



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 work with you in producing programmes for broadcast. Unlike longer and less practical university courses, there are no lectures, no essays and no exams. At the TV School you will handle every aspect of factual 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, and That's Cambridge who hold the local transmission licence. We aim to ensure that the output you produce is of sufficient quality and standard to regularly be broadcast on TV, giving you a portfolio with which to impress future employers. Your knowledge and skills will be highly developed by the time you finish this year.

You'll be learning in the busy environment of a working TV production company, under the pressure of a broadcast schedule with regular deadlines. You will research, plan, shoot and present programme content and whilst specialist strengths will emerge, everyone will gain experience in all aspects of the work.

Course content

This one-year course, like all of our courses, is energetic, practical and very hands-on. It's our proven approach to helping you gain all the skills required to get a job in the TV & video industry. You have the chance to explore key skill areas in depth and practice them over an extended 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.

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 administration (rights and clearances)

- 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, asking good questions, 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 commentary and ‘voice over’
 - Craft editing skills and best workflow practice
 - Basic all-rounder in Final Cut Pro X and Premiere Pro
 - Colour correction, sound improvement and transitions
 - 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 and/potentially a presenter with a good awareness of the big picture of making a TV / video programme. This term, you will be more independent, managing your own shoots, directing crews and turning your own ideas and interests into pieces for several magazine and longer-form programmes.

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

- 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
 - Observational filming, actuality and documentary
 - Creative lighting & camera techniques
 - 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
- Presenter
- Long-form editor
- Head of department in camera or sound

With the supervision of your tutors, you will develop and manage the creation of some of the channel's 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. Magazine and documentaries will cover:

- News and current affairs
- Arts, music and culture
- Business and property
- Science, health and technology
- Law, social issues and history

You will work on at least one commercial project – corporate film, advertising, sponsored video – 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 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 and available online. 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.

Term dates, fees and accommodation

Our terms are 10 weeks long and dates and fees are published on our site. We usually take a one-week half-term break. Fees are due prior to the commencement of each term. We have arrangements with a number of well-established accommodation agencies and are in touch with several people who hire our rooms. So, we can assist in your accommodation search if required.

Other benefits

As a student on the one-year course, you'll be able to join our short courses and the Summer School. Students are also welcome to join in any of the Saturday Sessions when they are running. 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 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 including videos by our summer school students and information about payment plans and accommodation.