



**CAMBRIDGE TV**  
SCHOOL

## **One-Year Course in TV production**

### **The TV School**

Cambridge TV School provides a radically different approach to learning what you need to know to get a great job in the TV, video, and broadcast industries. Our tutors are all active industry professionals who will teach you as you work on producing programmes for broadcast. Unlike longer and less practical university courses, there are no lectures, no essays and no exams. During the course you will handle every aspect of TV production and be supported by your tutors with one to one mentoring and advice.

### **Course outline**

This is a full-time intensive course in television production where you will learn the skills required to produce broadcast-quality programmes. We are unique because we work in partnership with the Cambridge TV channel, so the work you help to produce will regularly be broadcast on TV, giving you a portfolio of work with which to impress future employers. And your knowledge and skills will be highly developed by the time you finish this intensive year.

You'll be learning in the busy environment of a working TV channel, under the pressure of a broadcast schedule with regular deadlines. You will research, plan and shoot programme content and, uniquely, you'll regularly add broadcast credits to your CV.

### **Course content**

This one-year course, like all of our courses, is intensive, practical and hands-on. It's our proven approach to helping you gain all the skills required to get a job in the TV industry. Because it is spread over three terms (rather than our one-term option), you have the chance to explore key skill areas in more depth and practice them over a longer period of time. So your proficiency in these skills will be that much greater. In later stages of this course, you will take on greater responsibility in projects and have the chance to work on longer form and more complex programmes than on our shorter course.

### **First Term**

- Pre-production: planning and researching factual TV content
  - Finding stories, research, working with journalists and subject experts
  - Planning, script writing and preparing for interviews
  - Recruiting the right contributors
  - Basic production paperwork

- Making a studio programme
  - Managing a multi-camera environment
  - Camera teamwork, scripts and communication
  - Studio lighting
  - Writing and presenting using a prompter
  - Managing and shooting a studio discussion
  
- Shooting on location
  - Selecting locations
  - Interview skills, dealing with contributors
  - Shooting great sequences for the edit
  - Recording excellent sound on location
  - Lighting and controlling natural light
  - Multi-camera filming of events, concerts and comedy
  - Safety, dealing with the public and vulnerable groups
  - Location filming and the law
  
- Editing and post production
  - Rewriting the script, writing comm/VO
  - Craft editing skills and best workflow practice
  - Basic all-rounder in AVID, Final Cut Pro X and Premiere Pro CC
  - Metadata, logging and techniques for managing complex material
  
- Promotion and audience generation
  - Viewer engagement and social media responses

## **Second term**

When you continue to the second term you'll be developing into a skilled crew member with a good awareness of the big picture of making a TV programme. This term, you will be more independent, managing your own shoots, directing crews and turning your own ideas and interests into pieces for the magazine programme.

You'll continue to master the skills from term one, attempting more complex shoots, and taking more responsibility for delivery of the pieces you work on, as well as adding new skills.

- Pre-production: planning and researching factual TV content
  - Managing resources - equipment and crew
  - Budgets, scheduling, sourcing archive material
  - Creating formats for short-form programmes
  - Planning a multi-camera event shoot
  
- Making a studio programme
  - Studio directing and vision mixing
  - Building a show from studio and filmed elements
  - Delivering a show for broadcast

- Shooting on location
  - Managing equipment and crew
  - Shooting for a programme style – contributing to longer-form shows
  - Observational filming, actuality and documentary
  - Creative lighting setups
  - Complex sound setups
  
- Editing and post production
  - Finishing a programme to broadcast standards
  - Specialising and becoming expert in your preferred editing package
  - Stings, title sequences and creative use of graphics
  - Compliance, scheduling and transmission of programmes
  - Broadcasting regulations, paperwork and practice
  - Legal and commercial imperatives, broadcast delivery requirements

### **Third term**

When you continue to the third term you'll start as a highly employable crew member, able to take responsibility for doing a skilled job on a production.

At this point, you'll develop your own format ideas, produce long-form shows, and develop your career specialism. Your work at the end of this term will demonstrate that you've successfully reached industry levels of proficiency in one or two chosen areas, including:

- Director
- Producer
- Long-form editor
- Head of department in camera or sound

You will develop and manage the creation of some of the channel's longer-form output such as documentary, factual, entertainment or experimental shows. You will hone your leadership skills as well as your technical skills by creating your own intellectual property and showing your ability to create the finished product with teams of your peers.

You will get a grounding in different genres, learning to produce short form programmes in each one, and specializing for longer projects:

- Arts, music and culture
- Business and property
- Science, health and technology
- Social issues and history

You will work on at least one commercial project – corporate film, advertising, sponsored TV show for the channel – and learn about entrepreneurship, broadcast budgets, deals, rights and pay. You will gain the commercial acumen you'll need to

exploit your ideas, whether pitching to TV commissioners or working as a producer for companies.

When you leave at the end of this final term, you will have built strong relationships with all the active industry professionals who've mentored you; you'll have a network of highly skilled peers who you've worked with for a whole year, and an incredible reel of professional programming that's been broadcast on television. All of this, plus the high level skills you've developed and the long list of ideas for future projects you will have by then, will put you in the strongest possible position to start realising your career ambitions very quickly.

### **Assessment and certification**

We assess your progress against workplace competencies on a continuing basis throughout the course. There are no exams! At the end of your course, Cambridge TV School will issue a course certificate combined with a profile of achievement with a formal record of your broadcast credits and achievements to share with future employers.

### **Other benefits**

As a student on the one-year course, you'll be able to join our short courses and the Summer School. You could also have the chance to work alongside industry professionals as paid crew on assignments and commissioned studio projects during vacation periods.

### **Find out more and apply**

Contact us via [info@ctvs.co.uk](mailto:info@ctvs.co.uk) and ideally send us a link to the best piece of work you've posted online. Make sure you include your phone number too and we'll be in touch.

There is more information on our website: [www.cambridgetvschool.co.uk](http://www.cambridgetvschool.co.uk) including videos by our summer school students and information about payment plans and accommodation.