ncl+ Advanced Award in Digital Storytelling
2018-19

Programme Handbook
Welcome

The ncl+ Advanced Award in Digital Storytelling is a unique programme in which learners can gain skills in digital storytelling and the use of creative arts to construct a narrative and think about your personal experience and development.

The award has been designed to help you develop insight into your own creativity, through the process of developing practical techniques for digital storytelling. This powerful combination of personal insight with technical and creative skill can add to your wider employability skills and help you to stand out in today’s job market.

Over three practical workshops experts in the field will introduce you to the key knowledge and skills necessary for you to be able to create a professional digital story.

This handbook will guide you through the process and act as a useful reference point.

What’s involved?

You will undertake workshops and practical activities, as well as producing assessed work enabling you to reflect on and consolidate your practical learning. Details of the assessment are below. In addition to completing the assessments you must attend the three mandatory workshops, which will assist you to complete the assessments.

Assessment

You will be assessed through completion of the following:

- Attendance at 3 workshops and the showcase presentation event
- Production of a digital story
- Written reflection of the learning process and potential applicability (approx. 500 words)

Assignment 1: Digital story presentation

You are required to plan, create and deliver a presentation of up to three minutes, utilising your own digital story production work and presenting this to the rest of the group.

There will be a digital story presentation session taking place on Wednesday March 20th 2019, from 2-4pm. You are required to attend and participate in providing feedback to your fellow learners through a constructive feedback form for each presentation.

Information and support in creating your own digital story will be provided in the workshops.

Assignment 2: Reflective piece
As you develop these new skills, we request that you document this process in a journal style reflective piece, reflecting on the impact the new skills are having, how you find the learning process, and what you think you will use them for in the future.

Suggested word count: approximately 500 words.

Workshops

Attendance at the following workshops is mandatory in order to pass the programme. All the workshops will provide you with practical skills, tips and theory to complete the assessment and create digital stories for the final presentation.

Workshop 1: An introduction to digital storytelling and creative practice

Date: 20th February 2019, 2-6pm, venue TBC

This workshop will be co-delivered by Dr. Helen Burns, Senior Research Associate & Research Excellence Academy Fellow at the School of Education, Communication and Language Science, and Alex Henry, Founding Director of Curiosity Creative CIC.

In the first part of the workshop you will explore theory relating to creativity as a thinking process. This exploration will take place through presentation and in ‘hands on’, art-based activities. Please note that no technical, artistic skills are required! Working with peers, you will build an understanding of creativity, before going on to consider what your own creativity is like. These activities will ensure that you are ‘ready’ to make a digital story, to be aware of your learning during that experience, developing a better understanding of your creativity which will serve you well beyond the life of the project.

In the second part of the workshop you will find out more about what Digital Storytelling is and the process behind it. You will explore what Digital Storytelling is, its origins in the United States and watch some example stories to help you gain understanding of what you will be doing in workshops 2 and 3. We will also begin the ‘Story Circle’ part of the Digital Storytelling to help you ‘find YOUR story’ and to start thinking about what the focus (or ‘golden nugget’ of your story will be. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion, sharing stories and watching examples to inspire ideas for your story.

Workshop 2: Digital storytelling skills: finding your story

Date: 27th February 2019, 2-6pm, venue TBC

This practical workshop will be led by Alex Henry, an industry expert from Curiosity Creative. This session is all about the asset preparation – getting your script written and recorded and your images storyboarded ready for bringing them all together in Workshop 3. You will learn key hints and tips for what makes a good script and how to get your story down on paper ready for recording. The second part of the session will involve working in pairs to get your
audio recorded. You will also prepare your story board so you know what images you need to source ready for Workshop 3.

**Workshop three: Digital storytelling skills: the digital bit**

Date: March 13th 2019, 2-6pm, venue TBC

This practical workshop will also be led by Alex Henry. You will learn key digital media skills for co-creating digital stories. We will use simple movie-making software to bring your audio and visual together to form your digital story. You will learn how to make a basic timeline and the importance of timing your images on the screen to support your audio. You will also be shown how to add zooms and pans to your images to enhance the messages within your story. Finally you will be shown how to export your finished movie file so it can be shared outside the workshop setting.

**Presentations**

Date: 20th March 2019, 2-4pm, venue TBC

All participants will deliver their presentations of up to five minutes and receive/provide feedback to other group members

**Programme aims and objectives**

By successfully completing the assessments, attending the workshops and delivering your digital story, you will have adequately addressed the following outcomes:

- Developed an understanding of creative process and your personal creativity
- Helped to established a community of enquiry in which you adeptly use teamwork and work individually
- Understand the role and applicability of digital storytelling in personal development and as a potential employability tool
- Be able to reflect on and review your own developing skills in digital storytelling
- Be able to effectively create and edit your own digital story
- Be able to understand the ethical implications of digital storytelling methods and research and demonstrate effective communication as a digital storyteller
Additional details

Submissions received after deadlines will not be considered and will result in a referral. Extension to deadlines will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and are at the discretion of the Programme Leader.

You may find it useful to keep a log of hours and work done, however this is not mandatory.

Please use templates where provided and stick to word counts where specified.

Key contacts:

**Programme Leader:**
Dr. Helen Burns - Senior Research Associate, Research Excellence Fellow  
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**Programme Coordinator**
Jo Day – Employability & Skills Coordinator  
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**Digital Storytelling Practitioner**
Alex Henry  
Curiosity Creative C.I.C  
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**Workshop Leaders**

**Dr. Helen Burns**  
*School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences, Newcastle University.*  
Helen has worked in educational research for over six years, first at Durham University and now at Newcastle. Helen leads several research projects which use creative experience to develop independent thinking and teaches ‘Developing Thinking Skills’ and ‘Developing Creative Thinking through Arts Experience’. Before work in academia, Helen worked in creative and cultural education in museums and galleries and as a national programme leader for the national, creative education programme ‘Creative Partnerships’.

**Alex Henry**  
*Curiosity Creative, Tuspark Eagle Lab, Maybrook House, Newcastle upon Tyne*  
Alex is Founding Director and Operations Manager of the North East Digital Story Centre, *Curiosity Creative CIC* and an industry expert. Alex has worked in the heritage sector for more than fifteen years and managed the HLF-funded *Culture Shock* project, one of the largest digital storytelling projects in the world and internationally recognised as an example of good practice.