

The National Film and Television School

LEARNING, TEACHING & ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY 2023

CONTEXT

1. Delivering a world-class educational experience across the full range of our provision is our top priority at the NFTS and it is central to the NFTS Corporate Plan 2023.
2. The mission of the School, as reaffirmed in the 2023 plan, is to discover and develop the skills and talent of new and emerging film, television and games makers - where ever they come from and what ever their means - so they have the opportunity and support to develop the higher level globally competitive skills required by industry.
3. This Learning, Teaching & Enhancement Strategy sets out how the NFTS in this next period of its development intends to deliver on this mission.
4. The strategy is sub divided into two parts. Part A sets out the strategic School-wide education enhancement objectives that we hope to achieve by 2023 and the activities we will undertake to deliver them. Part B sets out our approach to more bottom up course specific enhancement. When combined they create a potent atmosphere of continual improvement.

UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES

5. This Strategy is underpinned by the principles agreed by NFTS Heads of Department and tutors in 2017 and that we are committed to enshrining in our educational practice:
 - To nurture, develop and challenge the individual voice of each student.

Each student brings with them a unique set of talents, experiences and expectations, and we provide an environment that enables them to develop their creative and professional identity. As such, each teaching department and specialisation has its own distinct methods and outcomes, and each individual within that programme has the opportunity to shape how they progress through that curriculum.

- To instill the value of collaboration and team work

Film, Television and Games making is an inherently collaborative process. We stress at all times the importance of team and the creative benefits of different specialism's combining together to make something greater than

the sum of their individual parts.

- To encourage creative risk taking

In encouraging students to push at personal and professional boundaries, we expect them to take risks. The freedom to make mistakes is an important part of the learning process.

- To value process as much as outcome

The manner in which students make their film, television and games projects is as important as the final creative product. For example, meeting deadlines dealing professionally with contributors and collaborating effectively with team members make the work stronger.

- To ensure students reflect on the cultural impact of their work

We believe that it is this integration of thought and technique that allows our students to challenge boundaries and find their voices.

- To support students to marry inspiration with skill

Our challenge is to enable our students to produce innovative work that demonstrates a mastery of the intellectual, imaginative and technical processes involved in its creation whilst also allowing for creative alchemy to occur.

- To promote diversity and equality for all

We aim to sustain a community of practice where students and staff can be their true selves and learn from each other as they seek to meet their full potential

PART A - STRATEGIC SCHOOL WIDE ENHACEMENT OBJECTIVES

6. The Corporate Plan 2023 commits the School to a number of specific strategic objectives that will strengthen the School's educational provision and better position it to deliver on its mission. The specific activities are:

I. Growing capacity at the School by increasing the annual student intake in the core film and television production disciplines from 8 to 10 to meet the continued growth in UK film and television production.

II. Continuing to widen participation by breaking beyond our base in Beaconsfield and working UK wide to deliver courses that support UK film and television production in the nations and regions.

III. Exploring Future Storytelling through the consideration across all of our Masters courses of the commercial, creative and cultural potential of new storytelling forms and approaches.

IV. Increase the representation of film, television and games practitioners and scholars from underrepresented groups in all areas of teaching and learning (films screened, texts studied etc), including ensuring that the diversity of the Staff and Visiting tutors keeps pace with the increasing diversity of the student body.

V. Work to further embed new MA, Diploma and Certificate courses and maximise students' opportunity to collaborate so they see the creative benefits of different specialisms and develop an appreciation of the work of other departments.

VI. Strengthen the School's support for and development of directing and producing students' leadership capabilities through individual coaching and mentoring. Opportunities to share lessons learned and any materials created with other courses will be explored.

VII. Continuing to modernise the estate and improve the existing estate through targeted investment to create more effective production, teaching and social spaces.

VIII. Strengthen the student voice at the School by establishing a formal Student Union and funding the role of sabbatical Student Union President

7. These activities are fundamental to the School and will be reported on to and monitored by both Academic Standards Committee and the NFTS Board of Governors.

PART B - COURSE SPECIFIC ENHANCEMENT & OUR MECHANISMS FOR CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

8. In addition to the strategic School wide commitments set out above, the policy of the NFTS is also to foster a culture of making small and large enhancements on a regular basis year-round as they are proposed by

students, staff, tutors, Heads of Department, External Examiners and Industry Stakeholders.

9. Enhancement of the student learning experience is the responsibility of all staff. We all have contact with students and can therefore reflect on whether what we do can be revised to enhance the student experience. Enhancements can come from staff, students and the School's many external advisors.
10. We are a community of practice where students and staff learn from one another. Student feedback is an important source of information driving enhancements. The maturity and confidence of our student population and the informality of the industry in which we work means that most of our feedback from students has been offered through informal channels. It is the School's intention that informal channels should remain the best mechanism for feedback.
11. Formal student feedback has come via module evaluation questionnaires and School-wide student surveys and student representatives meeting approximately each month with the Registrar. Student representatives are also members of both ASC and the Board of Governors and regularly input into these meetings. With the creation of the new role of Student Union President, students will be engaged more effectively in both the governance and management of the School.
12. The many external advisors, workshop tutors, visiting tutor staff and external examiners and assessors have long been a rich source of suggestions for improving the student experience. They have fed in through various processes: external assessors through their meetings with individual students prior to Progress Reports; and visiting tutor teaching staff through interactions with core teaching staff.
13. External examiners provide feedback through their comments at Final Exam Boards and annual reports. These will continue to inform Annual Course Evaluation.
14. Module and Annual Course Evaluation has long been the formal mechanism for capturing student feedback. As part of the Annual Course Evaluation process, staff feedback is looked at, and the Annual Staff Survey results are reviewed by Management.

EMBEDDING ENHANCEMENT

This Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Strategy is owned by the School's Academic Standards Committee which will monitor progress against its objectives.

Both the management team and ASC are committed to monitoring and progressing this strategy and will review it annually

A commitment to enhancement is also articulated in the new Corporate Plan 2023.