

Higher Level Skills Partnership / Creative and Digital Industries / Priority Call – July 2009

Script to Screen

Introduction

NWUA, the RDA and Skillset wish to commission an accredited professional development programme that focuses on both the creative and business aspects of script writing, in the context of the film, television, online and radio industries. We are interested in partnership proposals with private providers as well as individual HE applications.

Aim

To create a programme of professional development modules for emerging screen writers. The programme should combine practical industry experience with additional broader areas of learning (producing, media law and pitching) and introduces a new model of team writing in script development. Research suggests that industry demand per year could be 25-35 scriptwriters so the proposed modules need to align with this need.

Objective

Work with Skillset to establish an industry steering group to over see programme development. The initial establishment of the group can be supported but the HEI will need to sustain and expand its role.
Create an innovative programme that addresses the key areas of industry placements, new units of learning in producing, team writing and business including media law, pitching and working with an agent.
Develop an accreditation framework for the programme at Masters Level (note this does not require full MA accreditation).
Pilot and evaluate the programme with a minimum of 12 new and emerging writers

Delivery requirements

Initial Industry research has identified that development should be structured around the following module headings:

- 1 Industry Placement
- 2 Production process linked writing
- 3 Team writing (US model)
- 4 Business skills and writing including: Media law / Pitching / Working with an agent

The programme should be flexible in delivery and include a mixture of master classes and workshops that provide access to producers, agents, commissioners and writers.

It should provide the opportunity for the trainee to develop and deliver a script at the end of programme.

Delivery must include current industry practitioners and appropriate placement opportunities.

The provider must demonstrate an understanding of new models of script development including team writing and writing for online story telling.

A partnership approach would be welcomed.

Entry requirements: New and emerging writers with some experience in radio, film, TV, theatre or online, and/or have published work. Applicants must submit a portfolio of written work.

Sustainability: The provider must carry out consultation with the industry to assess the market value of the programme and calculate a cost that combines with any HEFCE accreditation funding that is potentially available. If the course is developed in line with Skillset's script writing guidelines applicants will be eligible for Skillset bursaries. See www.skillset.org/buraries for more information.

Indicative Development Budget: c. £60,000

To request application form / guidance notes please contact Peter Davies pdavies@nwua.ac.uk 07769 882 487

Full bids are requested by 11th September

Please submit bids by email to kjones@nwua.ac.uk