

The logo for Central Film School features the text "Central Film School" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. To the right of the text is a large, solid blue shape that resembles a stylized letter 'C' or a film reel, with a curved edge on the left and a straight edge on the right.

**Central  
Film  
School**

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**Widening Access & Participation  
Statement**

**Reviewed: October 2018**

## **Central Film School Widening Access and Participation Statement**

Central Film School recognises that students with the talent and determination to be a success in the screen industries should not face restrictions based on their gender, disability, race, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, or any other perceived societal barrier to their education and career aims. We welcome students from around the world that bring with them the diversity of their cultures, adding to the creativity and enthusiasm of our student body.

### **Community Outreach and Increasing Awareness**

CFS is committed to increasing the number of local and wider-London based schools in which we engage with potential future students. We aim to do this through a series of workshops, events and summer programmes aimed at getting young people into filmmaking. Through expanding our partnerships with schools, education providers and charitable organisations, we can continue to increase our links in the local community.

Our documentary short courses and undergraduate modules challenge students to engage with social issues on a local, national and international level. Student documentaries produced to date have focused on topics such as health care for the elderly, emigration from the Baltic States and the perception and creation of music by hearing-impaired musicians and artists. Our MA Social Impact Documentary Filmmaking programme is designed to bring together people who have a desire to create social change, and to help deliver their stories to an audience through the power of film.

### **Widening Access to our Programmes**

In the 2018/2019 Academic Year, 30% of our student body comes from a BAME background and 43% of our student body identifies as female. We are pleased that groups traditionally under-represented in the film industry make up such large proportions of our student body. We would like to increase female representation at the School to at least 50% of our student body, and increase the number of BAME students, particularly from the UK, as UK BAME students make up only 30% of all students identifying as from a minority ethnic background. We aim to raise the proportion of BAME students from the UK to at least 50% over the next few years.

40% of students studying on our undergraduate programmes are mature students. For our short and evening courses, 71% of students are aged 21 or over, meaning that nearly 50% of our student body are considered mature students. The accelerated degree programmes we offer at undergraduate level, and the variety of options available through our short and part-time evening courses, makes our provision accessible to students of all ages and backgrounds.

In 2018, we partnered with Refuaid (<https://refuaid.org/>), a charity that helps to support asylum seekers in the UK to access Higher Education, to provide a full scholarship to a student with a filmmaking background on our MA Directing Fiction programmes. We are committed to offering at least one place each year to a student introduced to the School through Refuaid, and plan to explore opportunities with similar organisations in the future.

### **Franchised Programmes**

From 2019-2020, the School will be offering a franchised MA Filmmaking programme with our collaborative partner, the University of Gloucestershire (UoG). The franchise arrangement enables students studying on this programme access to the full range of government-funded student support offered at postgraduate level. It also means that the profile of students able to study with us at postgraduate level will broaden, and we are able to offer UK and EU students an alternative to traditional university courses. The franchised model, alongside membership of the OfS, will widen the participation of students in our programmes from diverse backgrounds within the UK.

## **Part-time Evening Programmes**

CFS is committed to widening participation to all aged groups. While we already have matured students on our programmes, CFS also runs 4 Part-time evening programmes to allow access to mature students, who are already in full-time employment, to learn the craft of filmmaking. The programmes attract students from different background and different fields.

## **Inclusive Admissions Process**

As over 40% of all of our student body are mature candidates, we are able to offer potential students a variety of options to start their careers in the film industry. Many professionals in the film and television industries have been successful having started out in a wide range of different careers, education backgrounds, technical skills and cultural influences- a diversity that helps the industry to flourish. All applicants to our accredited courses who meet our initial entry criteria are interviewed either on campus or online. This enables us to get a clear understanding of who the applicant really is, what their objectives are and what they hope to pursue as a career. When combined with their personal statement, portfolio and record of academic achievement, our admissions process enables us to ensure students from a wide range of backgrounds, experience and academic history have the opportunity to be considered for a place on one of our programmes.

## **Enabling Accessibility and Participation on Our Programmes**

### **Practice-Based Learning**

At Central Film School, we believe that students learn best through practice-based workshops and assessments. Where possible, we have limited the amount of essay writing required on our practical programmes, and none of our assessments are written-exam based. This approach helps to ensure students with specific learning disabilities, such as dyslexia and dyspraxia, are able to engage with the content and assessment of their modules with confidence in their ability to achieve what is required of them. We are able to make reasonable adjustments on all of our modules for students with physical disabilities, and the variety of crew roles available on our practical programmes means every student has an important part to play on set, regardless of the challenges their disability places on them.

### **Blended Learning**

Students on all of our programmes have access to study-skills support materials through our VLE, and are provided with one-to-one tutorials with academic staff throughout their studies. Students participate in a range of different learning methods on our programmes, and receive technical training designed to reflect industry practice and develop essential professional skills. We're committed to continuous enhancement of all of our programmes, offering students a variety of different opportunities to test their knowledge.

### **Encouraging Collaboration and Professional Development**

Students at CFS come from a variety of different cultural backgrounds and are encouraged to collaborate on practical projects. This is aimed at developing and enhancing social cohesion amongst the students, and creating the strong sense of professionalism that is vital for success on our courses and in their future careers. The balance between the professional development of the individual and the industry-recognised necessity for teamwork is intertwined throughout all of our courses, while our Teaching and Learning Strategy sets out the detail of our pedagogical approach.

### **Personal Tutorials**

At Central Film School, we know how the pressures of education and working with peers can impact a student's personal wellbeing, and we are always available to help support our students. By keeping our class sizes small, we are able to maintain a close working relationship with all of our students. Through

our Personal Tutor system, students who may feel left without a voice amongst their peers are able to formally or informally raise issues with their tutor, and the School is able to assist them in ensuring they have the same level of access as the rest of their cohort.

### **Financial Support**

The School has been very prominent in offering Bursaries and Scholarship to student in the past and continues to do so. Student who has a passion for film but would not be able to afford the course fee were given bursaries of up to £6,000 per year on the undergraduate and postgraduate programme. The School also offers a Merit Scholarship of up to 50% for high achieving students.

