

Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium

# Media Production

- Foundation Degree



## Foundation Degree

### What is a Foundation Degree?

Foundation Degrees are university level degree courses that offer an exciting work-based alternative to the traditional university route. They are:

- A stand-alone recognised qualification.
- Equivalent to studying the first two years of an honours degree programme.
- Highly valued by employers.

### How does this work?

Foundation Degrees in Hertfordshire are accessible through your local college, as part of the Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium\*. On graduation you will be awarded a University of Hertfordshire validated degree, and depending on your chosen course you even get letters after your name... FdA, FdSc.

### Benefits to studying a Foundation Degree

- **real-life projects** which enable you to gain valuable work experience whilst allowing you to apply your skills and knowledge.
- **support** that's available throughout your course from tutors and advisors in College and mentors in your place of work.
- **affordable** because you can choose from one of four colleges to study at you will never be far from home, saving you money on living costs.
- **funding** through student tuition fee loans will cover the cost of your programme – so there's nothing to pay up front.

### Who can study a Foundation Degree?

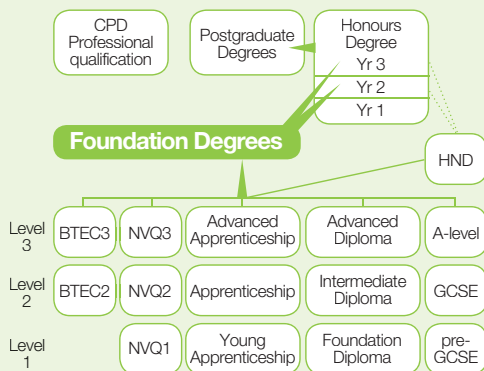
Foundation Degrees are suitable for all kinds of candidates including:

- Those with Level 3 qualifications (eg A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships, BTECs, Access to Higher Education or City & Guilds).
- Those looking for a change in career.
- Those already employed but wanting to gain a Higher Education qualification either to progress their career or other aspirations.

### What can I do with my Foundation Degree?

That really is up to you! Your degree will ensure that you are well equipped to start your career path and research shows that those with a Higher Education qualification earn 25% more than those without! However, if you have a taste for learning you can 'top-up' your Foundation Degree to a BA or BSc honours degree.

### How do Foundation Degrees fit with other qualifications?



### Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium\*

The Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium is a partnership between the University of Hertfordshire, Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College and West Herts College.

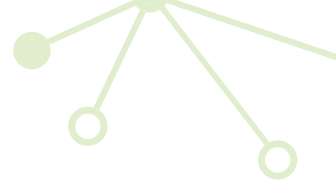
The consortium provides innovative, high quality courses that support vocational higher education. Students get the best of both worlds – the benefits and support of studying at college, and access to University facilities including the libraries (LRCs), athletic and student unions all social activities, careers support and much, much more.



The table shows the structure of the Foundation Degree in Media Production – illustrated as a full-time course.

|          |            |  |  |   |
|----------|------------|--|--|---|
| Year One | Semester A | Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills (30 credits) | Historical and Contemporary Context (15 credits) | Creative Problem Solving (30 credits)                       |
|          | Semester B |  | Creative Languages (15 credits)                  | Creative Vocational Practice: Media Production (30 credits) |
| Year Two | Semester A | Work Based Learning: Professional Practice (30 credits)                            | Contextual Studies (15 credits)                  | Portfolio Development: Media Production (30 credits)        |
|          | Semester B |  | Cultural and Ethical Debate (15 credits)         | Final Major Project: Media Production (30 credits)          |





This course is designed to give students a solid understanding of the pre-production, production and post-production process for the film and television industries. Students develop the knowledge and skills required to produce content for television programmes, music videos and short films.

Successful graduates leave the course equipped with the essential skills needed in the film, TV and post-production industries. After studying on this Foundation Degree you will be able to plan, shoot, edit and produce content to broadcast standard.

## Year 1 modules – Semester A

### Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills

The focus of this module is to develop an awareness of your specialist industry through research, employability and professional skills development and the undertaking of employer engagement experience(s). This module will help you gain an insight into working in the creative and cultural sector, through employer engagement, visiting lectures, workshops, seminars and visits to exhibitions, festivals and screenings. There will also be the opportunity to learn job-hunting techniques and begin to develop, evaluate and reflect on the skills necessary for effective working in a variety of specialist roles. Entrepreneurship and employability are key to your success in the industry.

### Historical and Contemporary Context

This Module gives you the opportunity to execute a variety of research methods and techniques and then synthesise your discoveries and findings to demonstrate an understanding of historical and contemporary cultural influence in Film and/or television. You will closely examine the work produced by creative practitioners during some of the major movements and styles that have emerged during both historical and contemporary contexts. You will thoroughly research historical and contemporary periods in your discipline and the contextual, cultural, technological, social, economic and/or political influences which impacted on creative work produced in these contexts.

### Entry requirements

48 points, including one GCE A2, a BTEC National Diploma/Certificate or equivalent. Plus GCSE grade 4 or above in English Language and Maths. A presentation of a portfolio of work may be required for some title awards.

Mature students with GCSE grade C or above English language and maths or equivalent, but lacking traditional level 3 qualifications will be considered on the basis of relevant experience and an appropriate portfolio of work.

If English is not your first language, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or 80 IBT or equivalent.

### How to apply

Applications are to be made through UCAS – [www.UCAS.com](http://www.UCAS.com). Institutional Code: Herts H36.

### How will I be assessed?

The programme is assessed through 100% coursework in the form of practical and written assignments. Coursework may be based on both individual work and group work.

### What will I learn?

This higher education qualification develops your design and practical skills to standards that will impress the future clients that you will deal with. The modules prepare you for a career in the TV and Film and Video production industry.

### Where will I study?

The Foundation Degree in Media Production is offered at Oaklands College and West Herts College. For more information visit [www.westherts.ac.uk](http://www.westherts.ac.uk) or [www.oaklands.ac.uk](http://www.oaklands.ac.uk)

### Progression routes

Students who pass the Foundation Degree may progress to Production or Post-production at the University of Hertfordshire. In order to progress you must be awarded the Foundation Degree and have a recommendation from our tutor, you may also be required to attend a guidance tutorial.



### Creative Problem Solving

This Module is designed to prepare you for further study and for the workplace that you will be entering. You will gain an understanding of the key production processes and professional practices relevant to Media Production. In response to a brief, you will organise and manage a project from conception to completion, experimenting as and when appropriate. You will conduct a range of creative experiments, evaluate these and then produce a short film.

### Year 1 modules – Semester B

#### Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills

The focus of this module is to develop an awareness of your specialist industry through research, employability and professional skills development and the undertaking of employer engagement experience(s). This module will help you gain an insight into working in the creative and cultural sector, through employer engagement, visiting lectures, workshops, seminars and visits to exhibitions, festivals and screenings. There will also be the opportunity to learn job-hunting techniques and begin to develop, evaluate and reflect on the skills necessary for effective working in a variety of specialist roles. Entrepreneurship and employability are key to your success in the industry.

#### Creative Languages

In this Module, you will discover the ways in which creative practitioners draw much of their inspiration and learn techniques through studying the creative languages, work and methods used by other practitioners. This module is an opportunity to investigate and interpret how information and ideas are expressed within contemporary and historical contexts. Your investigations into filmmakers and their work will be inspiring and will inform your own creative output. You will explore filmmakers and techniques of your own choice and conduct a range of creative experiments.

“ This past year I’ve been a superhero, a cowboy, a giant lobster and fought a bison, this course is very creative and full of practical activity. We are constantly undertaking various film projects, be they two minute trailers or our very own shorts. I definitely recommend this course to any creative people looking to become filmmakers. ”

*Lawrence Essex. Graduated with FdA Media Production 2011*

#### Creative Vocational Practice: Media Production

This Module focuses on building professional and creative skills in realising and presenting a vocational brief. You will use previously acquired creative and practical skills and will be expected to include consideration of aesthetics, ethics and function in fulfilling the brief. In the process you will also gain an understanding of what is required in fulfilling a brief in terms of audience/client needs and expectations and time management. You will also develop the skills necessary to plan and deliver a professional pitch and evaluate your performance against the given brief in the production of a short film.



## Year 2 modules – Semester A

### Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

This Module presents you with the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of your specialist industry, to work with employers/clients/organisations on a project(s) and to network with employers, develop your specialist skills and build your portfolio. You will develop your entrepreneurial and employability skills contributing to your progression or employment.

### Contextual Studies

This Module will present you with the opportunity to examine your own discipline in relation to a personally chosen academic issue, theory or debate in your creative field. You will also be required to develop your own substantiated perspective or argument concerning your chosen issue, theory or debate. Your lecturer will help you to decide on a suitable topic to explore and then provide you with academic support in researching and writing the essay.

### Portfolio Development: Media Production

This Module enables you to explore, develop and apply professional skills needed to build a strong showreel for progression to further study or into employment. You will develop your understanding of professional practice, audience/client requirements and professional constraints. You will present and evaluate your own creative media production outcomes and skills, reflecting on your own personal professional development in the production of a short film for the festival circuit.

## Year 2 modules – Semester B

### Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

This Module presents you with the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of your specialist industry, to work with employers/clients/organisations on a project(s) and to network with employers, develop your specialist skills and build your portfolio. You will develop your entrepreneurial and employability skills contributing to your progression or employment.

“ Throughout my time on the Foundation Degree I have learned vital skills that will help me on my journey of becoming a professional filmmaker, skills learned through passionate lecturers and the freedom to attempt any idea I can come up with. ”

*Callum Oakaby-Wright, Studying FdA Media Production 2013*

### Cultural and Ethical Debate

During this Module you will explore various cultural and ethical factors which can influence and shape creative practice in Film and/or television. You will investigate how cultural/ethical issues/themes can impact on the creative process and the outcomes resulting from it as well as inform audience perceptions. In doing so, you will develop your academic research and critical thinking skills to enable you to present an informed argument and engage in substantiated debate and discussion. You will also consider your own creative work in terms of cultural and ethical issues.

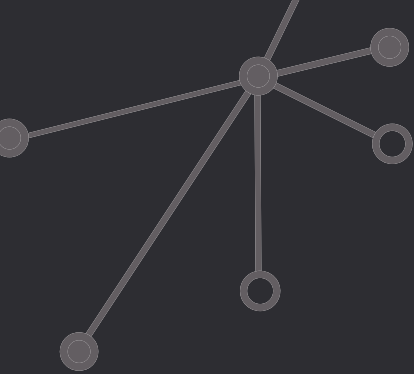
### Final Major Project: Media Production

This Module enables you to use your specialist knowledge and skills to focus your creativity on the kind of practical project that would meet the general needs of the short film festival circuit and provides a platform for you to exhibit your work. The primary focus is the production of a film that enables you to express your individual creative direction and confirms your progression intentions. The brief will articulate a complete creative process from research to pre-production, production, post-production and evaluation. The Final Major Project is your chance to impress.



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## For further information

### **Oaklands College**

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info@oaklands.ac.uk

[www.oaklands.ac.uk](http://www.oaklands.ac.uk)

### **West Herts College**

tel +44 (0)1923 812345

admissions@westherts.ac.uk

[www.westherts.ac.uk](http://www.westherts.ac.uk)

### **University of Hertfordshire**

Admission Service

tel +44 (0)1707 284800

ask@herts.ac.uk

[go.herts.ac.uk](http://go.herts.ac.uk)

