WHY AN MSc IN FACTUAL TELEVISION?

Stirling's MSc Factual Television is unique in Scotland. Designed and delivered in collaboration with broadcasters and television companies, it combines development and production of factual television in a focussed, hands-on programme of study.

During this Masters year, you will learn how to generate ideas, how to grow sparks into compelling proposals and how to sell them to broadcasters. You’ll be taught by industry-experienced academics and practicing professionals. You’ll learn development, production and post-production skills. And you’ll learn how to sell your skills and take your first steps into the industry.

There has never been a better time to be starting out in TV in Scotland. Channel 4’s new regional hub in Glasgow, increasing numbers of programmes being made out of London and the new BBC Scotland channel mean unmatched opportunities for new entrants to the business. With unparalleled links with the factual TV industry, our MSc Factual Television is the ideal springboard to a career in TV.

Stirling production graduates have secured placements, paid internships and work at the BBC, STV, Raise the Roof, Firecrest Films, Tern Television, Lion Television and many more independent companies. Stirling students have won fifteen national awards for factual production work in the last decade.

Hands-on experience is at the heart of everything we do in production at Stirling. Our courses mirror professional practice in the industry; teaching includes masterclasses, workshops and pitching panels with experienced practitioners.

The course will cover core areas of factual TV:
- programme development
- documentary
- factual formats
- specialist factual

Within these modules, you’ll explore ethical issues of representation, consent, trust and editorial control while learning about the business of factual content.

You’ll build up your practical skills with a series of creative challenges:
- developing ideas in response to industry briefs
- pitching ideas
- getting feedback from staff and visiting professionals

You’ll also develop and produce filmed pieces as part of the Access Documentary module.

Alongside practical projects, you’ll develop essential career skills through an industry experience module. You’ll be supported in researching and securing a placement, developing your own network of contacts and making the first steps towards work.

A course at Masters level which foregrounds development, alongside imparting production skills, will be invaluable in helping to develop talent necessary to grow the industry.

We look to Stirling more than any other academic institution to deliver industry relevant teaching and experience. Industry awareness in Stirling is much more acute than anywhere else.

David Strachan,
MD, Tern Television
The University of Stirling has built a reputation for outstanding production teaching and sector-leading collaboration with the TV industry.

We have excellent relationships with broadcasters and independent production companies; many of our graduates have built successful broadcast careers in this country and beyond.

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Alumni have received awards including Emmy awards for visual effects production in film and TV and Sony Gold Radio Academy awards for BBC Radio 1 documentaries.

This course could be for you if:

- you’re already studying for a media degree and would like to develop your skills further.
- you’re bursting with ideas for new content and have a passion for factual TV.
- you’re working in production and would like more insight into editorial, ethics, development and commissioning.

We welcome students applying straight from undergraduate programmes in media-related subjects as well as those who have built their interest through training, voluntary or paid work.

We also welcome applications from people who are returning to Higher Education after a period away. Applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis, so anyone considering the course should contact the Course Director directly before applying.

“This new Masters will build on Stirling’s excellent track record in preparing students for a successful career within broadcasting and the media. Intelligently designed and with very strong links to the industry, the course will be unique in giving proper emphasis to both development and production.

I have been delighted with the quality of Stirling students that I’ve met to date and how well they understand the creative challenges of the TV industry.”

MARK ROBERTS,
Creative Director of Firecrest Films
One-to-one supervision from our dedicated, enthusiastic, industry-experienced academic staff.

Access to state-of-the-art kit and post-production facilities.

Fantastic production teaching coupled with advanced study in editorial and ethics.

Learning through practical experience, assessment through project-based and written work.

Our close partnerships with industry offer excellent opportunities for networking and industry experience.

One-to-one supervision from our dedicated, enthusiastic, industry-experienced academic staff.
COURSE OVERVIEW

TIMETABLE

All students will complete core modules that combine study of the industry, development of ideas and production. In the dissertation module, students will develop ideas in response to an industry brief. The Television Industry Experience module allows students flexibility to focus on their own particular interests.

Modules

Semester 1: All students take core modules Introduction to Television Development, Specialist Factual and Business of Television. Introduction to Television Development involves generating ideas and creating content in response to an industry-set brief. You will be introduced to development with input from experts in the field.

Semester 2: All students take core modules Factual Formats and Access Documentary Development. Access Documentary Development is a practice-based module running through spring and summer, which sees students work in groups to develop and produce an access-led documentary film. Students will also undertake work-based learning on the Television Industry Experience module.

Dissertation

The final project of the year will draw together all elements of the course as students produce short documentaries developed with guidance from industry professionals.

KEY TEACHING STAFF

The Head of Production is Professor Dario Sinforiani. Course Director for the MSc is Kate Smith. The course team includes lecturers with substantial experience of working in broadcast, and with research and teaching specialisms in Television Development, TV Production, Media Management and Post Production.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a second class Honours degree (2:1 preferred) or equivalent in a Media or Communications subject such as Film and Television, Broadcast Production, or Journalism. Applicants without these formal qualifications but with significant appropriate work experience are encouraged to apply.

Applicants will be required to submit a written proposal of 600 words for an original factual television programme.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

IELTS - 6.5 with 6.0 in each skill.

If you don’t meet the required score you may be able to register for one of our pre-sessional English courses. To register you must hold a conditional offer for your course and have an IELTS score 0.5 or 1.0 below the required standard. View our range of pre-sessional courses: stir.ac.uk/27I

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Details of tuition fees can be found at: stir.ac.uk/1ki

For Scottish students and EU domiciled students, this course is currently approved for PTFL (Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan) funding from SAAS. For more information, please visit: saas.gov.uk

We look forward to strengthening our partnership with the University of Stirling and recognise the value which the course will provide for the students as well as the creative industry.

STV

You can find out more about funding opportunities at: stir.ac.uk/scholarships

CONTACT INFORMATION

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stir.ac.uk/1jq

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Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, contact: marketingtools@stir.ac.uk

This publication can be made available in different formats. Please contact Student Recruitment and Admissions for further information: recruitment@stir.ac.uk

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