

**Course outline: Cameras, Sound, and
Multi-Camera Directing and Vision Mixing for TV Production**

The MA in Cameras, Sound, and Multi Camera Directing and Vision Mixing for TV Production is a specialisation within the broader MA in Film, Television and Games.

The course runs for 12 months and is designed to deliver training and practical experience so that you have the skills and professional behaviour to compete for work as a camera assistant, sound assistant or trainee vision mixer in the TV industry and to progress in your chosen specialism as opportunities arise. You will be expected to show that you can operate professionally both individually and as part of a wider production team. You will be taught by industry professionals who specialise in your area of study and others who produce or direct TV Entertainment shows. You will work with students from the Developing and Producing Unscripted Formats and Sport Production MA courses, plus a number of related support production courses.

The course begins with an introduction to the television production process from idea to delivery and an overview of some of the key elements, such as bar counting and chromakey, that are used to realise these projects. You will be introduced to the language of television, how scripts are laid out and examine the different genres that make up Television Entertainment programming. This is made up of joint workshops with the Developing and Producing Unscripted Formats students.

The course is made up of seven modules.

Course Elements

The course consists of a logical progression of classes, practical workshops and modules, taught and overseen by industry professionals run over 3 terms starting in Jan each year. Teaching sessions usually takes place during Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 5.30pm.

Knowledge is imparted and experience gained through workshops and production experience.

Induction and Introduction to Camera, Sound, and Multi-Camera Directing and Vision Mixing for TV Production

The course is designed to give students a good understanding of Television Entertainment programmes and to develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours necessary to enable them to work effectively as part of a professional TV studio crew.

The first stage of the course concentrates on the fundamentals of TV and the Television Entertainment genre and will include studio familiarisation, theory and

practical exercises to give students a good understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the studio team and the way the roles work together to deliver high quality programmes.

During the second stage, students will specialise in cameras/lighting, sound or vision mixing and this will include a placement at Sky Studios for six weeks. They will also crew for the Developing and Producing Unscripted Formats, and Sports MA students for several exercises in the NFTS Television Studio.

There are six key milestones:

1. Media Technology Fundamentals assessment
2. Producing and agreeing a Personal Development Plan with the Course Leader
3. Producing a presentation on a Television Entertainment show of their choice
4. Mid-course Progress Review
5. Industry Reviewer Meeting
6. Final Progress Review including external input from Sky Studios.

The course comprises the following modules and workshops:

Introduction

- Foundation
An introduction to the School, to the TV Entertainment genre and production roles
- Springboard
Meet tutors from across the school and sample the breadth of the NFTS
- TV Grammar
Every profession has its own language, which is critical to rapid, concise, precise communication.

Modules

Module 1 – TV Studio Familiarisation

Students will gain a good understanding of the roles and responsibilities in a TV studio and how they work together as a team. There will be sessions on basic lighting, camerawork, vision mixing and sound prior to experience in the studio. Students will be given safety training and will work in a number of roles. Students will begin to focus on their chosen disciplines part way through this module.

Module 2 - Media Technology Fundamentals

Classroom based learning. Students will be introduced to the technology concepts that make TV work and the workflows used from pre-studio to broadcast. There will be a practical assessment at the end of this module.

Module 3 – TV Studio Specialism: Cameras, Sound, and Multi-Camera Directing and Vision Mixing for TV Production.

Students will prepare for their second studio session and will continue to focus on their chosen discipline. Once in the studio they will work with professional directors and MA directing students alongside various tutors across all disciplines to learn the basic skills of their roles.

Module 4 - Sky Work Placement

Students will move to Sky Studios for six weeks for peer-led training on real shows. This module will be managed by Sky and is a unique opportunity to train in a new state-of-the-art digital HD studio facility. Students will work alongside, and be mentored by, Sky professional crew. Students are expected to cover any increased travel or accommodation costs arising from this work experience/ training arrangement. In the event that the Sky Work Placement is not possible, extra studio sessions will be scheduled to take place at the NFTS in August.

Module 5 - NFTS Sky Studio Shoots: Multi Camera Shows of Different Genres

Students will work with leading industry professionals on key TV Entertainment show genres. Classroom based teaching sessions will take place at the NFTS and the shows will then be made at Sky Studios or in the NFTS TV Studio. Sky staff will augment the NFTS teaching team to facilitate this and Sky staff will evaluate student performance and provide feedback.

Module 6 - Presentation

Worked on from the end of Module 3 until the end of October, this presentation takes a current UK Television Entertainment show (of each student's choice) as its subject. Students must describe the life cycle of the programme from idea to transmission, by carrying out a presentation in front of the whole group, which is then followed by a Q+A.

Module 7 - Master's Portfolio

The Master's Portfolio requires you to demonstrate evidence of, and critical reflection on, your professional and creative practice throughout the course. The final portfolio should not only act as a record of your work on the course but as a dynamic document that critically examines your journey, growth, and the evolving relationship between your creative practice and professional skills and aspirations in film and TV. You will submit your portfolio before your final Progress Review, in which you should be prepared to answer questions on it.

Other Components of the MA

Meet the Industry

You will meet numerous professionals, visiting tutors, alumni and lecturers from a wide range of industry backgrounds throughout the course during workshops, seminars, visits and on productions. Where possible case studies and specific meetings are used to ground your learning in an industry context. A tour of BBC Studioworks TV Centre at White City is planned for the early part of the course. We aim to arrange other visits as opportunities arise throughout the year.

Work Experience

In addition to Module 4: the Sky Work Placement arrangement, BBC Studioworks offers four days of work experience on EastEnders at their Elstree site. Students are expected to cover their own travel costs if they elect to participate in this. Students are encouraged to seek out work experience and visits and to build their network while on the course. Wherever possible we will adjust schedules or release students from course commitments to facilitate this but some elements of the curriculum cannot be moved or missed.