

MA TV Fiction Writing – abridged

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Programme Title:	MA in Television Fiction Writing
2. Final Award:	MA in Television Fiction Writing
3. Exit Awards:	Postgraduate Certificate in Television Fiction Writing Postgraduate Diploma in Television Fiction Writing
4. Awarding Body:	Glasgow Caledonian University
5. Approval Date:	15 December 2008
6. School:	School for Business and Society
7. Host Department:	Social Sciences, Media and Journalism
8. UCAS Code:	n/a
9. PSB Involvement:	n/a
10. Place of Delivery:	On campus at GCU Glasgow
11. Subject Benchmark Statement:	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
12. Dates of PSP preparation/revision:	April 2014

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The overall educational aim of the proposed programme is to provide a practically focused and industrially credible course that will successfully impart to students the knowledge, understanding and teachable craft skills of writing dramatic fiction for contemporary television markets.

In the broad context of the QAA Benchmark for higher education in Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies, the educational aims of the programme will be to:

1. To provide the knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate for a career in television fiction writing.
2. To provide a common grounding in the core concepts and skills of the dramatic fiction writer's role within the contemporary television industry.
3. To stimulate an enquiring, analytical and creative approach to issues in the writing of television dramatic fiction, within a contemporary, challenging and relevant approach to curriculum development.
4. To encourage positive and confident responses amongst students with respect to adaptation to change specific to the process of television fiction writing.
5. To enable students to acquire the core transferable skills of CIT, effective communication to a range of audiences, leadership, self-management and inter-personal skills to the standards necessary for successful progress within the contemporary television fiction industry.
6. To provide self-motivated students with the necessary competencies, independent judgement and critical self-awareness to succeed in a television fiction industry context.
7. To explore a variety of perspectives in television fiction writing by providing rigorous and deep investigation of contemporary issues and practices in this area.
8. To evaluate and integrate theory, research and practice with respect to television fiction writing, particularly contemporary and emergent research and practice.
9. To provide students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to apply appropriate research methods and problem-solving techniques to the issues of the contemporary

television fiction industry.

10. To provide the opportunity for students to develop substantial skills in autonomy, personal responsibility, initiative and project management, including research, analytical skills and critical reflection, by way of completion, as the culmination of the Masters programme, of an independent project in television fiction writing.

Exit Points

Students exiting with a postgraduate certificate will have achieved educational aims 1-6 and thereby have acquired core competencies and skills in television fiction writing together with a comprehensive understanding of applicable techniques and conceptual understanding of the discipline.

Students exiting with a postgraduate diploma will have achieved educational aims 1-9 and will have a more advanced understanding of and competence in television fiction writing (compared to postgraduate certificate), including the ability to exercise independent judgement and to have critical self-awareness with respect to the integration of theory and research with practice in this field. Students will also have the knowledge and ability to apply a range of research-related methods and problem-solving techniques relevant to the contemporary television fiction industry.

Students exiting with a masters award in television fiction writing will, in addition to educational aims 1-9, have developed the ability to have self-generated and produced, under appropriate supervision, a substantive independent project of original work, including in-depth critical reflection on their own practice.

4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURES AND REQUIREMENTS, LEVELS, MODULES, CREDITS AND AWARDS

The programme is in compliance with the Glasgow Caledonian University Qualifications Framework (itself based on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) as it applies to postgraduate awards. The dissertation component takes the form of an independent script project suited to the employability needs of a Masters in Television Fiction Writing programme, a decision which has been confirmed by the University Quality Office as entirely permissible under the above framework.

The full-time MA programme (including independent script project) will normally be completed over three trimesters in one calendar year.

SHEM Level Module Code	Module Title	Credit
MMP321939	Researching the Television Fiction Market	15
MMW821940	Writing for an Existing Long-Running TV Drama 1	15
MMW821941	Story and Script Techniques 1	15
MMW821942	Creating Original Drama 1	15
<i>Exit Award – Post Graduate Certificate</i>		
MMW823591	Researching for TV Fiction Writing	15
MMW821955	Writing for an Existing Long-Running TV Drama 2	15
MMP321956	Story and Script Techniques 2	15
MMW821954	Creating Original Drama 2	15
<i>Exit Award – Post Graduate Diploma</i>		

MMP321957	Independent Script Project	60
<i>Exit Award – Masters in Television Fiction Writing</i>		

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The Glasgow Caledonian University Assessment Regulations (approved May, 2014) <http://www.gcu.ac.uk/media/gcalwebv2/theuniversity/gaq/gaqfiles/assessmentregulations/University%20Assessment%20Regulations%202014-15%20Taught%20Postgraduate.pdf> apply to this programme.

8.1 Module Pass Mark:

The minimum pass mark for each of the Level M modules is 50%.

Compensation:

Compensation will be exercised in the manner outlined in the GCU Assessment Regulations. Given the pass rate for the Level M modules is 50%, this means the minimum mark overall for a failed module on the MA in Television Fiction Writing to be automatically compensatable will therefore be 45%.

8.2 Regulations for Merit or Distinction:

The Assessment Board shall normally recommend that an award be granted '*with Merit*' to a candidate who has passed all elements and achieved an overall average between 65-69% and passed all modules included in the calculation at the first attempt.

The Assessment Board shall normally recommend that an award be granted '*with Distinction*' to a candidate who has passed all elements and achieved an overall average of 70% or more, and no mark below 55% in any module at the appropriate level and where the award has a project/dissertation module (or equivalent), the mark for that module is no less than 70%.

Summary of Marks and interpretation for the MA in Television Fiction Writing (pass mark in all modules 50%)

<u>Marks</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
70 - 100%	Excellent: Marks represent a first class performance.
60 - 69%	Very Good: Marks represent an impressive, high quality performance overall.
55 - 59%	Good: Marks represent a fair, reasonable performance.
50 - 55%	Satisfactory: Marks represent a minimum, acceptable, adequate performance.
40 - 49%	Unsatisfactory: Marks represent a borderline or narrow fail.
30 - 39%	Very Poor: Marks represent an outright fail.

Role of External Examiner:

External Examiners are appointed to the Assessment Board by the University's External Assessors Sub-Committee of the Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee on behalf of Senate. The duties of an External Examiner will include the following:

- to ensure that the standard of any award which is recommended by the Assessment Board is comparable to the standard of similar awards conferred by Universities in the United Kingdom;
- to satisfy themselves that the work and decisions of the Assessment Board are consistent with the policies and regulations of the University and best practice in Higher Education;
- to ensure that students have been assessed fairly and within the regulations approved by the

University for the programme;

- to comment on the appropriateness and consistency of assessment practices and procedures across the modules which comprise the award;
- to inform the University on any matter which, in their view, militates against the maintenance of proper academic standards;
- to inform the Clerk to Senate if they decide to resign over a matter of principle in order that this may be brought to the attention of Senate as a matter of urgency;
- to produce annually a report for consideration by the School Board and, subsequently, the Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee, on the standards attained by students on the programme and on any other matters which may seem appropriate for report.

DATE: April 2014

