

Assessment Strategy

Student progress is continuously monitored throughout a course:

- to encourage each student to develop their maximum potential and enable them to improve their skills and understanding;
- to recognise each student's commitment to their advancement in the course through their attendance, level of interest and ability to collaborate with their colleagues;
- to highlight areas where additional help, tuition or guidance may be needed in order for the student to progress;
- to ensure all students attain the required academic standard before being awarded their MA, Diploma or Certificate.

The National Film and Television School (the School) asks students to define their own personal agenda at the start of the course and to re-visit this at each assessment point during the course to see what progress is being made. To start this process students are required to complete a Pre-Course Self Assessment. Throughout their course students need to demonstrate that they are developing their knowledge, skills and experience in their specialist area, so that they can work independently and make their own unique contribution. Students must be able to evaluate their own work and achievements and develop their understanding of the professional world in preparation for their future practice. The assessment process is monitored by the Academic Standards Committee principally through Annual Course Evaluations.

Module Assessment

Module assessment is carried out by the tutors who teach the module. This is moderated at the next Progress Review. An assessment and review period occurs at the end of each module where students receive feedback from their tutors and are invited to respond. Tutors must use the School module feedback form when giving feedback.

If a student's work is incomplete or unsatisfactory on a module they may be invited to **resubmit** the work for re-assessment by an agreed date. Only one re-submission is allowed to ensure students do not fall behind in their course.

In some circumstances the Head of Department and the Director may permit a student's overall performance to **compensate** for marginal failure in a module. This does not constitute a pass in that unit but does allow the student to progress without further re-assessment in the module.

Dissertations (Masters Only)

During the MA course, each student is required to produce a dissertation, specified as a minimum number of words on an agreed topic.

The dissertation will be graded by two School tutors; one from the candidate's department and one Screen Arts tutor. In some cases, when a specialist subject requires it, a tutor from outside the School with the necessary expertise will be brought into the marking process. The use of two tutors and the presence of a Screen Arts tutor throughout the marking process is designed to ensure that the same criteria are applied in the grading of essays throughout the eleven specialist departments.

A sample of dissertations are also sent to a third marker who blind marks the dissertations.

Late or non-delivery of the dissertation will disbar the candidate from consideration for the award of an MA. However, an extension of the deadline may be agreed in exceptional circumstances. The student should first discuss their request for an extension with their Head of Department and then submit a request for an extension to the Director's Office (Upper Admin 13) through a form to be collected from their department curriculum co-ordinator.

The dissertation will be graded in one of four categories:

- Distinction will be awarded to students achieving over 70% and a copy of the dissertation or research project will be made available in the NFTS Library
- Commendation will be awarded to students achieving 60-69%
- Good Pass is given to students achieving 50-59%
- Pass is given to students achieving 40-49%
- Below 40% is a fail or a referral.

Passing the dissertation is mandatory in order to achieve the degree of Master of Arts. There will be provision for ONE re-submission of the project within a defined timescale if it is below the necessary standard. The entitlement to a re-submission is lost if the first submission is not received by the final negotiated deadline. If submission takes place outside of the agreed deadlines, then the candidate, if successful, will only receive a maximum pass grade.

Further information about the timing and content of the dissertation for individual specialisations is contained in each course handbook.