

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MOMBASA

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Communication Studies

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR:
BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION
HMC 4213 : WRITING FOR THE SCREEN
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION
SERIES: DECEMBER 2025
PRACTICAL PROJECT
DATE: MAY 2025

Instructions to Candidates

Attempt ALL the tasks

PROJECT

TUM TV Campus Prize 2025

The **TUMO TV Campus Prize 2025** are looking for writers who can create unforgettable contemporary drama, characters that make you sit up, and demand you watch them and share the moment. They want to see authentic voices and stories that serve all their audiences.

Writers will be asked to think big, think how they can make their idea stand out in a competitive marketplace. This year the focus is on:

- Unmissable 4-part thriller - could be psychological, conspiracy, relationship, crime, or political *and*
- Returning procedural series - including crime, medical, Romance and legal, where the authenticity and diversity of the world, the characters and their relationships hook you in week after week

Writers will be asked to submit:

- i) An existing original spec' script, full length and for any *medium: TV or film*
- ii) A one/two-page pitch for an original TV serial or series idea for TUMO TV
- iii) A short CV highlighting any writing credits (these are not essential to enter)

- iv) The **idea should not be in development** with another broadcaster or independent company
- v) For this particular competition period, drama ideas **will** be considered

Schedule

- i) Launch: February 28 2025
- ii) Submissions Open: March 15 2025
- iii) Submissions Close: 5 pm on April 30 2025

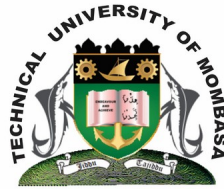
The project is divided into two major Milestones namely the Premise and the actual screenplay writing script.

Milestone One

Preparation (40Marks)

You will conceive, debate and research a screenplay idea, develop it and submit a document bearing the key elements:

The Premise	(1-3 sentences) The Premise (sometimes called the Concept) is a simple statement of the main character/s, and their dilemma.
The Synopsis	(3 paragraphs) The synopsis is about 3 paragraphs long and reflects the beginning, middle and end of the story.
The Outline	(1-3 pages) One or Three pages, describing the setup, development and resolution, and sketching the details of the characters.
Character Notes	(1-3 pages for each major character) Outlines the different characters and their Backstories.
‘Pitch’ Document	(10 pages) Contains all of the above documents.
Scene Breakdown	(2-3 pages) A ‘beat sheet’ or list of points, outlining the key event/s of each scene.



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- The Treatment (15 pages) Fifteen pages, a short story virtually, which is simply an expanded version of the Outline, but with more character detail, and various dramatic 'moments' and key scenes fleshed out in more detail. Usually, each scene is a paragraph. Contains no direct dialogue, and is written in the third-person present tense.
- Sample dialog (1 page for each major character) 'Test scenes' or monologues, So that each of your characters speaks in their own distinctive voice.

Milestone Two **The Screenplay (60 Marks)**

- The Screenplay (40 pages) 40 A4 pages, in standard Screenplay format, in Courier 12-point font, and with black card front & back, 3 hole drilled & 2 brads in the top & bottom holes. Has scene headings, stage directions and dialog.

Submission Date 30th April 2025