

Course outline: Diploma in Location Sound Recording for Film and Television

This unique 15-month postgraduate diploma course has been developed in direct response to industry demands for suitably trained production sound professionals and aims to give high quality training in theory and practice of recording sound for picture both on location and in our state-of-the-art 4K multi-camera television studio, as well as Fisher Boom training and experience of in-studio music recording and post-production techniques. You will collaborate with students in other specialisms to make several films over the course of your studies.

The course represents a steady progression beginning with the definition of sound both technically and aesthetically. During the first Autumn term basic technology and sound recording skills are covered and for the rest of the course you will learn through practical exercises ending with the responsibility for sound recording on a range of graduation films. At each stage additional skills are added through specific workshops - e.g. mic placement and multitrack recording techniques, to provide a comprehensive education that is of great value in understanding and communicating with other industry professionals.

Knowledge is imparted and experience gained through workshops and production experience. In addition to this, further training is given in health & safety and you will also be offered training sessions on business studies and career development.

Using the latest equipment and technology, you will work on both fiction, documentary and light entertainment projects.

By the end of the course you will have evidence of work in:

- location and studio acquisition sound for film and video
- Television Multicamera Studio production sound and post-production sound

Whilst you will participate in modules run jointly with other disciplines, the accent is on a continuous process of learning through practical exercises, workshops and tutorials. The core subjects with the workshops and exercises employed to teach them are listed below.

Course Elements:

- Basic Sound and Electronics
- Recording principles and timecode
- File Based Location Recorders
- Microphone theory and construction
- Radio microphone theory
- Audio recording on file base digital camera
- ENG & Drama production mixers
- Music & Broadcast sound desks, principles of operation, routing & outboard equipment
- Boom operation; single camera, (handheld boom) multicamera (Fisher boom)
- Lights and Lenses

Workshops Offered:

- single camera ENG operation
- boom, lighting and lens workshop
- multi-track File Based Hard Disc Location Recording principles and techniques
- music Playback
- the Post-Production process (Syncing rushes, basic tracklay and mix)
- television production, studio, gallery and technical areas H&S, Directing, Camera and sound exercise(s)
- Television Sound desk and Grams desk operation and routing.
- broadcast sound supervisor "as live" mixing exercise(s)
- basic television sound post

Production Experience may include:

- 1st Year Investigative Documentary
- 1st Year Film Exercise
- 1st Year Documentary Exercise
- 1st Year Television Multicamera Light Entertainment exercise
- 1st Year Fiction exercises - Interpreting the Scene
- 2nd year Fiction Digital Film Project
- 2nd year Documentary Graduation Production (15-30 min)
- 2nd year Fiction Graduation Production – Film/HD (10-15 min)
- 2nd year Television Graduation Production
- Television Studio productions

Health and Safety

Risk Assessment and Health & Safety modules are presented as an integral part of technical workshops and productions.

Business studies

Business Skills seminars, including CV preparation, professional networking, negotiation techniques, interview training and working as a freelancer are delivered by a leading Below the Line agent and financial management, tax reporting, invoicing and accounting are delivered by an accounting company specialising in the media industries as part of the course in preparation for work in film and TV production.

Optional Productions may include:

- Recording 1st or 2nd year Kodak commercials
- Outside Broadcast and/or Live Events Music Recording
- Personal projects