

Course Outline: Editing

The MA in Editing is a specialisation within the broader **MA in Film and Television**.

You will work to industry standards using high-end facilities. You are encouraged to consider your craft as part of the whole process of film and television production, developing your skills as both a narrative and technical editor.

You will collaborate on a wide range of projects, putting into practice the skills you learn throughout the course.

During your time at the National Film and Television School, amongst other projects, you will complete four graduation films which will be shown to industry at the Graduation Showcase.

Course facilities

Throughout the course, you will have your own dedicated editing suite. We have a large number of specially equipped cutting rooms running AVID Media Composer, as well as other relevant software.

Year One

The first year contains six assessed project-based modules, and a wealth of other exercises and workshops.

- Module 1 – Moment of Truth (documentary)
- Module 2 – Beyond Time (fiction)
- Module 3 – Science & Natural History Graduation Film
- Module 4 – Animation
- Module 5 – First Year Film (fiction)
- Module 6 – Question (documentary)

Module 1: Moment of Truth

This module is a collaborative exercise alongside Directing Documentary, Sound Design and Composing. You will create a short film about an individual experiencing a moment of change. This will be assessed by tutors in individual and group reviews.

Module 2: Beyond Time

In this module you will experiment with cinematic time to create a coherent story where staging, image and sound are used to their fullest potential (dialogue is kept to a minimum). This is a collaboration with Directing Fiction, Cinematography, Sound Design and Composing students, to create a short film with intentional limitations on actors, time, budget, location and film stock. The Directing Fiction students will write scripts that work within these limitations, with the aim of getting the most from the resources available.

Module 3: Science & Natural History Graduation Film

After your summer break you will edit the first of your four graduation films. During the six week edit you will work closely with second year SNH Directors, Composing and Sound Design students to create films of approximately 20 minutes in length that tackle science and natural history subjects from around the globe. These films will be shown at the end of year graduation showcase, which you will attend.

Module 4: Animation

This workshop gives the students a conceptual and practical introduction to animation techniques, the different story forms and ways of developing animation ideas. Further seminars and workshops will happen throughout the year, in collaboration with the Directing Animation students, in order to build students' knowledge about the role of the editor in animation, prior to starting to develop their Animation Graduation Film in the second year.

Module 5: First Year Film

Throughout the first-year ideas and scripts will be developed for a 5-10-minute film which is shot and edited during the autumn term. Scripts will be developed by the Producers and Directors in conjunction with Screenwriters, Cinematographers, Production Designers, Location Sound Recordists and Sound Designers. The Composers provide the music and the films are edited and mixed by the end of the year.

Module 6: Question

This module is a joint exercise between Directing Documentary, Editing, Sound Design, Composing, Production Management and Location Sound Recording, introducing you to the basic principles of enquiry through film-making. Directing students will be asked to identify a question about the world and to make a documentary film that attempts to answer that question. The heart of the task is not so much finding the answers but in identifying a subject that's ripe for interrogation, and to be inventive and tenacious in the film-making process. You will be assessed on the extent to which you deliver a coherent and revealing piece of work – on schedule.

Other Seminars & Workshops

Alongside the modules there will be a number of exercises, workshops and seminars including:

Springboard Cross Specialisation Introductory Weeklong Workshop

A cross-school, interdisciplinary introduction to film and television, looking at cinematic and televisual language through the prism of storytelling. The aim of the week is to deepen your understanding of the contribution of other departments, and also to get you to meet as many students from other disciplines as possible.

Screen Arts

Each Monday is dedicated to Screen Arts, with lectures by filmmakers and theorists, masterclasses and screenings of historically and artistically relevant films. Topics include documentary techniques, how to read a script and understand scene structure, the relationship between sound and image and the use of genre in narrative filmmaking. Screen Arts is a compulsory element of the course up to the Easter break, and all first year students, across

disciplines are expected to attend.

Avid Training

Editing students will be given tuition in Avid Media Composer: setting up projects, basic editing tools, logging, syncing, and audio editing will be covered, together with generating turnover materials, using effects, trouble-shooting and project management. Do not worry if you have never used Avid before, we will teach you everything you need to know.

Beyond The Frame

This workshop is a joint exercise between Directing Documentary, Editing, Sound Design and Composing, designed to let you explore the creative potential of sound in documentary and how it can help develop character, story, ideas and emotions. Directors will work closely with sound designers, editors and composers to experiment with the juxtaposition of sound and image, creating a 3-5 minute short film which pushes the boundaries of film language. You will explore the value of collaboration and how to communicate subtle and abstract ideas with clarity. You are encouraged to be playful in your approach.

Year Two

In Year Two, the emphasis is on longer productions and advanced workshops.

- Module 7 – Digi Fiction
- Module 8 – Grad Documentary
- Module 9 – Grad Fiction
- Module 10 – Grad Animation

Module 7: Digi Fiction

In this module, students deliver a short film using digital technology and operating within tight production and financial parameters. Directors are encouraged to take risks, to draw on what they have learned in the first year, to challenge themselves to develop their confidence in expressive use of film language. Directors will again be encouraged to build their skills in collaborative leadership, working with: Cinematographers, Location Sound Recordists, Production Managers, Assistant Directors, Editors, Composers, Sound Designers and Production Designers.

Modules 8,9 & 10: Grad Animation, Grad Fiction & Grad Documentary

The majority of Year Two is dedicated to extended productions that are shot on film, or digital format, edited on Avid and fully post-produced through on-line or master print with a final sound mix. These are cross- specialist productions where Editors collaborate with Fiction/Documentary/Animation Directors, Cinematographers, Sound Designers, Composers, Production Designers and Screenwriters, all overseen by the schools Post Supervisor, tutors and Heads of Department.

This is a bringing together of all the skills you have been developing during your time at the school.

1.Commercials

Over the course of your two years you'll be asked to edit 1-2 commercials a year with the directors from the Directing Commercials course. This gives you the opportunity to build your showreel and hone the skill of telling a story within 30 seconds.

2. Advanced Editing

MA in Editing
Commencing January 2025

Across the two years you will attend workshops covering advanced techniques in editing and editing room protocols. In past years, these have included a Music Editing Workshop, a Comedy Editing Workshop, opportunities to edit scenes from fiction and documentary features, Assistant Editing Workshops, to name just a few.

3. Industry Familiarisation

All of your tutors will be industry professionals, and so you will have many opportunities to ask questions and gain insight about the life of a working editor. There will also be seminars on business skills, free-lancing, CV writing, accounting, networking and beginning your career after graduation, as well as chances to speak with recent graduates, about their experiences.

Dissertation

You are required to complete a dissertation as part of your MA. There are two dissertation options: (1) a written dissertation of between 7,000 and 10,000 words; or (2) a video essay of between 15 and 20 minutes in duration.

The purpose of the dissertation is to give you the opportunity to undertake independent research, explore the nature of your discipline through working on a subject of your choice and increase your knowledge of the creative aspects of film, television or games. It gives you the time and opportunity to think about and develop your ideas on the aesthetic and conceptual aspects of your work at the NFTS, and to reflect critically on your own and others' practice.

You will start work on your dissertation in your first year, identifying and agreeing a suitable subject with the Screen Arts and departmental dissertation tutors in spring. You will submit a 500-word proposal by mid-June, and follow this by delivering a 2,000-word chapter and detailed progress report/plan (if you are preparing a written dissertation) or a minimum five minutes of edited material and detailed outline/timeline (if you are preparing a video essay), by early November. You may not progress into the second year unless this is completed and considered satisfactory.

Once in your second year, you will continue working on your dissertation, submitting a full first draft, receiving tutor feedback on this and lastly submitting the final draft. Specific deadlines for each stage in the second year vary from course to course in light of each department's work commitments.