

# MA Scriptwriting

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Writing, Publishing and the Humanities
Main campus	Newton Park.
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	Music and Performing Arts
Name of award(s)	Master of Arts in Scriptwriting
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PGCert, PGDip
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	1 year full-time & 2 years part-time
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Campus based
Regulatory Scheme	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A

Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	N/A
Route code (SITS)	SRMA
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Please reference the QAA Masters Characteristics statements: <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977#.VrMk7NKLSUI">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977#.VrMk7NKLSUI</a> <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977-.VrMk7NKLSUI">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977-.VrMk7NKLSUI</a>
Date of most recent approval	June 2022
Date specification last updated	June 2022

## Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme /Pathway	Regulations/Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date
MA Scriptwriting – PT route	Taught Postgraduate Academic Framework	Exemption to depart from Framework, paragraph 1.6.	

## Programme Overview

The course aims to prepare adept and inventive scriptwriters able to work across theatre, radio, film, and television. Together with a comprehensive training in the key writing skills, you will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking, creative dexterity, and coherent strategies for professional progress. At the core of the programme is the understanding that scriptwriting begins but does not end with the text. The course therefore explores writing in the context of presentation and performance, and the direct relationship, in any given medium, between creator and receiver, writer and audience.

Led by industry practitioners, the seminars offer practical methodologies to equip students with the techniques and disciplines of the professional writer. Alongside an insight into the workings of craft, we offer an exploration of the means by which the unique challenges of any given writing project are met with unique solutions. The aim is to embed dexterity, skill, and an ability to critique the development of creative work reflectively and productively.

Through workshops you will explore the progressive steps from concept to final draft, and the paper-trail of documentation which lends coherence to creative development. Through peer review and tutorial notes, you will become accustomed to responding to critical feedback and to working in collaboration with others. Completing the course enables you to develop a portfolio of creative work and a complete script, which may act as a 'calling card' in the professional arena.

The programme makes extensive use of campus resources, including audio recording suites, film and television studios, rehearsal spaces, and a screening room. By exploring the practicalities of diverse media, you will have the opportunity to optimise your writing to various forms, learning how to translate your ideas within the constraints, and according to the strengths, of a wide variety of production options.

Throughout the development of your creative work, the aim is to nurture and encourage your distinct voice, while enabling that voice to best express itself through the skills of craft, and an understanding of the needs of the audience in their chosen medium.

## Programme Aims

1. To develop adept scriptwriters skilled in the craft of dramatic story-telling as it applies to the screen, audio drama, and theatre.
2. To acquaint students with some of the practicalities of production in both recorded and live media, in order to facilitate effective collaborative relationships, along with a level of self sufficiency for independent production.
3. To aid the development of professional skills, such as market research, the preparation of story materials, and verbal presentation, in order to connect, to best effect, with key career facilitators, such as agents, independent companies, literary managers, dramaturgs, and broadcasters.
4. To provide a creative community through which ideas can be explored and their execution critiqued. Students should become accustomed to drafting their work in the light of critical feedback, negotiating notes, and articulating the rationale for their creative decisions.
5. To develop the students as unique voices in the creative industry, confident in their own vision whilst remaining nimble enough to adapt to any given production environment.
6. To provide resources and facilities which empower the students to experiment with production, bringing scripts to practical fruition in a variety of media. Resources include technical equipment, access to edit rooms, and the opportunity to collaborate with students from associated disciplines.

## **Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)**

(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)

### **A. Subject-specific skills and knowledge**

A1 The ability to plan and write from conception to the standard of an advanced draft, an original script of a length appropriate to its medium, informed by practical and conceptual knowledge of the relevant field.

A2 The ability to produce substantial work as defined above that responds to complex questions and finds solutions to practical problems concerning the form and subject matter pertaining to scripts.

A3 The application of practical understanding of appropriate writing techniques and responsiveness to editorial discussion.

A4 The ability to reconsider and revise your creative work in response to precise, comparative and analytical discussion of it, and to offer such feedback to others, through your own critical engagement with their work.

A5 A conceptual understanding of the field of scriptwriting, enabling the development of critiques in relation to current and emerging thinking within the discipline.

A6 The preparation and production of scripts that demonstrate an understanding of technique, methodology, genre and industry context as relevant to your chosen writing project.

A7 The ability to collaborate with co-creatives from associated disciplines, revising the material in response to practical demands and creative negotiation in order to bring about a produced piece.

### **B. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills**

B1 Creative, observational, analytical language and imaginative skills as required for the effective conception, design and substantial development of a completed script.

B2 Systematic understanding and application of the methodologies for examining incomplete or fragmentary experience and shaping it into coherent form for producers and the audience.

B3 Analytical language and imaginative skills as required for the critical analysis and practical problem-solving assessment of their own and other writers' work, and for the precise and helpful articulation of criticism of other writers' work.

B4 Conceptual, technical and empathetic understanding of how experience may be translated into dramatic story form, how writing can engage with tradition, literary convention and language as well as with the observed facts of the world; and how work can engage with the consumer of the dramatic experience.

B5 The conceptual understanding and application of relevant literary media and forms with reference to reading, research (as appropriate to the discipline) and systematic study.

### **C. Skills for Life and Work**

C1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing systematically with complex issues.

C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively.

## Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required\* = R\*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

MA Scriptwriting				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	SCW7001-30	Story Workshop	30	C	N/A
7	SCW7002-30	Writing for Performance	30	C	N/A
7	SCW7003-30	Production Lab	30	C	N/A
7	SCW7004-30	Professional Practice	30	C	N/A
7	SCW7005-30	Final Script	60	C	N/A

## Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if students choose an optional module from outside this programme, they may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

## Additional Costs Table

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

## Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates ...	In Scriptwriting this means ...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Will be equipped to complete works of creative writing to the best of their ability as informed by knowledge of the relevant techniques and professional contexts
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	Will have practical experience in responding to the complex technical, emotional and intellectual challenges presented by the planning and development of a work of creative writing in a diverse and rapidly changing cultural and professional context
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners of creative writing
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Will be digitally literate and able to work at the interface of creativity and technology as required by their chosen mode of creative writing
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	Will be internationally networked by studying alongside students from overseas and by encountering a diversity of international creative writing and creative concerns
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Will be critical thinkers, able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy, having honed these skills in creative writing workshops, tutorials and the written analysis of their own and others' work
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Will be critical thinkers, able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy, having honed these skills in creative writing workshops, tutorials and the written analysis of their own and others' work
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	Will be ethically aware and prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context, having encountered, discussed and found practical responses to diverse ethical questions arising from their own and other writers' creative work

## Modifications

### Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

### Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
DPD content updated to reflect course redesign	15th June 2022 - Curriculum Committee	2022/23
All new modules added (new content, titles and codes)	15th June 2022 - Curriculum Committee	2022/23

### **Attached as appendices:**

1. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
2. Assessment map
3. Module descriptors

## Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram

<b>FULL TIME STUDY - ONE CALENDAR YEAR</b>	
<i>Trimester One</i>	SCW7001-30 Story Workshop SCW7002-30 Writing for Performance
<i>Trimester Two</i>	SCW7003-30 Production Lab SCW7004-30 Professional Practice
<i>Trimester Three</i>	SCW7005-60 Final Script
<b>PART TIME STUDY – TWO CALENDAR YEARS</b>	
<u>YEAR ONE</u>	
<i>Trimester One</i>	SCW7001-30 Story Workshop
<i>Trimester Two</i>	SCW7003-30 Production Lab
<i>Trimester Three</i>	Students will undertake formative preparatory work for their second year of study, including SCW7005-60 Final Script, with appropriate tutor support.
<u>YEAR TWO</u>	
<i>Trimester One</i>	SCW7002-30 Writing for Performance
<i>Trimester Two</i>	SCW7004-30 Professional Practice
<i>Trimester Three</i>	SCW7005-60 Final Script

## Appendix 2: Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)[1]	Course Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific skills							Cognitive and intellectual skills					Skills for life and work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	SCW7001-30	Story Workshop	C			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
7	SCW7002-30	Writing for Performance	C		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
7	SCW7003-30	Production Lab	C	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	SCW7004-30	Professional Practice	C	X				X	X					X	X	X	X		
7	SCW7005-60	Final Script	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

### Appendix 3: Assessment Map

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)[1]	Assessment method													
				Coursework					Practical				Written Examination				
				Treatment	Script	Essay	Pitch document	Portfolio	Report	Production	Practical project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
7	SCW700 1-30	Story Workshop	C			1 x 4000 words		1 x 4000 words									
7	SCW700 2-30	Writing for Performance	C					1 x 5500 words	1 x 2500 words								
7	SCW700 3-30	Production Lab	C					1 x 4000 words		1 x 4000 words equiv.							
7	SCW700 4-30	Professional Practice	C				1x 3000 words	1 x 5000 words equiv									

7	SCW700 5-60	Final Script	C				1 x 2000 word s  equiv	1 x 1200 0  word s  equiv									
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