

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

This unique 15-month postgraduate diploma course is a comprehensive program designed to prepare you for a career in location sound recording. It has been designed to meet the industry's growing demand for highly trained sound crew for film and television productions, 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, boom operating, 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.

Upon completion of this diploma program, students will be able to:

- Understand the fundamentals of sound, acoustics, and audio equipment.
- Operate professional location sound recording equipment effectively.
- Capture high-quality audio in various on-location settings.
- Collaborate with film and television production teams.
- Troubleshoot common sound recording issues.
- Adhere to industry standards and best practices for location sound recording.
- Demonstrate professionalism, communication, and teamwork skills in a production

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**Introduction to Sound**

- Basics of acoustics
- Sound propagation and reflection
- Audio physics and terminology
- Practical exercises and demonstrations

Audio Equipment and Technology

- Overview of audio recording equipment
- Microphones, and mixers
- Wireless audio systems
- Recording media and formats
- Maintenance and troubleshooting

Location Sound Recording Techniques

- Pre-production sound planning
- On-set audio setup and monitoring
- Boom operation and microphone placement
- Field recording and soundscapes
- Noise reduction and sound isolation
- Working with directors, producers, and other crew members
- Effective communication and teamwork
- Understanding the script and project requirements
- On-set etiquette and professionalism

Industry Standards and Best Practices

- Safety protocols on set
- Industry regulations and unions
- Networking and career development
- Practical application of skills on real-world projects
- Internship opportunities with industry professionals
- Portfolio development

Workshops Offered:

- Single camera ENG operation
- Boom, lighting and lens workshop
- 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)

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