

University College
FALMOUTH



film

BA(Hons)

media at falmouth

“It was essential to the smooth running of the course that we had camera operators of professional standards and attitude. Falmouth student Neil’s can do approach, his technical ability, and willingness to embrace new ways of working were of tremendous benefit.”

John Macneill

The coordinator of Eat, Shoot & Leave
and a director of Cornwall Media Centre



tell me more about the course

Passion and originality define Film at Falmouth. We want to inspire your creative vision and critical insight. Our unique approach will equip you with the diverse skills you'll need to make your mark in this vibrant art form.

“The enthusiastic presence of UCF BA Film students at the Cornwall Film Festival added to the excitement and buzz and many managed to get unprecedented access to our top guests and talent spotters. Students entered their films into the competition for the ‘Delabole Audience Award for the Best Student Film of the Festival’, volunteered throughout the Festival weekend and interviewed top expert guests for their Film Journalism projects. Lecturers were selected to chair masterclasses with, for example, script writer Olivia Hetreed, *Girl With A Pearl Earring*, and film score composer Dickon Hinchliffe, *Keeping Mum*, and *Tindersticks* founder member.”

Lucy Frears

Director of the 2005 Cornwall Film Festival

Critical engagement

In its short but rich history, film has come a long way. We want you to develop a broad understanding of the artistic, historical and social importance of film, so you know where it has come from and where it is going. The balance between theory and practice is unique to Falmouth: you will understand how film works and why. We are committed to a challenging and stimulating learning environment that will help you find your place in the production cycle. This could mean that you are inspired by the practical challenges of the editing suite, or find your creative juices flowing in a critique of identity and globalisation issues in a range of national cinemas from Europe to Asia and beyond.

Practical and professional

The course offers three practical elements: Screenwriting, Writing about Film, and Production. Production offers a variety of approaches including experimental cinema, documentary practice and shortfilm. You will learn how a film is constructed and undertake the key elements yourself. At Falmouth you learn through doing, mastering the practical skills that are so important to your understanding of the theoretical frameworks that underpin historical and contemporary film and cinema. Writing about Film engages with a variety of reviewing styles e.g. Empire, Sight and Sound and non-review styles e.g. programme notes, DVD sleeves. Screenwriting options allow you to write for both the short film and feature length markets.

Skills

You will become an astute visual, verbal and written communicator, presenting your ideas creatively, fluently and confidently. Developing a high level of competence in both practical and professional skills is essential to your future in this competitive and rapidly evolving trade. You will develop an advanced understanding of the workings of the film industry, and all the vital elements of the film process, from preproduction, lighting, sound and digital video to postproduction. This will be coupled with a reflective understanding of

BA(Hons) film

UCAS code

W610 BA/FS

Sam Coles graduated in 2004 and has since been involved in the production of TV programmes for the BBC and films such as *Wimbledon*. He now works for Oscha productions based in Cornwall as a camera operator, editor and production team member.

the theories and debates around film that will enable you to develop a critical awareness that is essential in the application of your practical skills.

Media Centre and Learning Resource Centre

From state of the art digital video cameras to cutting-edge editing suites, the Media Centre will give you access to the wide range of technologies demanded by the film and media industries. With a collection of 140,000 books across the College's two campuses, there is no shortage of material to inspire your original, creative thinking. There are also exhaustive electronic and journal resources, a video library with over 17,000 titles from the cream of film and TV, and an extensive slide collection.

Context

We place film and cinema in a broad cultural, political and historical context so you become aware of the diversity of its role in society. We want you to understand how the world works through film. You will look at the institutions and practices of film and cinema, along with the ways in which technological developments and digitisation are changing the industry. You will examine a wide range of film genres, forms, and narratives to contextualise your own practice. This is key in the development of your creative, analytical and communication skills.

Professional practice

Our links with industry professionals mean that you take your practical skills out of the academic environment and into the workplace. Plus, working with students from a range of other disciplines will build the communication, collaborative and practical skills that ensure dynamic creative practice. It will also help you develop a level of problem solving, analytical and reflective competence that is highly desirable, both across the film and media industries and in any position requiring creative, original thinkers and doers. The College's careers advisory service will also offer advice, assisting your transition into the workplace.

What kind of job can I get?

Our graduates are highly sought after across a range of film and media related industries. Recent graduates have found employment in the Further Education sector; others have formed their own production company. Many value their experience at Falmouth so highly that they continue on to postgraduate study.



how is the course taught?

The commitment and extensive experience of our staff means that you get the very best tuition possible.

As a graduate Dan Johnson secured a place in the College's incubator space, which meant he still had access to valuable equipment and advice. There he set up his own production company with some friends from Film Studies and he has since worked on numerous films, including Cold and Dark with Matt Lucas. He is currently producing TAP TAP TAP.



Our full time and part time staff are experienced academics and industry professionals, dedicated to providing a mutual learning environment. As the course progresses, the emphasis changes from project work set by tutors in Year 1 to students running self directed projects with tutorial support during Year 2 and an increasing level, and expectation, of independence in Year 3. In addition to developing individual initiatives, we encourage you to work in groups to strengthen your skills of communication and negotiation.

The course is delivered through Study Blocks containing units covering all aspects of film theory and practice, from the importance of film as a cultural tool to timing the perfect edit. Project work is supported by lectures, seminars, workshops, professional experience and tutorials. In addition, the College's intranet site provides information to assist you with research and project work.

How is the course structured?

This is a three year, full time course. The course is composed of six units, or a combined equivalent, per academic year, each with a value of 20 credit points, excluding Year 3 major projects. To complete each year, students must acquire 120 credit points. The pass mark for each unit is 40%. Your final degree classification is a combination of your marks from Years 2 and 3, with a 70% weighting towards the latter.

How is my work assessed?

The course operates on a basis of continuous assessment, with no formal examinations. Early on in the course you will be introduced to the criteria used to assess your project work. Assessment is via a combination of visual, verbal and written assignments including project work, essays, seminar presentations and a dissertation in your final year of study.

Professional practice opportunities

Film students have previously had work placements with:

AV3 Media

Awen Productions

The BBC

Cornwall Film Festival

Deco Films

Spider Eye Ltd

Assessment at Falmouth is regarded as part of the personal learning process. Therefore you will be asked to develop peer and self evaluation skills that will be used in critical conceptual, productive and professional capacities.

Meet the staff...

Karl Phillips, Course Leader

Karl previously lectured in Film Studies at Middlesex University. He has ten years experience as a film critic for a variety of media including BBC Radio. Karl has links with the St Ives Festival and is a member of the Cornwall Film Festival committee. He is currently working on experimental film projects and short film screenplays. He also features as one half of The Decasia Twins, a DJ duo rescoring soundtracks live.

Camilla Peters, Senior Lecturer

Camilla has had a successful and extensive career in the arts, exhibiting, researching and teaching cultural studies, postcolonial studies, feminisms and art history, all of which inform her work within Film Studies. Camilla is a practising artist having exhibited in Bristol, Exeter, Bath, Dartington and throughout Cornwall. She is currently collaborating on the production of a limited edition of 20 art medals for the British Artists Medals Society (BAMS) and researching into the aesthetics and uses of home movies in mainstream film.

Mark Douglas, Senior Lecturer

Mark is passionate about his work as an educationalist. He is a registered practitioner with the Higher Education Academy and is accredited as a Higher Education teacher by the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA). Mark is also committed to community arts education and has become involved with the annual St. Ives Festival, introducing films, including *Jarman's Caravaggio*.

Exhibitions

Film have their own premiere night, complete with Pimms, at Woodlane. This is a chance to showcase some of the best and most representative work of the final year as well as clips from all of the students' projects.

In 2005 he chaired a University College Falmouth master class on adaptation and screenwriting with Olivia Hetreed *Girl With A Pearl Earring* at the Cornwall Film Festival.

Anna Misiak, Lecturer

Anna holds a PhD in sociology from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology in Warsaw, Poland. She was a Fulbright grantee at the School of Cinema-Television at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and a Polish-Czech government grantee at Charles University in Prague. She worked for the American Studies Center, Warsaw University and for Warsaw Higher School for Humanities where she taught several courses in film (history and theory), communication, and social studies. Her interests include film, freedom of speech, media studies, and sociology. Her research work and reviews have been published in Polish, American, and Canadian academic journals.

John McLardy Smith, Lecturer, Part time

John has worked on low budget feature, corporate and community project films, as well as broadcast programmes for, mostly, the BBC. He has cut documentaries, dramas, music promos, dance pieces, adverts and experimental film. Much of this range of experience was gained in working on courses with BBC TV Training; working with directors including half a dozen of the UK's currently brightest feature directors, and many others who have made a notable impact on current TV.

As well as his teaching, John also now works as a director, and sometimes cameraman, a natural progression making use of the range and depth of his film knowledge.

how does the course progress?

The course is designed to equip you with the visual, verbal and written communication skills that are essential in the film and media industries.

“Falmouth has a reputation as a high standard art college and I was not disappointed. The equipment is industry standard, the lecturers are all experienced and each have their specialised subjects to make sure as many aspects of film studies are covered. This is one of the only pure film studies courses and I’ve really enjoyed my first year.”

Simon Walsh

Year 1



Year 1

Study Block 1

- Professional Practice I 20 Credits
- Approaches to Film 20 Credits
- Criticism, Analysis and Theory 20 Credits

Study Block 2

- Professional Practice II 20 Credits
- History of the Moving Image 20 Credits
- Post-War World Cinema 20 Credits

Here you will develop an understanding not only of how film operates culturally, historically, and socially, but also why. You will look at the institutions of film, genre, form, and narrative structure, all of which are underpinned by the theories of production and consumption that are central to your holistic grasp of film and cinema. This theoretical and conceptual approach to film is vital to your own creative output. Digital video production and editing enables you to practically apply the skills we teach you in the classroom, while emphasising the importance of collaborative work. Screenings, seminars and workshops will enhance your visual, verbal, and written communication, developing the analytical, practical, and peer and self evaluation skills that are so important to your studies.

Year 2

Study Block 1

- Documentary or Writing About Film 20 Credits
- Postmodernism, Film & New Media 20 Credits
- Plus one 20 credit option unit 20 Credits

(indicative examples):

- American Cinema
- Black Cinema
- Representation
- Women & Film
- Film & National Identities: British Cinema

Erasmus

Year 2 includes the option to study in Europe as part of the Erasmus scheme or take part in an international exchange programme. Recent media course exchanges have taken place with Enchede in Holland, Turku Polytechnic in Finland & Nagoya University, Japan.

Study Block 2

- Experimental Cinema or
Advanced Screenwriting 20 Credits
- Audience, Archive or
Work Placement Case Study 20 Credits
- Plus one 20 credit option unit 20 Credits
(indicative examples):
 - American Cinema
 - Black Cinema
 - Representation
 - Women & Film
 - Film & National Identities: British Cinema

The creative, intellectual and analytical skills developed in Year 1 pave the way for the continued exploration of film and its genres in Year 2. From writing to lighting, we place increased emphasis on the practical elements of all aspects of film production to further your critical awareness and engagement with the subject. We expect you to take charge of your own learning; to start asking questions, unpicking, analysing, and deconstructing the many facets of film and cinema. Seminars, workshops and practical projects nurture your creativity in communication and collaborative problem solving. We also emphasise the importance of reflective practice. This applies both to the possible limitations of the theoretical frameworks that are appropriate to film and cinema, and to those of your own creative and critical practice.

The indicative option units in Year 2 enable you to focus on the particular areas of the subject that interest and engage you most. Whether it be writing a critical feature for Sight and Sound, building the characters in your short film, or editing the rushes for your documentary, Year 2 offers progressive opportunities to build your practical, professional, and critical skills. The Research & Method units enable you to take your skills off campus. They are designed to give you further understanding of what film is doing, how and why. Here, practical, off campus experience supports your continued critical engagement.

Competition winners

Our students are regular prize winners: Dan Johnson won the prestigious Delabole Slate Best Student Film Award at the Cornwall film Festival in 2004. And in 2005 Marie Foulston impressed the judges with her ideas and pitch for *TAP TAP TAP*, winning £5,000 to make the film in Cornish. Also included in the prize were gems such as editing at Sprout Media, recording at Troubador Studios, free dubbing at a professional studio, archive material from South West Film and Television Archive, equipment from Cornwall Media Resource, translation and mentoring by Cornwall Film Festival Board experts as well as mentoring from ITV Westcountry and BBC South West Television professionals.

Year 3

Study Block 1 & 2

- Research Practice 20 Credits
- Followed by**
- Dissertation 40 Credits
- And**
- Professional Development Portfolio 20 Credits
- Followed by**
- Professional Practice Portfolio 40 Credits

The final year of study consolidates the creative, professional and critical skills developed so far, along with your knowledge of the institutions, genres and practices of film and cinema. During Year 3 you study independently, set your own goals, multi task and develop planning and self management skills. Your dissertation focuses on your chosen field of study, and will include exhaustive research from a range of sources. Your Practical Portfolio enables you to focus your skills according to your strengths and aspirations. The indicative option units allow further development of your practical and theoretical skills.

“The course is a really interesting mix of practical and hands on learning. Plus, the staff are willing to help and are very knowledgeable.”

Beth Allen

Year 2

how do I apply?

We welcome applications from students with appropriate qualifications, prior relevant learning or experience, or demonstrable interest and knowledge in a subject. We welcome students of all ages, from all countries, backgrounds and cultures.

Applications are made online through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) at <http://www.ucas.ac.uk>

If you are returning to learning and for all other enquiries please contact Admissions to find out how to apply through UCAS. Students from outside the EU, please contact the International Office.

Admissions, University College Falmouth,
Woodlane, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4RH

Web: www.falmouth.ac.uk/admissions
Tel: +44 (0)1326 214368
Fax: +44 (0)1326 213880
Email: admissions@falmouth.ac.uk

Typical entry requirements

220 points on the UCAS tariff, mainly from the A2 level, or the equivalent in appropriate AVCE/Advanced GNVQ, National Diploma or Access to HE Awards, or experience. For further information please contact Admissions. Consult the website for answers to frequently asked questions. Refer to the 'Courses' section or type 'FAQ' in the search box.

International applicants

If you are applying from outside the EU, our International Office is your main point of contact. Staff will be pleased to provide information about courses, applications, entry qualifications, accommodation, life and study in Britain, visas and any other needs.

The International Office, University College Falmouth,
Woodlane, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4RH UK

Web: www.falmouth.ac.uk/international
Tel: +44 (0)1326 213794
Fax: +44 (0)1326 370725
Email: international@falmouth.ac.uk

The British Council can give you information about national scholarships and other possible sources of financial assistance.



Fees and financial support

UK and EU students

The College's Finance Office will advise you on tuition fees and other charges, e.g. optional field trips, as well as financial support. Further information can also be found in the prospectus and on our website.

Web: www.falmouth.ac.uk/studentfinance
Tel: +44 (0)1326 213778
Email: student.fees@falmouth.ac.uk

Open days

To find out more about Film at University College Falmouth, why not come and meet the staff and students at one of our open days held throughout the year. For more information visit our website www.falmouth.ac.uk/opendays

Prospectus and course leaflets

For our full prospectus, other course leaflets and further information please contact the Admissions department. Students from outside the EU please contact the International Office.

Web: www.falmouth.ac.uk/admissions
Tel: +44 (0)1326 214368
Fax: +44 (0)1326 213880
Email: admissions@falmouth.ac.uk

Increasing access

We welcome applications from disabled students, and are committed to providing an environment that promotes equality of opportunity and access, celebrates diversity and creates an atmosphere of dignity and respect for all students and staff. Our Disability Equality Scheme is dedicated to removing problems that disabled people might face, and to enhancing and improving equality of opportunity.

Web: www.falmouth.ac.uk/studentsservices
Email: accessibility@falmouth.ac.uk
Tel: Accessibility Adviser – 01326 253629/213737
Accessibility Manager – 01326 370443

If you would like copies of our promotional material in formats that are accessible to the visually impaired, please contact Admissions on 01326 213730.

“The lecturers are really cool; expert and approachable, and willing to reward the effort you put in. The variety of modules is great; there’s a chance to try all sorts of approaches to a range of topics. Studying on two different campuses is great; a choice of environments to suit your mood.”

Vincent Robinson

Year 3

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