

## About the Course

### Basic Course Information

Course Title	Eight Week Documentary Filmmaking
Awarding Body	N/A
Award on Completion	N/A
Length of Course	8 weeks
Location	MetFilm School Campus in Ealing, London and/or other teaching and production spaces in West London.

### Teaching and Learning

The delivery of MetFilm School programmes is tailored to the particular learning goals of the individual course. Many courses contain production periods when the demands on individual students vary according to their individual shoots. **Specific details vary from time to time in order to maximise student experience.** Indicative calendars are issued at the start of each course and students can access their individual timetables through the student portal.

Delivery of this course will be within these parameters:

#### Teaching

- Your course averages 22 hours of teaching time per week except during production periods.
- Teaching on MetFilm School's full-time courses is usually scheduled between the hours of 9am and 7pm, Monday to Friday. Taught sessions will be timetabled within these windows.
- Students are expected to engage in independent learning, practical exercises, and tutorials outside these hours, and also have access to School wide activities including guest speakers and opportunities within the Virtual Grindhouse.
- Throughout this course students will be given formative feedback from their tutor and through peer review. However, this course is not formally assessed academically, and no grades are given at the end of the course.

#### Production

- During production periods, scheduled teaching sessions pause, and students prep, shoot and edit their films. Students should also expect to play multiple roles on other students filmed projects as well as their own.
- Students may be expected to work outside of usual teaching times, including during weekends – depending on the individual production schedules of the films they are working on.
- During production periods, students have access to school facilities, regular production meetings and tutorials with their tutor(s).
- Each student is allocated 2 days to shoot their final project film.

## Mixed Teaching

MetFilm School's *Eight Week Documentary Filmmaking* is a practical course which is taught largely in person. We have also found that we can enhance our in-person teaching using online tools, and the School has developed a *Mixed Teaching* approach which allows us to do just that. For example, some 1:1 tutorials and large group experiences are better delivered digitally. All online sessions will be noted clearly in student's timetables. In addition, where public health considerations or other matters outside our control limit access to the campus, *Mixed Teaching* ensures that students can continue their learning journey. The introduction of online tools will allow us to offer more opportunities, more content and an enhanced learning experience, at the same time delivering the in-person practical experience our students value.

The information included in this pack is provided to enhance your understanding of the course. Please note that some details may vary from cohort to cohort.

## Summary

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*Eight Week Documentary Filmmaking* is designed to improve your understanding, knowledge and practice in the following areas:

- an understanding of the current context of documentary filmmaking based on the history of the documentary genre and its different forms
- the ability to research effectively, and to develop, structure and pitch your ideas with the potential market and audience in mind
- knowledge and skills to operate a digital camera, sound recording, light a scene and using editing software
- an appreciation of the importance of narrative and storytelling in documentary filmmaking and developing a voice as a documentary storyteller

The course outline below describes the key craft areas and skills you will cover during your course. Please note that the timetable and content may vary from cohort to cohort.

*Eight Week Documentary Filmmaking* is a fully immersive course. Students can expect to explore the world of filmmaking and content creation through practical workshops, lectures and crew role exercises.

## Applying for this Course

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Application for this course can be made on the MetFilm School website [here](#).

In order to apply for this course, students must be 18 years old or over, and have sufficient spoken & written English. The course is suitable for beginners and those with basic skills. There are no specific academic entry requirements for the *Eight Week Documentary Filmmaking* course.

## Course Structure and Delivery

### MetFilm School Mission

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Our mission is to inspire a new generation of creative screen professionals, educating them in the new world of storytelling across all screen types. By putting industry at the heart of everything we do, MetFilm School best equips its graduates for successful careers.

Our goal is to nurture skill and talent, creating a great school which empowers students to pass seamlessly into work, using our experience to help businesses adapt and change in the ever-changing multichannel world.

## **Eight Week Documentary Filmmaking**

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As an educational institution, MetFilm School's mission is to provide students with a practical, high-quality learning experience grounded in professional industry practice and preparation.

Through our course provision we equip students with the knowledge, skills and mindset to prepare them for successful careers within the screen industries.

We seek to foster an inclusive environment in which creative, mature, focused, and considerate individuals are valued as members of a dynamic community.

We believe collaboration is the bedrock of professional practice that is reflected across the creative screen industries, and students are required to treat each other with respect and to work together in a professional manner.

Met Film School's key policies and documents can be found here: [Key Policies](#)

Students explore the following key areas of study during the *Eight Week Documentary Filmmaking* course:

### **The Factual landscape**

Students will examine what is meant by the term 'factual programming' and how to generate and develop factual content such as single documentary, constructed documentary, fixed rig and formats. The module will examine emerging online factual forms, including how social media is becoming the 'go to' format for telling stories in under a minute. Students will be analysing and interpreting factual stories to understand how these ideas resonate with an audience.

### **Camera, Lighting and Sound**

During these sessions, students will explore when and how to use elements of image and sound 'control' in a variety of factual circumstances including spoken scenarios such as interviews, voice-overs and vox pops.

Students will explore the impact of creative decisions in image and sound on factual storytelling. Working with industry standard equipment, provided through MetFilm School's partnership with Procam & Take 2, students will learn the basics of camera, lighting and sound to enable the successful production of short factual film.

### **Visual Storytelling**

Students will learn how to tell stories through the use of visual mediums. Students will look at composition, framing, blocking and camera positions and how to engage an audience. Working with images, students will learn how to create a memorable and engaging story.

### **Production**

Health & Safety, budgeting and designing a shooting schedule, students will learn the importance of planning and preparation. Sessions will include copyright issues and ethics. By going through these processes both during exercises and for the final production students will develop and understand the importance of professional practice.

### **Post Production**

Through training in Adobe Premiere Pro, you will develop your technical and creative editing skills, which will give you the necessary understanding to take your own project through the editing process. You will understand the importance of shooting for the edit and the technical procedures to import your rushes and organise your workflow.

## Final Production

Students will collaborate across their cohort to prep, shoot and edit their final short factual films. Students are expected to support productions in a variety of crew roles to solidify their learning journey.

### Sample Indicative Timetable

*details may vary from cohort to cohort*

Week 1	<b>Foundations in Documentary Filmmaking</b>  The sessions this week will cover the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Introduction to MetFilm School</li><li>○ Finding and researching ideas: evolution of the documentary genre</li><li>○ Introduction to the filmmaking process</li><li>○ Shooting exercise</li><li>○ Camera &amp; Lights training</li></ul>
Week 2	<b>Filming Exercises and Edit Introduction</b>  The sessions this week will cover the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Prepping and filming interviews</li><li>○ Filming Actuality</li><li>○ Introduction to Adobe Premiere Pro</li><li>○ Planning, research and pitching</li></ul>
Week 3	<b>Filming Exercises and Pre-production</b>  The sessions this week will cover the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Filming on location</li><li>○ Observation filming exercise</li><li>○ Writing the treatment</li></ul>
Week 4	<b>Pre-production and Filming</b>  The sessions this week will cover the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ documentary production</li><li>○ working with character</li></ul> This week you will also be in pre-production working both individually and within your production group with the support of the lead tutor. You will do your risk assessments and get greenlit for your shoot.
Week 5	<b>Filming</b>  During these three weeks, you will be shooting your short factual film with your production group and supporting other students on their films.  Each student is allocated 2 days to shoot their final project film.
Week 6	<b>Filming</b>  Short factual films shoots continue with your production group.

Week 7	<p><b>Filming</b></p> <p>Short factual film shoots continue with your production group.</p>
Week 8	<p><b>Post Production</b></p> <p>This week you will be in postproduction of your short factual film. You will edit your own short factual films, getting feedback from your tutor. The week will finish with a screening and review on the last day of the course.</p>

Please note that this is an indicative calendar. Specific details including the order of modules may vary from cohort to cohort. Students will be issued with a more detailed schedule at the start of the course.

Weeks marked in yellow (1-4, 8) are teaching weeks in which there is an average of 22 hours of teaching time per week. Students are expected to engage in independent learning, practical exercises, and tutorials outside these hours, and also have access to School wide activities including guest speakers and opportunities within the Virtual Grindhouse.

Weeks marked in green (5-7) are production periods during which scheduled teaching stops and students prep, shoot and edit their films and work on their fellow students' productions. During this period, students have access to school facilities, regular production meetings and tutorials with their tutor(s).

## Being at MetFilm School

### Teaching and Learning

The *Eight Week Documentary Filmmaking* course forms part of the non-accredited course delivery run by MetFilm School. The course structure comprises of a range of teaching and delivery patterns: lectures, workshops, filming exercises, presentations and individual one-to-one career and development tutorials. Transferable skills are encouraged and most clearly demonstrated in the filmmaking and production elements of the course and students are given the opportunity to learn and participate through practice. The aim of the varied course delivery is to equip students with a comprehensive introduction to the filmmaking in the fast evolving media industry.

Curriculum delivery is enhanced by access to the Virtual Grindhouse, Met Film School's virtual community where students can access competitions and guest speaker masterclasses.

Course details are contained within the Student Guide. The Student Guide is the core course document containing specific learning outcomes for each weekly session in line with the overall objectives of the course.

MetFilm School encourages independent learning and reflective learning. "Practice days" may form part of the delivery and students may be given structured homework to complete, encouraged to practice their skills independently or challenged to network and consider key industry contacts.

### Tutors

MetFilm School works with a large team of teaching staff across its full portfolio of courses, profiles of many of whom you can find on our website [here](#).

### Student Support

MetFilm School is committed to providing and supporting a diverse and inclusive environment that promotes and develops equality of opportunity for all students and staff. We seek to continually improve our standards across the student lifecycle encompassing access and admission; support and progression; and graduate employability and entrepreneurship.

We seek to provide a caring, supportive environment that recognises each student as a unique individual and fosters their personal and professional development. We are committed to each student's wellbeing, and there are a range of support mechanisms in place to aid student progression through their course of study.

The Student Handbook, which can be found [here](#), gives guidance on the support structures open to students at the School.

### **Formative Feedback**

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Throughout this course students will be given formative feedback from their tutor and through peer review. However, this course is not formally assessed academically, and no grades are given at the end of the course.

In addition, MetFilm School provides regular opportunities for students to give each other feedback through the learning system, which encourages feedback within peer-to-peer sessions. Being able to critically reflect on your own work and the work of your fellow students in a constructive, meaningful way, both verbally and in written form, demonstrates good practice and enhances your learning experience.

### **Evaluative Feedback**

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MetFilm School is committed to continual improvement, and student feedback – both informal and formal – is an important part of the evaluative feedback we use. Students are therefore invited to complete feedback forms midway and at the end of their course.

## **Costs**

Tuition Fees can be found on the course page on the MetFilm School website [here](#).

### **Final Project Production Costs**

As part of your course you will write, produce, direct and edit content that you have taken part in creating. Group production projects you will work on are paid for by the school. The following guidance relates to your final projects.

You will receive free hire of our production kit, and production advice on finding locations and getting permits to shoot in public places. You will however need to budget to cover various production costs such as transport for people and kit, and food and drinks on set for your crew whilst shooting. If you choose to work with actors on your documentary, you will need to pay the equity minimum wage.

Please note that these extra costs do not need to be excessive and that students are encouraged to use their initiative and resourcefulness to keep these costs as low as possible. The amount you spend will depend entirely on the scale of production and how much you wish to spend.

Production expenses vary according to student's individual ambition and production choices and projects vary greatly in terms of their scale and scope. As a result, we are not able to provide a recommendation for what you should budget for this project, but we would recommend that you start thinking as soon as possible about what your final project may be, and what budget you may need to save or raise funds for to cover this.