

Course Specification

MA Animation



1. General information

Course Title	MA Animation		
Awarding University	Leeds Arts University		
University at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University		
Relevant benchmark(s)	Master's Degree Characteristics (2020), Sector Recognised Standards		
Date of most recent review	20 April 2023		
Date of next review	2027-28		
Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
MA Animation	180	1 year / 2 years	Full time / Part time
PGDip in Animation*	120		Full time / Part time
PGCert in Animation*	60		Full time / Part time
*Exit Award only			

2. Course Aims

This course aims to:

The MA Animation course aims to encourage you to establish a critical awareness and understanding of animation, and deal effectively with the various theoretical and creative issues which you will encounter during your studies. It aims to foster an ethos of collaborative practice as well as an interdisciplinary approach to practice research. The course will encourage you to develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques and processes which are applicable to your selected research interests.

The course encourages innovation in approaches towards production, and for knowledge to be developed by investigation and enquiry. It also cultivates a conceptual understanding of the subject, to help promote development through the evaluation of critically relevant research and methods.

Alongside an understanding of contemporary moving image and narrative, the course promotes ethical, social, cultural and professional practices which will help to support you, as you move into a professional role or further study, subsequent to graduation.

The course will encourage you to develop a high level of self-direction and project management skills, originality, and innovative approaches to creative problem solving. It also aims to help you to develop your communication skills, understanding of audiences, autonomous practice and the importance of the use of initiative, research, analysis, critical evaluation and confidence in creative decision making.

3. Distinctive Features of the Course

The experience of working with practice based, research informed and professionally relevant approaches to animation will enable you to develop your own specialist practice, either as part of a team or as an independent animator. The course aims to encourage you to understand and explore

different approaches to narrative development as well as to consider and engage with existing and future technologies. It is anticipated that this will allow you to develop your own approach to animation practices, alongside a deep understanding of the discipline which reaches beyond trend and style.

During your time on the course you will be encouraged to work collaboratively with other students, to help extend the scale, scope and ambition of your project, and help you to further develop your own specialist practice. This course will encourage you to develop an in-depth, comprehensive and critically informed approach to both independent and commercial animation through a unified consideration of practical and academic concerns.

4. Course Structure

4a. Module Framework

Level 7	Credit points	ECTS	Learning hours
Practice and Principles	30	15	300
Past, Present and Future	30	15	300
Apply	30	15	300
Research Methods	15	7.5	150
Business Planning	15	7.5	150
Visualising Research	15	7.5	150
Digital Marketing	15	7.5	150
The Dissertation	30	15	300

4b. Course Map / Structure

Full Time Mode						
Trimester 1 (September - December)		Trimester 2 (January - April)		Trimester 3 (April - July)		
Practice and Principles (30 Credits)		The Dissertation (30 Credits)		Past, Present and Future (30 Credits)		
Visualising Research (15 Credits)	Business Planning (15 Credits)	Research Methods (15 Credits)	Digital Marketing (15 Credits)	Apply (30 Credits)		
180 Credits						
Part Time Mode						
	Trimester 1 (September - December)		Trimester 2 (January - April)		Trimester 3 (April - July)	
Y1	Practice and Principles (30 Credits)		Research Methods (15 Credits)	Digital Marketing (15 Credits)	Past, Present and Future (30 Credits)	
Y2	Visualising Research (15 Credits)	Business Planning (15 Credits)	The Dissertation (30 Credits)		Apply (30 Credits)	
90 Credits						

5. Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the following learning outcomes, you will be eligible for the award of MA Animation.

CLO 1 Research	Create specialised work outputs, which are informed by current practice, research and scholarship.	Practice and Principles (30) The Dissertation (30) Past, Present and Future (30) Research Methods (15) Visualising Research (15)
CLO 2 Analysis	Use, analyse, critique and evaluate a range of research methods, as you develop your specialist, subject and professional knowledge and practice.	Practice and Principles (30) Past, Present and Future (30) Research Methods (15) Visualising Research (15)
CLO 3 Subject Knowledge and Understanding	Evidence an in-depth knowledge and understanding of your specialist, subject and professional practice, including that of contemporary critical and conceptual debate, and practical developments.	The Dissertation (30) Research Methods (15) Business Planning (15) Visualising Research (15) Digital Marketing (15) Apply (30)
CLO 4 Experimentation	Experiment with techniques, ideas and approaches to advance your specialist, subject and professional practice.	Practice and Principles (30) Past, Present and Future (30) Apply (30)
CLO 5 Techniques and Processes	Choose, apply and evaluate a range of techniques and processes appropriate to your practice.	Practice and Principles (30) Past, Present and Future (30) Research Methods (15) Business Planning (15) Visualising Research (15) Digital Marketing (15)
CLO 6 Personal and Professional Development	Work with autonomy, initiative and professionalism as you evaluate, revise and disseminate your practice.	The Dissertation (30) Apply (30) Research Methods (15) Business Planning (15) Visualising Research (15) Digital Marketing (15)

6. Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching methods and strategies included in this course are aligned to the descriptor for master's degrees as defined by the Office for Students in the *Sector Recognised Standards* document (February 2018). Further information is available by following this link: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/>.

The *Characteristics Statement [for] Master's Degrees* (February 2020) has also informed the design of the award. In particular, the document notes the following:

... all master's degree graduates have in-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of their subject and/or profession, informed by current practice, scholarship and research. This will include a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject and/or profession; critical skills; knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics; and the ability to reflect on their own progress as a learner. Further information is available here:

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master-s-degree-characteristics-statement.pdf>

Therefore, the learning, teaching and assessment strategies on this course have been designed to enable the student to become effective practitioners and researchers; to develop critical and analytical skills and to develop and evidence in-depth knowledge and understanding of their subject area. They also encourage and facilitate an experimental approach to practice and research and allow the student to extend their specialist technical knowledge. They are designed to support and facilitate personal and professional development and allow the student to work with initiative and autonomy.

Teaching and Learning:

Teaching and learning strategies include the following approaches:

- Lectures and presentations
- Seminars and discussion groups
- Independent research and self-directed study
- Demonstrations including technical demonstrations and workshop inductions
- Peer group presentations and collaborative practice
- One to one tutorials
- Group tutorials and 'crits'
- Individual presentations
- Live projects

Assessment:

Assignment submissions are made in response to set briefs. The content of the submission is usually negotiated with your tutor, and related to, or derived from, your research interests.

The briefs and assignment requirements are informed by the module content and may include for example, subject specialist art-based practice work, written submissions, presentations, business and research plans, research books, sketch books and/or work books.