

Postgraduate Diploma Programme Specification for Students Registering from 1 September 2023

NFTS

**NATIONAL
FILM AND
TELEVISION
SCHOOL**

Award	Programme Title	Duration	Mode of Study
NFTS Diploma	Postgraduate Diploma	From 1 year to 18 months	Full Time only

Teaching Institution	The National Film and Television School
Awarding Institution	The National Film and Television School
Qualifications Framework	Level 7 on the FHEQ
Date of most recent validation	June 2019
Programme Specification Date	June 2023

1. Educational Aims of the Programme

The NFTS Postgraduate Diploma Aims

The Postgraduate Diploma is designed to nurture talent, to provide the highest calibre education, and to empower graduates to play leading roles in the media industries by:

- Developing students' practical skills;
- Developing students' abilities to devise creative and innovative approaches;
- Developing students' knowledge and critical abilities;
- Developing students' communication skills in a range of modes and contexts;
- Developing students' personal and interpersonal skills;
- Developing students' professional skills and qualities.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes of the Programme

Key attributes are:

- Practical Skills
- Creativity and Innovation
- Knowledge and Understanding
- Communication
- Personal Development

- Professionalism.

Having completed a Postgraduate Diploma programme at the NFTS, students should be able to:

Practical Skills

- Produce work which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their professional discipline;
- Demonstrate an advanced understanding of technical processes and practices in their discipline;
- Command a range of techniques in the service of making and/or sharing stories.

Creativity and Innovation

- Experiment with techniques in order to extend their own abilities;
- Explore and test the boundaries of their discipline;
- Translate innovative ideas into practice;
- Have the courage to take creative risks.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Critically evaluate the aims, success and/or failure of their own work and that of others;
- Be able to solve problems and plan complex projects independently and collaboratively;
- Investigate and apply theories, concepts and principles relating to their discipline;
- Understand the contexts of their discipline (e.g. historical, contemporary, aesthetic, cultural, technological and ethical).

Communication

- Communicate with clarity to a range of people;
- Communicate appropriately in a range of contexts;
- Communicate with honesty, integrity and consistency;
- Provide well-argued justifications for creative decisions;
- Give positive and negative feedback to others constructively, clearly and respectfully;
- Respond to positive and negative feedback from others constructively, clearly and respectfully.

Personal Development

- Work with a range of collaborators effectively and respectfully, as both a leader and a member of a group;

- Demonstrate resilience when problems and difficulties are encountered;
- Practise independence and confidence in a range of complex situations;
- Take responsibility for their work through setting goals and managing time and resources effectively, demonstrating flexibility and agility where required;
- Identify and acknowledge personal strengths and weaknesses, and work on improvements;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of personal-goal setting and modify plans when necessary.

Professionalism

- Understand the range and limits of their own, and others', professional responsibility and act accordingly;
- Evaluate possible career paths in their discipline;
- Develop and maintain industry contacts;
- Identify and exploit professional opportunities;
- Recognise and act on the need for continuing professional development;
- Create and maintain a high-quality public-facing professional profile;
- Exercise 'professionalism' in their chosen field, however this is defined, modifying their practice where necessary.

3. Programme Structure and Curriculum

Specialisations

There are 6 pathways on this Postgraduate Diploma award:

- Assistant Directing & Floor Managing – one year; full-time
- Cameras, Sound & Vision Mixing for Television Production - one year; full-time
- Location Sound Recording for Film and Television – 15 months; full-time
- Model Making for Animation – one year; full-time
- Motion Graphics & Titles – one year; full-time
- Production Management for Film and Television – one year; full-time.

Credit Framework

Postgraduate Diplomas in Assistant Directing & Floor Managing, Cameras, Sound & Vision Mixing for Television Production, Model Making for Animation, Motion Graphics & Titles, Production Management for Film and Television

The NFTS operates a credit framework in accordance with which the course is rated at 120 credits. Each term carries 40 credits. In order to achieve the award of Postgraduate Diploma, all modules, workshops and projects in each Unit will have been completed satisfactorily and you will have passed both the Interim and Final Progress Reviews.

Term 1 (Unit 1)	Term 2 (Unit 2)	Term 3 (Unit 3)
40 Credits	40 Credits	40 Credits
	Interim Progress Review	Final Progress Review

Postgraduate Diploma in Location Sound Recording for Film and Television

The NFTS operates a credit framework in accordance with which the course is rated at 120 credits. Each term comprises one unit and each unit carries 30 credits. In order to achieve the award of the Postgraduate Diploma, all modules, workshops and projects in each Unit will have been completed satisfactorily and you will have passed both the Interim and Final Progress Reviews.

Term 1 (Unit 1)	Term 2 (Unit 2)	Term 3 (Unit 3)	Term 4 (Unit 4)
30 credits	30 credits	30 credits	30 credits
	Interim Progress Review		Final Progress Review

Teaching Weeks and Contact Time

Students receive some 40 weeks of teaching, normally with 10-20 contact hours per week dependent on the module taken, and are encouraged to follow the Screen Arts module as well.

Cross Postgraduate Diploma Teaching and Learning Strands

Screen Arts, Masterclasses and the Cinema Club

Postgraduate Diploma students are encouraged to attend the Screen Arts and Masterclasses programmes and the Cinema Club where the curriculum allows.

Screen Arts

Screen Arts is a unique programme designed to give each student at the NFTS the opportunity to engage with the history, contemporary practice and wider culture of the moving image. Throughout the year it provides a series of talks, discussions and screenings, encouraging students to explore, debate and reflect upon questions of creativity. This in turn can inform and inspire students' own development as practitioners, enabling them to understand their work in context.

Although the students who come to study at the NFTS are all united by the desire to engage with the process of creating for the screen, be it in film, television, games and/or digital effects, they bring to the NFTS widely differing experiences of screen history and media culture. Screen Arts is there to create a forum where these differing levels of experience can meet. The emphasis is on giving access to a wide range of ideas from informed and expert speakers, as well as providing a broad variety of films and other forms of moving image material to watch and discuss.

The programme provides a focus for discovery, review and a free flow of ideas around screen arts past, present and future, where imagination and creative vision can find stimulation and nourishment.

The aim is to bring together a broad range of contributors, not just from the worlds of film, television and games, but from the arts, culture and beyond. The intention is to provide a firm grounding in key concepts and concerns, whilst also giving space for provocation, stimulation and inspiration.

The goal is, finally, to cultivate each student's confidence in their own informed judgement, fostering their ability to assess and evaluate their own and other people's work independently and effectively.

Masterclasses

The NFTS regularly arranges Masterclasses for students, both at the School and at venues in London. Masterclasses and seminars with filmmakers give students the opportunity to learn from and interact with established and experienced professionals as they discuss their approach to filmmaking. These are organised throughout the year, they are optional and open to all students. Students have the opportunity to hear from, question and be inspired by distinguished filmmakers from around the world. The NFTS invites a wide range of leading filmmakers to give seminars and Masterclasses.

Cinema Club

Every week during term time students can see a forthcoming or newly released film in the NFTS's cinema arranged by the NFTS Events team. Films cover the spectrum of international production, from Oscar nominated shorts, low-budget independent features to Hollywood blockbusters and include all genres including animation, documentary as well as fiction feature films.

4. Learning and Teaching Methods

Individual Tutorials

Tutors in individual departments are available for consultation, with students allocated separate tutors for different aspects of the curriculum. During the course there are regular tutorials to ensure that there is an opportunity to discuss and develop understanding and skills. The aim of the tutorials is to encourage the student to get the best out of themselves and to apply a critical, self-reflexive approach to their own practice. Supportive and enabling tutorials allow for discussion and constructive challenge, providing space for the student to step back and reflect on their own work. Group tutorials are held to discuss questions and issues arising from the curriculum.

One-on-one mentoring will also be available to the students from the tutors and allocated industry professionals to provide them with more individual and tailored feedback and support.

Self-Evaluation

Student progress is monitored and assessed by means of written self-evaluations supported by tutorial feedback and assessments.

Health and Safety

As an employer and a place of higher education, the NFTS holds the principles of Health & Safety as important – both as a legal responsibility and as an educational opportunity.

The safety management elements of all the courses at the NFTS are tailored to fulfil both the requirements for the production activities of the practical training at the school, but also to prepare students for the Health & Safety needs of their future professional careers.

Upon enrolment the NFTS Health & Safety Policy will be available to every student.

Production Costs

Unlike other film schools, all production costs for those on filmmaking courses are met by the NFTS.

5. Assessment

General

Self-assessment is an important element of the programme and students are invited to discuss their progress with their tutors on a regular basis.

There are two Progress Reviews during the course where students receive a written report from their Head of Department and can compare this with their own self-assessment.

Students are seen by an Industry Reviewer at the end of the course and have an opportunity to show their work and receive an objective opinion from an external industry practitioner. The report from the Industry Reviewer forms part of the Final Progress Review.

At the interim progress review students must have satisfactorily met the module learning outcomes for the first part of the course in order to progress into the second half of the course.

Final Review

All students must attend a meeting of the Final Review Panel which takes at the end of the student's course. The Panel includes the relevant Head of Department and a Head of Department from another course. The student's progress on the course and their final project is considered, and subject to the student demonstrating satisfactory achievement of the course learning outcomes they are recommended to the Final Board of Examiners for an award.

The full Academic Regulations can be found [here](#).

6. Admissions

Entry Requirements

These are detailed on the website - <https://nfts.co.uk/entry-requirements>

Further information can be found on each of the specific course webpages.