

**Central
Film
School**



Central Film School

**MA Selection Criteria & Admissions Policy &
Procedure**

2022-23

MA Selection Criteria and Admissions Policy & Procedure

The School seeks to recruit students who possess the talent, determination and attributes to become a successful film professional in the area of the MA for which they have applied. .

The School's MA Programmes are open to candidates who possess a relevant honours degree from a UK university or overseas equivalent. Preference is given to students who have achieved a minimum 2:2 in a relevant undergraduate degree, but the school will consider applications from students with lower than 2:2, provided they meet the criteria listed below. Mature candidates without conventional academic qualifications but with a minimum of 3 years' experience in a related field are encouraged to apply for the programme.

Successful candidates will demonstrate an informed passion for films and filmmaking, and will have strong communication skills. They will be persuasive in their reasons for studying the MA for which they have applied and demonstrate the skills, talent, knowledge and aptitude for studying at MA level.

Applicants who have achieved a 2:2 or above in an related undergraduate degree must meet the following criteria:

- Personal statement demonstrating academic aptitude which enables them to undertake the chosen MA ;
- Portfolio or show-reel demonstrating suitable experience in visual media;
- Successful online interview

Applicants who have achieved below 2:2 in an related undergraduate degree must meet the following criteria:

- Personal statement demonstrating academic aptitude which enables them to undertake the chosen MA
- Reference from either an industry professional or course tutor of their undergraduate course
- Complete the APL Process (www.centralfilmschool.com/apl)
- Visual portfolio, script or essay demonstrating suitable experience;
- Successful online interview

Applicants who have achieved above/below 2:2 in an undergraduate degree that is not closely aligned with the subject area may be required to attend an Intensive course either in person or online. This recommendation will be made by the interviewer, at interview and communicated to the applicant as a condition of their offer.

Mature applicants without a degree must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum 3 years' industry experience and CV
- Strong writing and research ability in order to meet the academic aspects of the course with successful education up to a minimum of A-Level or equivalent
- Demonstrable academic aptitude which enables them to undertake the MA through their Personal Statement
- Complete the APL Process (www.centralfilmschool.com/apl)
- Visual portfolio, script or essay demonstrating suitable experience;
- Successful face-to-face or online interview

Selection Process Online Application

All students applying to one of our MA courses should apply directly through the application portal on our website.

A member of our Admissions Team will assess the application against the criteria.

Invitation to interview

A strong emphasis is placed on the quality of the personal statement and visual portfolio/essay at the initial screening stage for applicants to be invited to interview.

At this stage we look for the following:

Essential

- A clear understanding of what the role of a filmmaker or screenwriter is through their personal statement
- The desire and determination to forge a career as a filmmaker or screenwriter and the talent to do so
- English-language ability at a level for postgraduate study if required- equivalent to IELTS 6.0.

Desirable

- High quality short films or documentaries specifically directed and/or written by the applicant.
- High quality short films or documentaries in which the student has played one of the key roles throughout production.
- High quality screenplay or short film written by the applicant.

The Admissions Team will select suitable applicants for an interview if they meet most of the above criteria.

Interview procedure

Before an interview, the interviewer views the visual portfolio and reads the application and personal statement of the candidate. The School has a standard set of questions it will ask each interviewed candidate, but the interview can thereafter take on a variety of paths as the interviewer seeks to gauge the candidate's suitability for the MA.

It is essential for successful candidates to demonstrate the following at interview:

- Clear reasons as to why they have chosen to apply for this course and the focus and determination to successfully complete an MA programme
- A strong desire to expand their knowledge of the skills of an industry professional in the area to which the MA relates
- The dedication and punctuality to meet minimum attendance and performance requirements

It is desirable that successful candidates are able to demonstrate the following at interview:

- A unique film story to offer and/or perspective as a filmmaker/ screenwriter
- A strong appreciation of their chosen discipline
- Previous experience of directing professional actors and/or documentary collaborators
- The drive necessary to be successful in the film industry
- Relevant technical knowledge and/or expertise in their chosen MA
- The ability to work in a team and manage workload

The interviewer makes admissions decisions in conjunction with relevant senior staff and programme leaders. Occasionally, where more information is required, candidates may be asked to attend a second interview with a different interviewer.

Offer Made: Conditional

The School may decide to make a conditional offer to a prospective MA student if the applicant does not satisfy all the entry criteria. . This conditional offer may specify:

- Required final award,
- Further show-reel material
- Successfully meeting the English Language requirement as per Student Route UKVI requirements
- Completion of an appropriate short course* offered by Central Film School.

Candidates will be sent a conditional offer letter, which clearly sets out any further requirements and the timeframe in which they should be met..

*If a student is asked to attend a short course as part of the admissions conditions, the process is detailed in the section titled '**Pre-sessional Programmes**'*

Offer Made: Unconditional

Students meeting the essential criteria will be sent an unconditional offer letter, which clearly sets out the terms under which the offer of admission is made.

Acceptance of a Place on the Course

Unconditional offers are made subject to successful candidates paying a registration fee to secure their place on their course.

Conditional Offers are made with specific conditions attached, and candidates should fulfil those conditions before paying the registration fee.

Once a registration fee has been received and candidates have agreed to the terms and conditions of their admission, they move into the Enrolment Stage of the admissions process.

Pre-sessional Programmes

The School acknowledges that some applicants who wish to study an MA may not yet have the core technical skills required to successfully complete the course without further tuition. However, by successfully completing a short course, they may be able to demonstrate that they meet the majority of the essential criteria, and have the 'creative spark' to forge a career in the industry.

After interview, if a candidate is deemed to meet all of the essential criteria except in the technical skills (such as camera operating, lighting) the school may ask the applicant to attend a pre-sessional programme (which may be subject-specific but will likely be our general filmmaking course) before the start of their main course to ensure that all students begin with some level of technical expertise. These courses teach the basics of filmmaking and may include students that are not attending any other courses at the School.

The school will charge a fee for the pre-sessional programme.. At any time throughout the pre-sessional programme, if a candidate decides not to continue their studies at the School, the candidate will not be entitled to a refund of the fee they paid, as they will be considered to have commenced their MA programme. Please refer to the school's Tuition Fee Policy for further details.

English Language Requirements

International students are required to demonstrate they meet our English language requirement of IELTS 6.0 or above, with a minimum score of 5.5 in any component, or they must have completed a degree in a majority English Speaking Country as defined by the UKVI Student Visa rules.

If a student falls outside of the two categories above, or there is doubt, we shall assess their circumstances and advise them how to proceed with their application.

Converting a Conditional Offer to an Unconditional Offer

Once the School is satisfied that all conditions are met, for example if a candidate successfully achieves the minimum English Language requirement, their Conditional Offer will be converted to an Unconditional Offer. Applicants will be informed of this in writing.

Enrolment at Central Film School

Registration at the School takes place in two parts.

Part 1 - Online Registration: Unconditional Offer Holders that have accepted their place on the programme are sent login details to complete the registration from prior to the first day of term.

Part 2 - In Person Registration: During the first week of term, Unconditional Offer Holders will be invited to the campus to enrol, they are required to bring originals of all relevant documentation along with them, such as:

- Qualifications
- Passport or identity document
- Visa if applicable
- Proof of address

Offer Holders are deemed to be students of the school once registration is completed in full fees have been paid in coordinance with the relevant Tuition Fee Policy.

Overall Procedures

The above procedures are complemented by overall School procedures, in particular the procedure for APL, Admissions Appeal and Complaints Procedure, Publication Policy, and student induction arrangements.

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