

## **PhD by practice in Documentary at Edinburgh College of Art**

ECA Film & TV has a fantastic track record of student awards for several years and is still progressing from strength to strength. We are part of the Skillset Screen Academy of Scotland in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University and we have a dedicated research centre in documentary: Scottish Documentary Institute [www.docscene.org/](http://www.docscene.org/)  
[www.screenacademyscotland.ac.uk](http://www.screenacademyscotland.ac.uk) / [www.eca.ac.uk](http://www.eca.ac.uk)

### **PhD by practice (3 years FT or 4-6 years PT)**

The course is project-led and is delivered through regular tutorials, master-classes with international documentary directors as well as workshops across the years in order for postgraduate students to be integrated with the rest of the Film & TV department. It gives a unique opportunity away from the industry pressures to work around creative documentary storytelling. It is designed to reflect the changing needs of documentary production and to encourage experimentation and cross fertilisation between different technologies and conventions. The aim is to produce filmmakers who are professionally able and well informed and who can (re)- enter the film and television industries with a freshness of approach to both changing technologies and the cinematic ideas that they embrace.

ECA staff is drawn from all sectors of the media industry and strongly represent broadcast and Independent practices in their own right.

We are truly proud of our international record of recruitment welcoming students from all parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East.

### **Programme Aims and Objectives**

#### **Aims:**

To provide a context for an international body of postgraduate students coming from different cultural traditions to research documentary within an integrated framework, in order to:

- Produce professionally able students skilled in creative documentary
- Facilitate the interrelationship between different cultural traditions, traditional and emerging screen technologies, and classical and non-traditional cinematic genres and conventions.
- To provide postgraduate education in documentary production that constitutes a clear progression from undergraduate education whilst maintaining distinctiveness from industrial training
- To challenge boundaries, encourage original thought, and develop intellectual and critical approaches to making meaning in sounds and images
- Combine the contemporary energy and discipline of fine art practices with the professionalism and accountability of contemporary media industry practices, in order to produce innovative and grounded work.

**Objectives:** The development of students who demonstrate:

- An understanding of a broad range of production disciplines and differing cinematic traditions.
- The capacity to make a clear connection between meaning, context and form in documentary.
- A self reflective, creative and intellectual approach to both individual and group practice.
- A critical and analytic perceptiveness about their own work and the work of others.
- A professional, flexible and creative approach to working practices in documentary production.
- An awareness of the structure of the rapidly changing media industries, including potential financing sources, and creative/vocational paths and opportunities.

**PhD outputs:**

1 feature doc or several short films + a written component (25,000 words +) reflecting on the research questions linked to the making of your film.

**Tutors:**

Documentary director / producer: Noe Mendelle / Emma Davie / Amy Hardie

**Application (see eca website for application form):**

Please submit a full CV, a DVD with at least one complete short documentary film, a study proposal outlining the research questions that you will want to explore during the making of your film(s) and a letter of motivation.

Any further information, please get in touch with:

Professor Noe Mendelle [n.mendelle@eca.ac.uk](mailto:n.mendelle@eca.ac.uk)

