MA Scriptwriting

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:
	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977#.VrMk7NKLSUl http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977 - .VrMk7NKLSUl
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

On achieving Level 7 you will be able to:

C1 **Work Independently** - Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in a professional context.

C2 **Work with Others** - Plan for and actively engage in inclusive collaboration with others to tackle and solve complex problems and develop original insights.

C3 **Communicate with Impact** - Communicate complex ideas clearly, effectively and impactfully with specialist and non-specialist audiences.

C4 **Demonstrate Digital Fluency** - Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically to enhance creativity and communication in a professional context.

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 🔗

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Confidently Self-Aware	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	Peer and tutor-led workshopping, both giving and receiving critical evaluation of creative materials. Students are encouraged to test their work in practice with the help of readings, and informal performance. There will also be a public performance which helps students to gauge the effectiveness of their approach to scriptwriting, and to develop accordingly.

Emotionally Attuned	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	Rules of conduct within the seminars and workshops. Students will also test their collaboration skills in the development and production of practical projects which necessitate clear communication and the ability to maintain positive relationships with team members.
Inclusive Collaborator	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	An inclusive attitude within the institution that fosters understanding. Guest speakers represent a variety of diverse individuals in terms of race, gender and neuro-diversity.
Adaptable Innovator	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	A strong foundation in the key techniques which allows for creative experiment and risk-taking. Students are encouraged to find their voice, and to push their creative work to the extremities of coherent expression.
Critical Thinker	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	Critical self-reflection within workshops, seminars, and as an aspect of assignments within some of the modules.
Forward Thinker	Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	Relevant lectures and seminars which explore professional practice within the role of a scriptwriter. Industry practitioners as guest speakers will share their strategies and practices to strengthen the students' abilities to navigate the industry and operate effectively as a business.
Ethical Leader	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	Discussions about contemporary issues while exploring how themes and ideas with a practical aspect can be effectively communicated through story.

Responsible Self-Starter	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	The development of new ideas for creative projects. Weekly exercises for workshopping. The initiation and production of a complete work from inception to performance.	
Compassionately Resilient	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	Robust, compassionate feedback. Students become accustomed to the process of constructive critiquing, both to offer and receive. Through progressive workshopping the skills are developed to respond effectively to comment.	
Digitally Resourceful	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	Full deployment of digital technologies for many processes within the programme. Training in production equipment and software is included in the teaching.	

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 🔗

FULL TIME STUDY - ONE CALENDAR YEAR	
Trimester One	SCW7001-30 Story Workshop SCW7002-30 Writing for Performance
Trimester Two	SCW7003-30 Production Lab SCW7004-30 Professional Practice
Trimester Three	SCW7005-60 Final Script
PART TIME STUDY – TWO CALENDAR YEARS	
YEAR ONE	
Trimester One	SCW7001-30 Story Workshop
Trimester Two	SCW7003-30 Production Lab
Trimester Three	Students will undertake formative preparatory work for their second year of study, including SCW7005-60 Final Script, with appropriate tutor support.
YEAR TWO	
Trimester One	SCW7002-30 Writing for Performance
Trimester Two	SCW7004-30 Professional Practice
Trimester Three	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	X			
7	SCW7002-30	Writing for Performance	C		X	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	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	SCW7001-30	Story Workshop	C			1 x 4000 words		1 x 4000 words										

7	SCW7002-30	Writing for Performance	C					1 x 5500 words	1 x 2500 words							
7	SCW7003-30	Production Lab	C					1 x 4000 words	1 x 4000 words equiv.							
7	SCW7004-30	Professional Practice	C				1x 3000 words	1 x 5000 words equiv								
7	SCW7005-60	Final Script	C				1 x 2000 words equiv	1 x 12000 words equiv								