



Curriculum Policy

Author: J.Waller

Approval Date: September 2021

Review Date: September 2022

Introduction

The course at London Screen Academy has been designed in conjunction with professionals in the screen industries to ensure all students have the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to enter the screen industries when they finish at LSA. Students at LSA take the UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma which is the equivalent to 3 A Levels in UCAS points and contact time. In addition to this qualification, all students choose an additional qualification, either Maths, English or the Extended Project Qualification. The level at which students study Maths or English depends on their starting level upon entry.

Curriculum Rationale

There are a range of skills shortages across the screen industries in the UK. Industry leaders tell us that there are not enough sufficiently skilled young people entering the industry, and industry skills audits¹ tell us that existing courses at Level 3 and above aren't preparing learners for careers in the industry. Furthermore, the industry workforce does not reflect the diversity of the UK across a range of measures including ethnicity, gender, and income background. For example, in production, only 3% of employees are from a minority ethnic background, compared to 12.5% nationally.

The London Screen Academy exists to plug this gap in provision by providing high quality vocational routes that lead straight to paid employment. Our Level 3 and Level 4 courses focus on producing learners who are 'set ready', and they take less time and money than other routes into the industry, which is a key consideration for disadvantaged learners. We work closely with industry to ensure our curriculum achieves these goals. Our curriculum is also enhanced by additional qualifications - Maths, English, and the EPQ, in order to provide students with additional skills, to further extend their cultural capital, and to retain a broad base to their education.

Curriculum Intent

- The school's curriculum is based around our Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs) needed to succeed in later life. These KSBs have been designed by

¹ A Skills Audit of the UK Film and Screen Industries : Report for the British Film Institute, 2017, <https://www.bfi.org.uk/film-industry/bfi-film-skills-fund-bfi-business-development-fund>

teachers and the senior leadership team, in consultation with industry. The aim of this comprehensive set of KSBs is that, regardless of background, students leave us fully prepared to thrive in the screen industries and the wider world of work.

- The KSBs are referred to regularly throughout the planning, delivery, assessment and reporting processes to ensure that our students have a clear understanding of where they are heading. Students should understand what they need to know, what they need to be able to do, and the professional behaviours they are expected to demonstrate.
- New knowledge and skills are introduced gradually to students in the formative projects before being revisited in their final projects. Interleaving is a key part of our planning process, with previous content revisited regularly and links between lessons made clear to students.
- Gaps in students' knowledge and skills, including those resulting from the pandemic, are identified through baseline activities which take place at the start of the year, and we ensure that our teaching adapts to reflect these gaps.
- The curriculum remains broad where possible. Alongside their chosen pathway, all students also study a core curriculum of storytelling and production & development. Within their pathway, students don't specialise until Year 13. For example, all Craft students study Art Direction, Costume, and Hair & Makeup in Year 12, and then specialise in Year 13. All students also study an additional qualification alongside their Film + TV course.
- We have a high academic ambition for all of our students, as we expect them all to complete the UAL qualification (equivalent to three A Levels), plus an additional qualification. Our vocational ambition is for students to be 'set ready'. We expect all of our students to leave us with the technical skills and professional behaviours required to enter the industry. We do not offer disadvantaged or SEND students a reduced curriculum, and in fact, we monitor those students closely to ensure their outcomes in our demanding curriculum are at least on a par with the rest of the student body.

Curriculum Principles

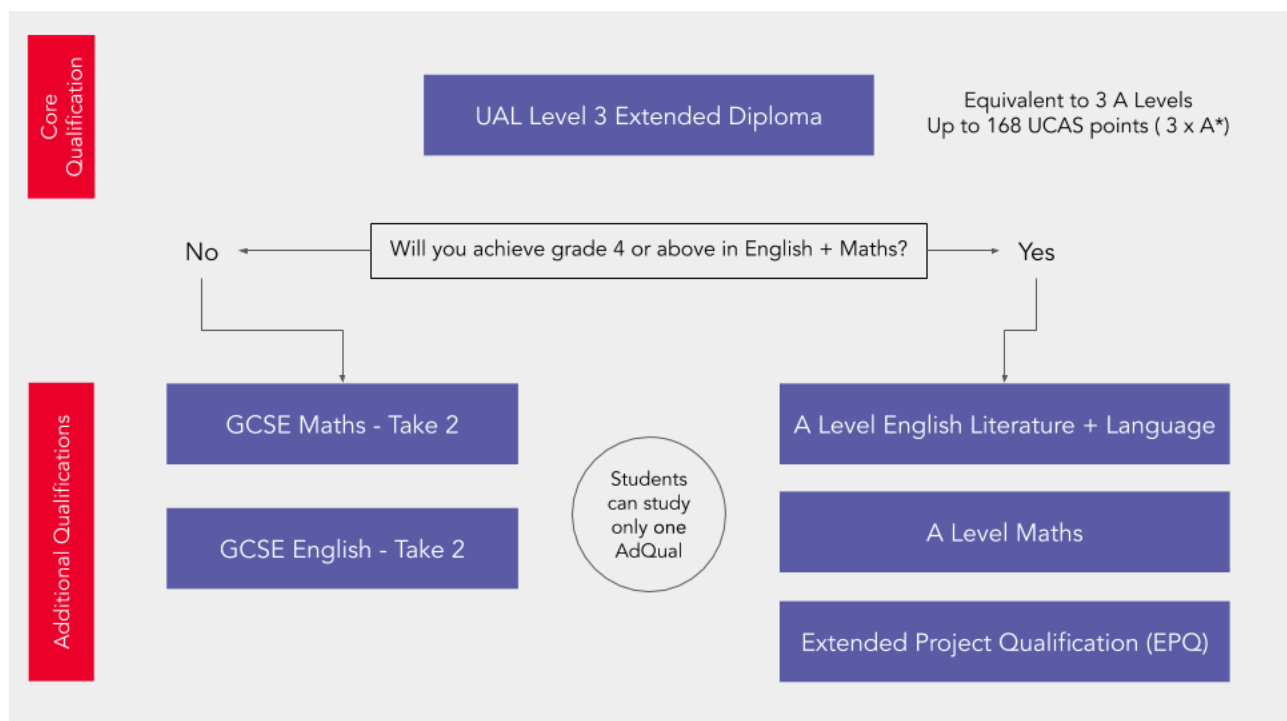
1. The curriculum at LSA is made up of a number of discrete elements, all of which are considered an essential part of the curriculum
2. All students undertake a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Film + TV. We do not offer subsidiary diplomas or any level 1 or 2 qualifications.

3. All students develop their wider skills by choosing one additional qualification in either Maths, English or the EPQ
4. Students undertake projects that aim to go beyond a Distinction standard and instead meet the industry standard
5. The curriculum provides direct access to leading individuals within the creative industries. We take the definition of 'leading individuals' seriously and work with individuals and organisations leading the way in the creative sector and economy.
6. Our curriculum focuses on the development of the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours needed to thrive in the screen industries

Academic Qualifications

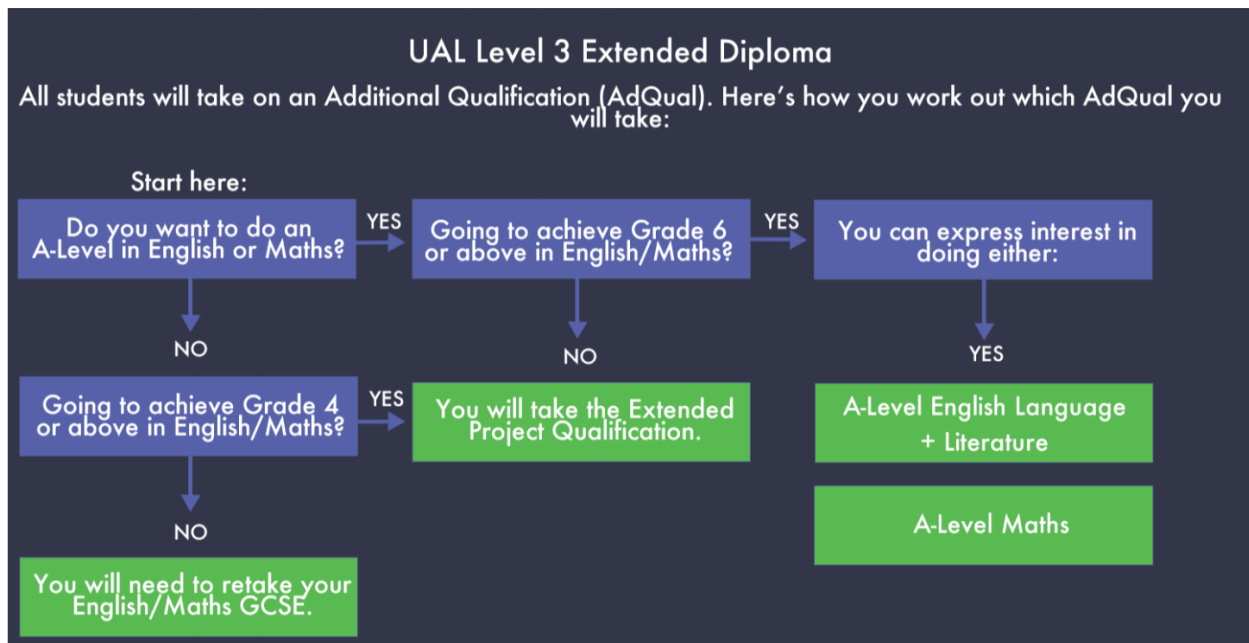
All students at LSA take the UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Practice. At LSA, we shorten this to 'Film + TV'. In addition to the Extended Diploma, all students take an Additional Qualification (AdQual).

If a student has not achieved a grade 4 in either GCSE Maths or English prior to arrival at LSA, they will study that subject as their AdQual. This is known as 'Take 2'. If a student missed grade 4 in both, the school will make a decision as to which Take 2 subject the student studies first.



Students who have achieved grade 4 will take either A Level English Language and Literature, A Level Maths, or the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). In order to take an A Level, a student must have achieved at least a grade 6 in that subject, and a satisfactory performance in a baseline test is also required for Maths A Level.

The study of an AdQual is a part of the LSA curriculum and no student can opt out of this, and this is made clear when applying to LSA.



Pathways

Within the UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Film + TV, students choose from one of three pathways: Craft, Technical, or Post Production. In Year 12, pathway lessons are complemented by lessons in Production & Development (P&D) and Storytelling.

Students can apply to change pathway at the end of Year 12.

In Year 13, students specialise further within the pathway. Craft students choose from the following specialisms: Art Direction, Costume, Hair & Makeup. Technical students choose from: Camera & Lighting or Camera & Sound. Post Production students choose from: Editing & Animation or Editing & VFX. P&D lessons continue in Year 13.

Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs)

At the London Screen Academy, our list of Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs) are at the heart of our curriculum planning. The KSBs have been developed in conjunction with industry partners, and represent the competencies that our students need in order to thrive in the screen industries. The KSBs are used in our planning, assessment and reporting.

The Knowledge and Skills are primarily addressed through timetabled lessons in Film + TV, Storytelling and AdQuals. Behaviours are addressed through timetabled lessons, plus a range of other curriculum interventions, which might include workshops provided by the Industry team, drama coaching, and virtual reality programmes.

Curriculum Design

The development of the curriculum at LSA goes through a clear process to ensure that it is engaging, industry-relevant, and reflects the diversity of the LSA community. Project ideas are generated in an ideation process in conjunction with professionals, and then thoroughly tested with students, teachers and industry colleagues. At the end of each project, we review its success and decide whether to take it forward or retire it.

This process follows our [Curriculum Design Principles](#), and [Curriculum Development timeline](#).

Industry Integration

Links and access to employers and leading industry experts are fundamental elements of the curriculum. Much of the provision is timetabled, including:

- ❑ A weekly masterclass from a leading industry professional

- ❑ Industry classroom drop-ins/workshops
- ❑ Timetabled Industry Week and Careers Week

There are additional opportunities which are optional but students are strongly encouraged to take up, such as mentoring and work experience.

Our Film + TV curriculum has been developed in association with leading educational establishments, key industry figures and using student feedback to ensure that we are always updating and improving our programme.

LSAx

To prepare students for success in the industry and wider community, we run a programme of extracurricular activities called LSAX, which aims to develop students' experience of the working world and their cultural capital. This includes trips to leading museums, galleries, theatre and other cultural events. It also includes student-led cultural clubs and societies which are determined by students; this could include drama, singing, writers room, debating, creative writing.

Professional Qualifications

The aim of the Professional Qualifications at LSA is to offer students who are hoping to work in the film industry a genuine alternative pathway to university.

Level 4

This 4 day a week Level 4 course is the UAL Level 4 Professional Diploma in Technical and Production for the Creative Industries. This course would be designed around the final product of creating an LSA short film, from conception to final realisation.

This would begin with a period of inspiration, research, ideas generation, scripting, pitching and fund-raising before being green-lit and moving through the production cycle, culminating in marketing and release. All students would work on the project as a production crew, each being given roles that suit their specialist interests of skill sets across Direction, Cinematography & Lighting, Sound, Editing and VFX, Art Direction, Costume Design and Hair and Make Up.

Apprenticeship

LSA currently offers the Level 3 Camera Prep Technician Apprenticeship.

Camera Prep Technician Apprentices work in the media rental industries including the camera hire companies who supply camera equipment for Film, TV, Music Promos, Commercials, Documentaries, Virals and all sorts of productions. Apprentices learn how to prepare camera equipment that is complete, works effectively, is correctly maintained and is set up and has all accessories to be ready to use on a production or event. Apprentices spend most of their time at work and the equivalent of one day a week studying at London Screen Academy for around 2 years.