MA Film and Screen Studies
Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Final Award: MA Film and Screen Studies

Programme Name: MA Film and Screen Studies

Total credit value for programme: 180

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Postgraduate Certificate in Film and Screen Studies

Postgraduate Diploma in Film and Screen Studies

Duration of Programme: 1 year full time; 2 years part-time

UCAS Code(s): Not applicable

HECoS Code(s): (100058) Film Studies

QAA Benchmark Group: Not applicable

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 7

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: July 2023

Home Department: Media, Communications and Cultural Studies (MCCS)

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Not applicable

Programme overview

MA Film and Screen Studies offers a unique combination of critical and creative approaches to the past and the future of audiovisual media.

MA Film and Screen Studies will equip you with skills and knowledge to address current transformations of moving image media in a globalised world, from the media in your pocket to architectural screens. It explores both the old and the new, philosophy and history, theory and practice, so as to help you understand the challenges of the 21st century's culture of moving images, changing artistic and political contexts as well as ever developing technologies.

What distinguishes the MA Film and Screen Studies is its innovative approach to learning and research. It takes you well beyond the borders of traditional film studies. It encourages you to think critically and imaginatively, across media forms, disciplinary boundaries as well as conceptual and creative work. Students taking the Media Arts pathway will have the opportunity to submit some work in non-traditional forms.

Teaching and supervision draw on the diverse research strengths of the globally renowned academics at one of the world's leading media communications, and cultural studies departments, which also has strong traditions in audiovisual practice.

You'll be taught by scholars of international standing who have expertise in the interface between film criticism and creation; new screen technologies; in early cinema and the media archaeology of modernity; in artist's film; and in non-fiction film (eg documentary and avant-garde). See more information about our research interests.

The MA offers two pathways:

MA Film and Screen Studies: Moving Image Studies Pathway. The moving image media today are a concentrated form of culture, ideas, socialisation, wealth and power. 21st century globalisation, ecology, migration and activism fight over and through them. How have the media built on, distorted and abandoned their past? How are they trying to destroy, deny or build the future? This pathway explores new critical approaches that address the currency of moving image media in today's global context – their aesthetics, technology and politics. It seeks to extend the boundaries for studying moving images by considering a wider range of media and introducing students to a wider range of approaches for investigating moving images' past and present.

MA Film and Screen Studies: Media Arts Pathway. The most intense and extreme forms of media, experimental media arts, test to breaking point our established ideas and practices. From wild abstraction and surrealist visions to activist and community arts, they ask the profoundest questions about high art and popular culture, the individual and the social, meaning and beauty. This pathway explores these emerging experimental practices of image making and criticism. Students on this pathway are encouraged not just to study but to curate and critique past, present and future media arts by building exhibitions and visual essays of their own. Short practical workshops will enable students to make the most of the skills you bring into the programme. This pathway provides for 2 modules to submit practice work in partial completion of their modules.

Programme entry requirements

Applicants will normally have, or expect to gain a first degree of at least upper second class standard (or equivalent). Those whose first language is not English will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent.

The programme is suitable for students from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds within the humanities and limited prior knowledge of scholarship on screen-based media is required. It is also suitable for film and media industry professionals who wish to reflect critically on their own practice through a taught module and who can demonstrate the relevant experience and expertise in one area of practice which will be inform their dissertation. These applicants will also need a relevant first degree as above.

All applicants need to demonstrate an awareness of the historical and contemporary significance of screen-based media and a willingness to accept the challenge of interdisciplinary study.

Programme learning outcomes

Students will learn to analyse, contextualise, historicise, and theorise developments in screen based media with reference to key debates in the history, sociology, anthropology and philosophy of film and the media.

All students will develop a wide range of transferable skills and intellectual capacities applicable to both related and unrelated fields. These are the ability to make prompt decisions, research independently, analyse imagery, debate controversial topics, use language effectively, and develop their overall rhetorical proficiency.

A Postgraduate Certificate in Film and Screen Studies will be awarded to students who achieve 60 CATS by passing both compulsory modules, Archaeology of the Moving Image and Politics of the Audiovisual. Students awarded the Postgraduate Certificate will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Systematically understand key aspects of debates in the field of Screen Studies.	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual
A2	Analyse, contextualise, historicise and theorise current and future developments in screen-based media.	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A3	Evaluate and articulate key historical, sociological, anthropological and philosophical approaches to Screen Studies.	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual
A4	Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of at least four differing areas of critical inquiry in relation to film and screen studies.	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Deploy a range of intellectual skills and linguistic tools to produce academic work of an appropriate level	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual
B2	Use and reflect on a range of sources from journalism to academic writing	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Interpret a broad variety of source material in the context of the analysis of Film and Screen Studies and associated disciplines	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual
C2	Act autonomously to develop expertise with existing film and video Archives including BFI Library	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Prepare and deliver clearly argued and critically informed work	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual
D2	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in effective independent work with the attendant skills of work organisation, time planning, independent decision-making and keeping to deadlines.	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D3	Utilise conceptual knowledge and critical reasoning skills in complex problem solving	Archaeology of the Moving Image; Politics of the Audiovisual

A Postgraduate Diploma in Film and Screen Studies will be awarded to students who achieve 120 CATS by passing both compulsory modules, Archaeology of the Moving Image and Politics of the Audiovisual, as well as 60 CATS of options. Students awarded the Postgraduate Diploma will also be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Present advanced and systematic knowledge of recent and relevant literature in the field of film and screen studies and demonstrate a critical awareness of current theoretical problems.	Option modules
A2	Consolidate and deepen their understanding of related subject areas in which they have an interest through the choice of options offered on the programme.	Option modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Systematically and creatively engage in debates and develop reflective commentary taking into account a range of views and perspectives from film and screen studies.	Option modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Engage with and apply wider debates and practices in film and screen studies.	Option modules
C2	Demonstrate that they can produce significant pieces of written work of a high academic standard (i.e. adequately researched, planned and structured, clearly written, well-presented and following academic conventions).	Option modules

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Demonstrate a range of advanced communication and discussion skills in	Option modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	written and oral contexts that deepen your knowledge of film and screen theory.	

In addition to the Learning Outcomes for the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma, students who successfully complete MA Film and Screen Studies will also be able to:

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Demonstrate a systematic and advanced understanding of relevant theoretical concepts and methodologies, identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps.	Final Dissertation
A2	Appreciate a range of methodological issues surrounding the production of innovative research in film and screen studies.	Final Dissertation
A3	Advance their critical understanding of one particular issue in contemporary culture in relation to the broader field of film and screen studies.	Final Dissertation

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Identify and apply appropriate theoretical concepts and methodologies in response to existing empirical or theoretical problems and/or suggest lines of enquiry relevant to those contexts.	Final Dissertation

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Design and undertake a specialist research project, organise the findings, and present them in the form of a single-authored, original piece of academic writing.	Final Dissertation
C2	Act autonomously in the execution of a piece of research and take responsibility for both ethical and practical decisions, and for presenting the findings in a clear and coherent form.	Final Dissertation
C3	Debate salient academic, ethical and technical issues relevant to research methods, and draw on this awareness in designing an effective research project.	Final Dissertation

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Show independence and creativity in self-learning, exercise initiative and taking personal responsibility for work.	Final Dissertation

Grading Criteria Postgraduate

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (outstanding, exceptional)	Awarded when candidates show evidence of extensive relevant reading and an impressive grasp of current major issues in the field. Candidates will have very effectively demonstrated their achievement of the appropriate module knowledge, understandings and skills outcomes. This knowledge will have been reviewed critically with insight and independence of thought. Arguments and the presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning. The writing will be clear, well-focussed and cogent.
70-79%	Distinction	Awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction but to an outstanding degree. Such work may be of publishable quality, and will be a significant contribution to debates in the field.
60-69%	Merit	Awarded when candidates show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating evidence and theories drawn from a wide range of sources. Candidates will have effectively demonstrated their achievement of the appropriate module knowledge, understandings and skills outcomes. They will demonstrate an ability to relate this reading to their topics, and will clearly have understood and assimilated the relevant literature.
50-59%	Pass	Awarded when there is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas or critical comment. Candidates will have demonstrated a satisfactory level of achievement of the appropriate module knowledge, understandings and skills learning outcomes. There will be reference to relevant reading, though not necessarily critical evaluation. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field.
30-49%	Fail	A mark below 50% indicates that a candidate has not satisfied the examiners that they have read and understood the essential texts of the module and when there is inadequate organisation of the work. Candidates will have demonstrated an unsatisfactory level of achievement of the appropriate module learning outcomes. Research involved in

		writing the coursework or dissertation may be poorly organised and inadequately discussed. There may be confusion and incoherence and unfocussed comment on the literature.
10-29%	Bad Fail	Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the appropri
1-9%	Very Bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment

Mode of study

On campus.

The expertise of the core teaching team is based on high research or professional profiles in relevant areas and is supported by a wide range of seminar and guest lecture programmes in Screen Studies provided by the department and within the College.

Learning strategies that enable the outcomes to be achieved are centred on lectures, small group workshops, seminars, tutorials and individual supervision. The seminars and workshops combine teaching and learning in a number of possible formats including: short individual presentations by staff and students designed to stimulate debate; team work in pairs; whole group discussion and task-based work appropriate to specific topics. Seminars and workshops are guided by questions designed to focus the debate and clarify the aims of the session. The need for adequate preparation is emphasised and consists of reading from the bibliographies provided and preparing notes and materials based on the questions given. Individual feedback is available in two forms: discussion with module tutors in tutorial hours or supervision and comments provided by tutors on essay work. Intensive individual supervision over a prolonged period is provided for the dissertation, and this consists of guiding and structuring the student's research, setting mutually agreed deadlines for drafts and providing written and verbal feedback on progress. Dissertation students receive an intensive workshop and written guidance on research methods as well as the instruction and individually tailored advice given by the supervisor.

In addition, students on the MA Film and Screen Studies: Media Arts Pathway will be invited to attend workshops in key audiovisual skills such as lighting, sound recording, composition and editing. They will be given the choice of submitting work in written or in audiovisual form, and will be offered the option of submitting up to 50% of their dissertations in audiovisual form.

Programme structure

The programme structure is comprised of two compulsory 30 CATs compulsory modules (60 CATs total), 60 CATs of optional modules, and the dissertation (60 CATs).
The first compulsory 30 CATs compulsory module is Archaeology of the Moving Image, which is taught in the Autumn term. This module functions as a foundation and offers students on both pathways a map of the key debates in Film and Screen Studies around the historical and material qualities of screen-based media. The module is taught in ten three-hour lecture/seminar sessions and is supported by the provision of tutorials.

The second compulsory 30 CATs compulsory module for students on the Moving Image Studies pathway is Politics of the Audiovisual, which is taught in the Spring term. This module functions as a foundation and offers students a map of the key debates in Film and Screen Studies around the globalisation and political aesthetics of screen-based media. This module is taught in ten three- hour lecture/seminar sessions and is supported by the provision of tutorials.

The second compulsory 30 CATs compulsory module for students on the Media Arts pathway is Experimental Media, which is taught in the Spring term. This course functions as a foundation and offers students a map of experimental practice in the media arts. This module is taught in ten three-hour lecture/seminar sessions and is supported by the provision of tutorials, workshops and screenings.

Students are required to take optional modules adding to a total of 60 CATs points from the list provided by Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies. Specific agreements between the Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies and other departments in the College or in the University of London system will allow students to take up to 30 CATs outside the Department but within the college and 30 CATs outside the Department and outside the College in future. Each student's option profile is discussed with the programme convenor in order to ensure that the balance of subject-specific topics is appropriate for the individual concerned. Optional modules are taught primarily through lectures, seminars and tutorials and take place in the Autumn or Spring terms.

Students on the Moving Image Studies pathway are required to produce a 12-15,000 word (inclusive of foot notes and bibliography) dissertation on a topic agreed by the student and supervisor. Students on the Media Arts pathway will be offered the option of submitting 50% of their dissertations in audiovisual form. The audiovisual component should be a 'substantial' body of work. Given the potential range of media that can be used, and their differing potential relationships with the research process and the textual component, it is impossible to be precise. In the case of film/video it would normally entail an equation of roughly 2 minutes per 1,000 words (based on regulations for the AVPhD), but detailed requirements will be worked out on a case-by-case basis.

Intermediate Awards
PGCert: Students who successfully complete both core modules (60 credits) may exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Film and Screen Studies.

PGDip: Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 120 credits, (completing everything except the final dissertation), may exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Film and Screen Studies.

Progression Requirements
First year part-time students are normally required to successfully complete the two core modules before proceeding to their second year of study.

Full-time mode

Media Arts Pathway

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Archaeology of the Moving Image	MC71145A	30	7	Compulsory	Autumn
Optional modules to a value of 60 CATS chosen from a list of options available from the Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies	Various	60	7	Optional	Autumn and Spring
Dissertation	MC71139A	60	7	Compulsory	Autumn, Spring, and Summer
Experimental Media	MC71153B	30	7	Compulsory	Spring

Moving Image Studies Pathway

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Archaeology of the Moving Image	MC71145A	30	7	Compulsory	Autumn
Optional modules to a value of 60 CATS chosen from a list of options available from the Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies	Various	60	7	Optional	Autumn and Spring
Dissertation	MC71139A	60	7	Compulsory	Autumn,

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
					Spring, and Summer
Politics of the Audiovisual	MC71146B	30	7	Compulsory	Spring

Part-time mode Year 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Archaeology of the Moving Image	MC71145A	30	7	Compulsory	Autumn
Politics of the Audiovisual	MC71146B	30	7	Compulsory	Spring
Experimental Media	MC71153B	30	7	Compulsory	Spring

Part-time mode Year 2

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Dissertation	MC71139A	60	7	Compulsory	Autumn, Spring and Summer
Optional modules to a value of 60 CATS chosen from a list of options available from the Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies, which may be spread over both years.	Various	60	7	Optional	Autumn and Spring

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least three a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an

opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the Goldsmiths website and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The Disability and Wellbeing Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service provides central support for skills enhancement, running The Gold Award scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The Centre for Academic Language and Literacies works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Placement opportunities

As arranged by the student with film festivals and film distribution organisations.

Employability and potential career opportunities

Possible careers include film and video distribution, film exhibition, museums, film and television criticism, new media criticism, new media art, and other jobs associated with screen culture, as well as further academic study.

Programme-specific requirements

Not applicable

Tuition fee costs

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/

Specific programme costs

Students should expect to pay to attend screenings and exhibitions in and around London to the total of £80.