

Course outline: Directing Animation

The MA in Directing Animation is a specialisation within the broader MA in Film and Television.

This programme covers two years and is designed for students who demonstrate an ability to animate and have an interest in visual storytelling. All teaching staff are practising filmmakers using a variety of animated techniques. The department offers the opportunity to use: traditional 2D and 3D animation as well as a variety of current digital techniques. Students have access to studios for both model or full size sets.

Year One

Foundation Course – We run an introductory course before the beginning of the first term. In a relax atmosphere, students are introduced to storytelling through sound, framing/lighting, characters and documentary interviewing.

“Springboard”. A Cross Specialisation Introductory Workshop – an introduction to film and television, looking at cinematic and televisual language through the prism of storytelling.

Project 1: Pre-Production: From Ideas to Animatics – Cross Specialisation with Screenwriting and Editing intended to help develop more dramatic, concise and emotional storytelling.

Animation Masterclasses – Across the year, there are several practical workshops that help improve animation skills in sand, drawn and stop-motion puppet animation.

Character of Place – Cross Specialisation with Production Design and Cinematography. This workshop uses life size sets, experiential photography and the animation technique of pixellation, to bring a location found in a picture to life.

Project 2: Character Film – Cross Specialisation with Screenwriting and Editing in which you collectively write, direct and produce an animated film with two well developed and dynamic characters.

Festival Visits – Attendance at a UK or overseas Animation Festival (Annecy in 2017 and 2018)

Project 3: Animation Technique and Sound – Cross Specialisation with Sound Design and Editing in which you generate an idea from a given soundtrack produced by the Sound Design students. The project encourages to be more experimental with the design and technique.

Design and Animation – Cross Specialisation with Production Design to explore the variety of techniques production designers and animation directors can use to work together particularly in relation to the second year films.

Graduation Film Development

Through a series of short workshops and trips, students develop potential ideas for their grad film.

Animation Screen Arts and Dissertation

As well as the school screen arts' programme, there are talks and presentations on all aspects of the world of animation.

Year Two

The second year of the MA is almost entirely taken up with the development and production of a short animated film which will be an important part of the graduation process and a calling card for students' further employment in the animation industry. Students return at the start of Year Two with three embryonic ideas. Through discussion with writing, producing and directing tutors the final film is chosen. This should be approximately 6-minutes long but may vary according to the technique.