

Support Your Transition to Studying BTEC Creative Digital Media Production (Film & Television) Diploma

Preparatory Work: Pre-course Reading, Research and Tasks

Pre-reading and research will help you to become more familiar with the topics you are going to study on your BTEC Creative Media Diploma. If you complete the tasks below, they will also help you to become more confident when you start your course. Remember, if you have already studied Media, it is also good to recap and consolidate your BTEC Level 2 or GCSE knowledge; however, don't worry if you are new to the subject as you will not be disadvantaged by this.

Specification:

A good place to start to look at the BTEC specification and familiarise yourself with the Units you will be studying on the course:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/creative-digital-media-production-2016.html>

TASK 1:

Click the following website link and investigate the different roles and employment opportunities on offer in the Creative Media (click on each coloured tile to unlock the full range of jobs and positions).

<https://www.screenskills.com/careers/job-profiles/>

In your own words, write a 50-100 word summary of 3 potential job roles you would like to do in the future.

Which specialist and general skills are required to be successful in the role?

Do you currently have any skills or experience which could help you achieve this?

Look at the following web link; <https://jobs.theguardian.com/jobs/media/>

What employment opportunities are currently available for the roles you are interested in?

TASK 2:

Watch the following video – Spike Lee's List of Films Aspiring Filmmakers Must See :

<https://www.indiewire.com/2013/07/spike-lees-list-of-films-all-aspiring-filmmakers-must-see-36304/>

- Pick one of the films from the list and write a critical review, identifying which aspects of the film you appreciated the most (cinematography, editing, performances etc.).

Websites for further research and reading:

When studying the media, it is important to keep up-to-date with current events, trends and news stories you will be studying:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/film>

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine>

<https://www.empireonline.com/>

Here are some subject specific websites we recommend:

Go into the Story: <https://gointothestory.blcklst.com/>

Indie Wire: <https://www.indiewire.com/>

No Film School: <https://nofilmschool.com/>

Books to Read:

- **The Filmmaker's Handbook: A comprehensive guide for the digital age** by Steve Ascher
- **Shooting Better Movies; A student filmmaker's guide** by Paul Dudbridge
- **Alex Cox's Introduction to Film** - by Alex Cox

Podcasts:

No Film School Podcast - <https://nofilmschool.com/tags/podcast>

The Filmmakers Podcast - <http://thefilmmakerspodcast.com/>

Indie Hustle - https://toppodcast.com/podcast_feeds/indie-film-hustle-a-filmmaking-podcast-with-alex-ferrari/

Scriptnotes - <https://johnaugust.com/scriptnotes>

TASK 3: Source one of the above books or listen to one of the podcasts. Write a summary of the key issues, facts and advice you have learnt.

Documentary films on filmmaking to watch:

- **The Story of Film; An Odyssey (2011)**: a thorough history of world cinema told through a unique lens.
- **Side by Side (2012)**: a documentary on the importance of editing in cinema.
- **Making Waves- The Art of Cinematic Sound (2019)**: excellent study of the importance of sound in the moving image.

Progression Opportunities with Media – understand possible Media related careers

- Why study BTEC Creative Media?
- <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/btec-popular-alternative-levels/>
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/a-levels-or-btecs-which-should-you-take>
- Career opportunities in creative media:
- <https://www.screenskills.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7n8nrd>

We hope you enjoy completing these tasks and look forward to you joining the course.