PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**BA Film and Media** *Pathway exit awards:* - BA Film and Media - BA Film and Media Practice - BA Film and Media with Screenwriting - BA Film and Media with Environmental Studies (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Dip HE; Cert HE
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years); Part-time (4 years); Full-time with Foundation Year (4 years)' Part-time with Foundation Year (6 years) October
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
[QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England](#)	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
UCAS code	P390; P39A (with FY)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBAFILM_C (full-time, 3 years) UBAFILMM_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFFILM_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFFILMM_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100058 film studies 100444 media and communication studies
Start date of programme	October 2000
Date of programme approval	Spring 2000
Date of last programme amendment approval	September 2025
Valid for academic entry year	**2025-26**
Date of last revision to document	01/09/2025

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 104 points (48 for Foundation Year entry)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a tariff calculator for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

This course introduces you to the academic study of film, television and screenwriting, with an emphasis on developing your creative skills in a range of practice-oriented modules. The degree will equip you with core knowledge and practice-based skills for work in film and media organisations, and in the creative industries. Our courses are taught by highly experienced tutors with links in key film and media institutions.

Throughout the course you will combine written and practical work in your experience and understanding of film and television theory and history, screenwriting and script editing. Through a range of exercises you will learn new skills in image and sound editing, in developing script projects and digital media strategies, while enhancing your writing, research and presentation skills as a creative professional.

As the course structure demonstrates below, depending on what specific areas of film and media you are most interested in, you can tailor your studies so that you exit with a degree in **Film and Media Practice; or Film, Media with Screenwriting.**

You can also choose to study towards a **BA Film and Media with Environmental Studies**, by selecting 90 credits of your options from the list of Environmental Studies modules below.

Course structure

FT students can take no more than 60 credits in any one term, and no less than 30. PT students will be expected/required to take no more than 45 credits in any one term, and no less than 30.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
BA Film and Media					
Year 1					
4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	1
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	2
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Comp	2-3
4		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
Year 2					
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Comp	1
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	2-3
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3

		Year 3				
6	FDME001S6	Project BA Film and Media	30	Core	1-3	
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3	
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3	
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3	

BA Film and Media with Screenwriting

		Year 1				
4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	1	
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	2	
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Comp	2-3	
4	FFME025S4	Screenwriting	30	Comp	1	

		Year 2				
5	FFME026S5	Screenwriting: the 30-minute script	30	comp	1	
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	2-3	
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3	
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3	

		Year 3				
6	FDME001S6	Final Year Project	30	core	1-3	
6	ARMC271S6	Script Development and Script Editing	30	comp	2	
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1 or 3	
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1 or 3	

BA Film and Media Practice

		Year 1				
4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	1	
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	2	
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Comp	2-3	
4		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	3	

		Year 2				
5	ARMC254S5	Working with film sound	30	Comp	2	
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	2-3	
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1 or 3	
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1 or 3	

		Year 3				
6	FDME001S6	Final Year Project	30	Core	1-3	
6	ARMC255S6	Working with Found Footage	30	Comp	1	
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	2 or 3	
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	2 or 3	

BA Film and Media with Environmental Studies

Year 1

4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	1
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	2
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Comp	2-3
4		Module choice from environmental studies list	30	Option	1, 2 or 3

Year 2

5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Comp	1
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	2-3
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
5		Module choice from environmental studies list	30	Option	1, 2 or 3

Year 3

6	FDME001S6	Project BA Film and Media	30	Core	1-3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
6		Module choice from environmental studies list	30	Option	1, 2 or 3

Part-time – 4 years

BA Film and Media

Year 1

4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	1
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	2
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Comp	2-3

Year 2

5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Comp	1
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	2-3
4		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	2 or 3

Year 3

5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3

Year 4

6	FDME001S6	Project BA Film and Media	30	Core	1-3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3

BA Film and Media with Screenwriting

Year 1

4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	1
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Comp	2-3

4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	3

Year 2

4	FFME025S4	Screenwriting	30	Comp	1
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	2-3
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	2 or 3

Year 3

5	FFME026S5	Screenwriting: the 30-minute script	30	Comp	2
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1 or 3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1 or 3

Year 4

6	ARMC271S6	Script Development and Script Editing	30	Comp	1
6	FDME001S6	Project BA Film and Media	30	Core	1-3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	2 or 3

BA Film and Media Practice

Year 1

4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	1
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	3
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Comp	2-3

Year 2

4		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1
5	ARMC254S5	Working with film sound	30	comp	2
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	comp	2-3

Year 3

5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	2 or 3
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	2 or 3
6	ARMC255S6	Working with Found Footage	30	Comp	1

Year 4

6	FDME001S6	Project BA Film and Media	30	Core	1-3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3

BA Film and Media with Environmental Studies

Year 1

4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	1
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	2
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Comp	2-3

Year 2

4		Module choice - environmental studies list	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Comp	1
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	2-3

		Year 3			
5		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
5		Module choice from environmental studies list	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
		Year 4			
6	FDME001S6	Project BA Film and Media	30	Core	1-3
6		Option module (from main list)	30	Option	1, 2 or 3
6		Module choice from environmental studies list	30	Option	1, 2 or 3

		Indictive list of option modules – main list			
4	FFME007S4	Journalism in British Life	30	Option	1
4	FFME027S4	Introduction to Journalism Practice	30	Option	2-3
4	ARMC157S4	Introduction to Digital Culture	30	Option	1
4	ARMC217S4	Media Studies: Key Thinkers and Approaches	30	Option	2
4	FFME025S4	Screenwriting	30	Option	1
4	PROPOSED	Working with Digital Media	30	Option	2-3
5	FFME029S5	Journalism Formats and Specialisations	30	Option	2-3
5	FFME063S5	Documentary	30	Option	3
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Option	1
5	FFME017S5	Media, Technology and Culture	30	Option	1
5	ARMC252S5	Designing Digitally	30	Option	3
5	FFME026S5	Screenwriting - The Thirty-Minute Script	30	Option	2
5	ARMC254S5	Working with Film Sound	30	Option	2
5	ARMC196S5	Researching Digitally	30	Option	2-3
5	ARMC124S5	Working in the Creative and Cultural Sector	30	Option	3
5	CASC001H5	Your Career Development	15	Option	2
5	CASC002H5	Micro-Placement	15	Option	3
6	FFME036S6	Contemporary European Cinema	30	Option	2
6	ARMC270S6	Story Matters; Writing for Television	30	Option	
6	FFME050S6	Globalisation and Media Cultures	30	Option	1
6	ARMC176S6	Media and Conflict	30	Option	1
6	ARMC175S6	Principles of Layout and Design	30	Option	2
6	FFME090S6	Principles of Digital Video and Editing	30	Option	2
6	ARMC271S6	Script Development and Script Editing	30	Option	1
6	ARMC255S6	Working with Found Footage	30	Option	2
6	ARMC235S6	Communicating Digitally	30	Option	1
6	ARAR010S6	Industry Placement / Career Development Report	30	Option	1-3
		Environmental studies options			
4	GGPH072S4	Humans and the Environment	30	Option	1
4	GGPH055S4	Introducing Natural Environments	30	Option	3
4	SSGE008S4	Introduction to Environmental Science	30	Option	2
4	SC04007S4	Climate Change Communication: Feeling, Thinking, Acting	30	Option	2

5	SSPL262S5	The Ethics of Life and Death: Humans, Animals and the Environment	30	Option	3
5	SSGE123S5	Future Food Systems and Sustainability	30	Option	3
5	SC03010S5	Global Environmental Histories	30	Option	2
5	LALW025H5	Environmental Law (Level 5)	15	Option	2
5	SSGE084S5	Managing Environments	30	Option	2
5	AREN199S5	The Arts of Adaptation: Creative Climates	30	Option	2
5	SSHC487S5	The Archaeology of the Everyday	30	Option	2
5	SSHC435S5	Beginnings: The Archaeology of Prehistory	30	Option	
5	ARCL115S5	Culture, Space and the Environment in Brazil (Level 5)	30	Option	
6	SSGE125S6	Climate and Society: Past, Present and Future	30	Option	3
6	LALW035H6	Environmental Law (Level 6)	15	Option	2
6	SSGE006S6	Race, Environment and International Development	30	Option	2
6	EASC044H6	Geological Hazards	15	Option	
6	AREN291S6	Performing Environments	30	Option	1
6	LNLN054S6	Culture, Space and the Environment in Brazil (Level 6)	30	Option	2
6	SSHC517S6	Archaeological Landscapes	30	Option	
6	SSHC362S6	Human Evolution	30	Option	2
6	SSGE095S6	Global Nature Conservation	30	Option	

Note: the option modules running may vary by academic year.

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*
Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*
Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

Note 1: students may also be able take up to 90 credits of modern foreign language modules (30 credits at each level) during their studies, in place of choosing an option module. Entry requirements for each language stage/level are detailed in the online programme handbook.

Note 2: students may also be able take up to 90 credits of cross-Faculty/College option modules (30 credits at each level) during their studies, in place of choosing an option module.

Note 3: for Foundation Year modules see Arts Foundation Year programme specification.

Note 4: Environmental Law may only be taken at one of the levels offered.

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching on this course is a combination of lectures, seminars and practice-based work. Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare. Fo practice-based sessions you will put your learning into practice.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

- Essays, reviews, reports, scripts, logs, posters
- oral, audio or video presentations (usually with a written report)
- group and individual projects: short videos, video essays
- digital media/design exercises

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

By the end of the BA Film and Media course, you can expect to be able to:

- Discuss theories and concepts relating to film, TV and media, and understand their historical development
- Understand film, TV and media language, narrative, genre and audiences in a variety of cultural, international and commercial contexts
- Critically analyse texts in different forms of media
- Assess a wide variety of information in different media, and present theoretical and empirical arguments about the use and role of media
- Critically evaluate arguments and evidence, including your own work, and conduct academic research in the fields of film, media and related cultural inquiry.
- Evaluate appropriate uses of new technologies for researching areas of the media (multimedia and web design modules)
- Develop ideas and creative projects through group work (web design, screenwriting, film and TV projects), and to gain skills in working with others and exchanging ideas
- Work effectively as part of a team and individually to meet deadlines and manage your time and workload

In addition, students on the **Media Practice pathway**, can expect to be able to:

- Communicate ideas in visual form (eg video making) and apply theory to practice
- Analyse a creative brief and to identify appropriate creative models
- Develop ideas and creative projects through group work (web design, screenwriting, film and TV projects), and to gain skills in working with others and exchanging ideas
- Work effectively as part of a team and individually to meet deadlines and manage your time and workload
- Participate in Birkbeck's Student Film and Media Festival at the end of the academic year to showcase your creative practice (e.g. short film, video essay, audio work, poster)
- Consider possible careers in a range of film, TV and media fields, including curation, programming, as well as video content creation using found footage and archives

Students on the **Screenwriting pathway** can expect to be able to:

- create, develop and write their own script projects

- have a good understanding and insight into the development and pre-production processes as well as a wider knowledge of film and TV drama
- gain skills in working with others and exchanging ideas
- Work effectively as part of a team and individually to meet deadlines and manage your time and workload
- to consider possible careers in development, script editing and creative producing, and to understand their relevance to film and TV distribution and marketing

Careers and further study

You will find Film, Media and Screenwriting graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Curator/Programmer in a variety of media and cultural organisations
- Creative/Admin/technical support in film/media projects
- Assisting with screenwriting and script editing in film/TV and other media projects
- Variety of roles in film and media marketing, publicity material production and advertising
- Film/video editor
- Web editor and designer for film/media organisations and projects
- Teacher in Media and Media education in primary, secondary schools and other educational settings
- Programme researcher, broadcasting/film/multimedia
- Digital content provider and creator

Birkbeck's BA Film and Media graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing different types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback. Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.