*MA Media Production*
*Birmingham School of Media*

## **Additional costs for this course**

We have provided you with a breakdown of the essential costs and the optional costs which are dependent on your budget.

Please note that your marks are not a reflection of how much you spend, so a student who spends less than the estimated costs won’t be marked down, compared to a student who spends more.

### **Equipment and consumables**

As an MA Media Production student, you’ll gain access to the equipment and facilities in Parkside building, including the radio and television studios. You’ll be able to access Studio B – Green Screen – and the photography studios if you’ve had the relevant training.

Training is provided by the specialist technicians, so if you know you would like the training your course tutor can get in contact with the department.

**Production costs**

Production is expensive, but it does depend on what type of production you are planning to do. If you are planning a low-key UK-based observational documentary, your costs should be low. However, if you plan to film abroad, then there will be travel and accommodation to consider. If you plan to make drama, then you may want to pay actors, hire hair and make-up artists and purchase or hire props.

The School of Media currently offers a small fund to help pay for some of the production costs. You’ll need to apply on a case by case basis, outlining what you need and how you plan to acquire it, directly to the Head of School. If your application is successful, you will need to pay upfront, ensure you obtain an invoice or receipt and the university will reimburse you via a submitted claim form.

You may spend between £100 and £1,000 plus on production costs; so it’s recommended you apply for funding to save you from covering the costs yourself. This can be done by applying through [Kickstart](https://www.kickstarter.com/) or the School of Media funding process. The staff are happy to assist you on funding streams.

**Editing Equipment**

You’ll be doing a significant amount of editing. You may prefer to edit your work on your own laptop so that it is accessible at home as well as university. However, if you want to edit at university, we have Premier Pro and Avid.

It’s recommended you buy an external hard drive – minimum 1TB to store your work on. A budget of about £50-£100 is sufficient.

### **Books**

Books which are recommended for purchase are highlighted in the resources list in the course handbook that you obtain when starting the course. The cost of books should be no more than £100. The staff subscribe to [Broadcast](http://www.broadcastnow.co.uk/) and students are welcome to access the weekly magazine via a staff member.

The most useful resources are free websites: [Creative Skillset](http://creativeskillset.org/), Hiive, [BAFTA Guru](http://guru.bafta.org/), Creative England, [Women in Film & Television](http://www.wftv.org.uk/) and the BBC Colleges of Production and Journalism.

## **Laptops and Software**

It is not essential for you to purchase your own laptop (PC or Mac), as you can also borrow a laptop from the university or use one of our shared computer rooms. Laptops may be borrowed for free for up to six hours and may be found at the following locations: Curzon building, Millennium Point, Parkside building, the School of Jewellery and Margaret Street (Birmingham School of Art). Most students do prefer to have their own laptops, and we suggest you allow about £300 to £1,200 for this, dependent on your preferences and budget. Apple also offer a discount on laptops for UK students: [go to Apple for Education for more details](http://www.apple.com/uk_edu_5000618/shop).

Your laptop must be capable of running Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom and therefore you will need to purchase this software as well as the machine.

It is also important that you have the ability to back-up your work so an external hard drive is essential.

You’ll also be provided with a free account for [Lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com/) worth £227.40.

Microsoft Office 365 and 1TB of OneDrive cloud storage space is provided free to all students.

### **Printing**

Our on-campus print shop can produce high-quality prints for your portfolio, assignments and dissertation on an at-cost basis.

You’ll need to print scripts, research briefs, flyers and edit lists, but for any large printing jobs, the course tutor will assist you individually or as part of a group.

In previous years, students have budgeted up to £100 for printing.

**Field trips**

You’ll go on at least one trip each semester, and currently these trips are fully funded by the school.