

## **Diploma in Screenplay Writing**

### **Introduction:**

Screenwriting is a distinct art field that requires talent, practice, and training, plus an enormous level of commitment. The field has a clearly defined set of rules, methods, and parameters for achieving success, both professionally and artistically. Every screenplay begins with a story idea. Screenwriters turn those ideas into scripts with the intention of having them produced, made into a video game or a comic (including manga and graphic novels). Some stories are fiction and others are nonfiction; based on a person's life story or an event, which is then adapted by the screenwriter. Exclusive or pitched assignments are stories which are thought up and written by the screenwriter.

Most, if not all screenwriters are contracted freelance writers and may begin their careers writing on speculation, which means they might be paid little or not at all, or if the script is "picked up for production" they may be paid very well. Professional scriptwriters do not write for free and are commonly represented by a talent agency.

A talent agency or booking agent finds jobs for screenwriters. They also defend, promote, and support the interests of their clients. Signing with an agent isn't required, but it will help a screenwriter get a job as most studios and production companies prefer to go through a talent agency to find a writer. Agents are typically paid a percentage of earnings, but regulations are set by writer's unions and the legal jurisdiction where the agent works, so percentages vary.

Screenwriters who "pitch" a story usually have the luxury of facing little or no competition, and are often very successful. Open assignments are typically initiated by a production company or film studio. They are more competitive and usually have more than one writer competing for the assignment. Of course, when a screenwriter becomes known in the industry, producers and production companies will come to them because of their reputation and quality of work.

Screenwriters produce highly creative writing and often work on strict deadlines with a script development team to create a finished screenplay. When producers bring in additional writers to add or improve certain aspects of a script, the original writer will either get credit for the original screenplay, or they will be credited for additional dialogue or as a story consultant. For this reason, and many others, to succeed and gain a reputation in the industry as someone easy to work with, a good scriptwriter will leave his or her ego at the door.

Some screenwriters also work as script doctors. Script doctors edit and rewrite scripts to suit the needs of a studio or director. This can be a very lucrative career, because even if a writer is the ninth or tenth person to make revisions, they are still paid. Up and coming screenwriters will also ghost write projects to increase their chances of the script being picked up by a production studio. Even though they do not get credit for writing the script, as more established writers take public credit, it is still a viable way for a beginner to get his or her feet wet and gain experience.

# SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION

---

## **Objectives:**

- Identifying the Theme and Premise of your story
- Structuring the story: Linear and Non-linear narratives
- Importance of an effective beginning, engaging middle and satisfying end
- Developing the Treatment & Step Outline – Writing powerful & authentic dialogue as per character & genre

## **Eligibility:**

Higher Secondary (10+2) with at least 50% marks in aggregate or an equivalent grade for General/OBC candidates, and 45% marks in aggregate or an equivalent grade for SC/ST and Differently Abled (DA) category candidates from a recognized Board.

**Age Limit:** No age limit

**Admission Procedure:** As per merit in the qualifying examination.

**Seats:** Seats for Indian Students: 40 (reservation as per state Govt. rules).

**Duration:** Two Semesters (one year)

## **Fee Structure for Batch 2020-21:**

Semester	Academic Fee	Development & Maintenance Fee	Students' Services Fee		Examination Fee	Total (Rs.)	
			Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls
First	15000	10000	3300	3111	2500	30800	30611
Second	15000	10000	2911	2722	2500	30411	30222

- Caution money (Refundable) of Rs. 4000/- will be charged additionally in the first semester.
- Alumni fee of Rs. 500 will be charged extra in the first semester.
- If a student repeats a paper(s) in a semester, an additional fee of Rs.500/- per paper shall be payable.
- Hostel Fee and Central Library Fee will be extra.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

Because most screenwriters work as contract freelancers, they often work out of their homes or offices. Sometimes, when commissioned by a production company, they will write the bulk of the script off-site, but come into the company offices often to present first-drafts and revisions. When working with a team of writers or other people who have input into the finished script, a writer will work in the studio's offices, on-set, or on-location. This is also true of writers who write for comics and video games.

## SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION

---

To work in film or television, screenwriters will likely relocate to LA, as the bulk of movies and television shows are made in and around Hollywood. Of course, many shows are also shot on location around the world, so travel is probably in the cards also. New York City, Chicago, and larger cities in the US (not considering opportunities abroad) are all locations that screenwriters can find jobs. Of course, since screenwriters are contracted freelancers, even living in some remote location is acceptable, as long as you're willing to travel to meetings or to a film location.

If you are lucky enough to have one of your scripts picked up and put into production, you will be expected to be on-set during film production and shooting. If you miss a single day, chances are you will miss any changes to the script, arguments for or against making changes or additions, and any creative ideas that a director or actor may add. Flexibility is key. That, and the ability to adapt to other people's input and ideas.

### **Curriculum:**

#### **First Semester:**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits (L T P)</b>
<b>CORE COURSES</b>		
MC2B-101	Introduction to screenplay writing	4 (3-1-0)
MC2B-103	The Principles of Dramatic Wring	4 (3-1-0)
MC2B-105	Finding the Story	3 (2-1-0)
MC2B-107	Three Act Structure: Putting It All Together	3 (2-1-0)
MC2B-109	Exploring Character	3 (2-1-0)
MC2B-111	Scenes: Form and Function	3 (2-1-0)
MC2B-151	Comprehensive Viva Voce	4

#### **Second Semester:**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits (L T P)</b>
<b>CORE COURSES</b>		
MC2B-102	Structure and Meaning	4 (3-1-0)
MC2B-104	"Network" – Dialogue Done Right	4 (3-1-0)
MC2B-106	Scripts of Best Indian Films	4 (3-1-0)
MC2B-108	Devdas script beginning-middle -end	4 (3-1-0)
MC2B-110	Parallel cinema and script	4 (3-1-0)
MC2B-152	Comprehensive Viva Voce	4