work Experience module which students may opt in for.

### Links with employers

The course team work closely with employers – such as Flicks in the Sticks, Rural Media Company, Worcester Arts Workshop, WorcesterLive, Worcestershire Film Festival – to ensure that our programme is developing the right skills base that employers are looking for.

**Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module outlines and Sections 3 & 5 of the course handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.