

PRESS RELEASE (19/01/2006)

European Commission continues to support Animation Training at UWE

For a successive year, the Bristol School of Animation, based at UWE's School of Art, Media and Design, has been successful in its application to the European Commission MEDIA Training Programme. It has been awarded nearly €80,000 to sustain and develop the 3 Month Animation course, as part of the European Union's audio-visual policy, supporting professional training, in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the European film and television industry in the worldwide arena.

The funding will be of direct benefit to individuals throughout Europe seeking to develop their professional animation knowledge and skills, as it will subsidise the course fees by 50% in 2006. Frances Meredith, Manager of the Bristol School of Animation says "With the financial support of MEDIA Training, we aim to promote this unique educational opportunity to a wider European audience, through reduced fees, and the opportunity to win a scholarship through our 2006 Storyboard Competition, in association with Aardman Animations Ltd".

The 3 Month Animation course aims to prepare animators for the professional expectations of both the studio and freelance environment, and to teach them the high level of skill demanded for professional practice. What makes this course unique from any other animation skills based training course is the continued support of internationally recognised animation studios based in the south west region, including Aardman Animations Ltd, Ficticious Egg, a Productions, 4:2:2 South, bolexbrothers and Beryl productions. Professional animators, model makers, producers and sound specialists from the industry all support the course through regular seminar sessions and studio visits.

Suzanne Wass attended the 3 Month Animation course in 2005 and has gone on to do a work placement at Bristol based animation studio, bolexbrothers. She says "I decided to do the course in order to improve my understanding and execution of animation techniques and performance. I was also hoping to gain advice and direction about working within the industry. I have not been disappointed! The teaching is excellent and the contact with animation professionals extremely beneficial"

For more information on the 3 Month Animation Course and the other short courses run by the Bristol School of Animation, please contact Frances Meredith

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Image Available: Students from the 3 Month Animation course on a studio visit to Aardman Animations Ltd, August 2005. Photograph: Frances Meredith

The Bristol School of Animation is a professional training unit affiliated to the Bristol School of Art, Media and Design at the University of the West of England, Bristol. It provides training in all aspects of animation, offering a range of educational opportunities to all, from young people to professional animators.