PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**BA Film, Media and Language** (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese) - BA Film, Media and French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese OR - BA Film and Media with French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese (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 and relevant language
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	P395; P396 (with Foundation Year)
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBAFMLN_C (full-time, 3 years) UBAFMLNG_C (part-time, 4 years) UUBFFMLN_C (full-time with FY, 4 years) UBFFMLNG_C (part-time with FY, 6 years)
HECoS Code	100058 film studies 100444 media and communication studies 100322 French studies 100324 German studies 100327 Italian studies 101143 Brazilian studies 100765 Iberian studies 101168 Japanese studies 101212 Korean studies (101164) Chinese studies
Start date of programme	October 2011
Date of programme approval	Summer 2010
Date of last programme amendment approval	October 2026
Valid for academic entry year	**2026-27**
Date of last revision to document	14/10/2026

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: 112 points (48 points 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

(For Foundation year aims, please see the Arts Foundation year specification.)

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.

The aims of the Language component of the programme are:

- to allow students to reach a reasonable to high level of competence in a modern foreign language (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean or Mandarin Chinese).
- to study the associated culture(s) of the language.
- to acquire advanced knowledge of a range of comparative cultural topics.

Languages - Distinctive features:
The distinctive nature of the languages component of the programmes lies in the flexibility of our languages offering, which extends to the full range of languages taught at Birkbeck (currently French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese) and allows entry at a variety of levels of language competence.

- For the European languages included in this programme, language entry levels are at one of five levels, as defined in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): Level A1 (Beginners); Level A2 (GCSE or equivalent); Level B1 (AS/A level or equivalent); Level B2 (A level + or equivalent); Level C1 (Proficiency).
- For Japanese there are four basic entry levels, all pegged to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT): Beginners, Upper Beginner, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate.
- For Korean, there are three levels, pegged towards the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK): Beginners for Korean 1, Post-beginners for Korean 2 (entry with just under TOPIK 1), and Pre-intermediate for Korean 3 (entry with post-TOPIK 1 but under TOPIK 2).
- For Mandarin Chinese, there are three levels, pegged towards the Chinese proficiency test Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK): HSK1 for Chinese 1, HSK2 for Chinese 2, HSK3 for Chinese 3.
- After three years (full-time), students who start at approximately A-level standard language competence will attain a level which conforms to the ‘typical’ exit level equivalent to CEFR Level C1/C2, as defined in the QAA benchmark statement for ‘Languages, Cultures and Societies’, or JLPT Level N2.

- Those full-time or part-time students who start at CEFR A1 or JLPT N5 (Language 1) or fulltime students who start with CEFR A2 or JLPT N5 (Language 2) will exit with either CEFR B2 or JLPT N4-N3 (Language 3) or CEFR C1 or JLPT N3-N2 (Language 4).
- For Korean, students will start from beginners and exit after three years with close to TOPIK 2 (entry to Korean 1, exit with Korean 3).
- For Mandarin Chinese, students will start from beginners and exit after three years with close to HSK3 proficiency (entry to Chinese 1, exit with Chinese 3).
- All Language modules are taken over three terms (10+10+4 weeks, 2.5 hours per week)
- Students complete 180-210 (normally 210) credits on the Film and Media side of the programme and 150-180 (normally 150) credits on the Language side of the programme.
- If a student achieves the exit level of CEFR C2 (European Language 5) or JLPT Level N3 or above (Japanese 4/5) in their language, and has 150 credits on the Language side of the programme, the eventual award title is:
  - BA Film, Media and French
  - BA Film, Media and German
  - BA Film, Media and Italian
  - BA Film, Media and Japanese

    OR
  - BA Film, Media and Spanish
- If a student completes at least 150 credits on the Language side but does not achieve CEFR C2 (European Language 5) or JLPT Level N3 or above (Japanese 4/5), the degree awarded is BA Film, Media with Language (either French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese).
- If a student completes fewer than 150 (but at least 90) credits on the Language side, this constitutes a 'Minor' pathway, and the award title becomes, e.g. Film, Media with French, etc. Please note for the award of a language minor degree with 90 credits of language, ie Film, Media with Language (either French / German / Italian / Spanish / Japanese / Korean / Chinese), students must achieve a language level of at least 3.
- For Korean and Mandarin Chinese, **only the 'with Korean/Chinese' award title is currently available**, because we currently do not offer levels beyond Korean 3 or Chinese 3 for an exit level Korean/Chinese proficiency.

Course structure

FT students will be required to 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.

(Please see the Arts Foundation year for details of the Foundation Year modules)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-Time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	FFME002S4	Introduction to cinema	30	Core	T1
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	T3
4		Language 1, 2, 3 or 4	30	Core	T1-3
4		Option module (from Film and Media list or across Birkbeck)	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3

Year 2					
5 6		Language 2, 3 or 4 OR Language 5	30	Core	T1-3
5	Various ARLL012S5/ ARLL011S5	Language specific survey module OR Comparative Themes in the Novel /Themes in European and Japanese Cinema OR Comparative module e.g ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Comp	T1, 2 or 3
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	T2
5		Option module (from Film and Media list below)	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Year 3					
6	ARMC265S6	BA Project Film, Media and Journalism or Option (from Film and Media list below)	30	Option	T1-3
6		Language 3, 4 or 5 OR Language 'culture' module if Language 5 taken in Year Two	30	Core Option	T1-3 T1, 2 or 3
6		Language 'culture' module(s)	30 or 15+ 15	Comp	T1, 2 or 3
6		Option module (from Film and Media list below)	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Part-time - 4 years					
Year 1					
4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core	T1
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Comp	T3
4		Language 1, 2, 3 or 4	30	Core	T1-3
Year 2					
4		Option module (from FMACs, Languages or across Birkbeck)	30	Option	T1 or 3
5 (6)		Language 2,3 or 4 OR Language 5	30	Core	T1-3
5	ARMC269S5	Television: from small screen to smart screen	30	Comp	T2

Year 3 (students must take 30 credits at level 6 before year 4)					
5		Option module (from Film and Media list below)	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
5	Various	Language-specific survey module OR Comparative Themes in the Novel /Themes in European and Japanese Cinema OR Language Comparative module e.g. ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
6 6 (5)		Language 3, 4 (Level 6) OR Language 5 OR Language 'culture module(s) (if Language 5 taken in Year Two)	30 30 30 or 2x15	Core Core Option	T1-3 T1-3 T1 or 2
Year 4					
6	ARMC265S6	BA Project Film, Media and Journalism or Option (from Film and Media list below)	30	Option	T1-3
6		Language 3, 4 or 5 OR Language 'culture' module (if Language pathway completed) OR Language 'culture' modules	30 30 30 or 2x15	Comp Comp Option	T1, 2 or 3
6		Option Module (from Film and Media list below)	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3

Note 1: the pathways shown in the structure above are indicative for the BA Film, Media AND Language joint awards. Students who choose to follow a minor award in language (BA Film and Media WITH Language) might replace some language culture or survey optional modules with Film, Media, or other modules from the college, at the appropriate level as approved by the course director, provided they pass at least 90 credits of Language core modules and achieve a minimum language level of 3.

Note 2: ARMC265S6 BA Project Film, Media and Journalism is an optional module. Students who choose not to take it will instead take an additional Level 6 option module from the Film and Media list below, so that the Film and Media side of the programme continues to total at least 180 credits.

Indicative list of Language survey/culture options:
Indicative options for **level 5**:
ARLL012S5 Themes in the European and Japanese Novel
ARLL011S5 Themes in European and Japanese Cinema
ARLL007S5 Contemporary Literature in French

ARMC145S5 Popular Culture in East Asia
ARCL022S5 Reading Transnational Cultures
LNLN024S5 Representations of Love, Desire and Sexuality

Indicative options for **level 6**:
ARMC187S6 Manga and Anime
AREL003H6 Sensibility and Sociability in the Eighteenth-Century French Novel
AREL049H6 The French Novel of Disillusionment
ARCL054H6 The Twentieth-Century German Novel
AREL086H6 Culture in the Weimar Republic
ARCL078S6 Sex, survival and la dolce vita: Neorealist to Contemporary Italian Film
ARCL057H6 The Spanish Noir: Crime and Detection in Contemporary Fiction
ARCL034H6 The Auteurist Tradition in Spanish Cinema
LNLN054S6 Space, Culture and Society in Brazil

Indicative List of Film and Media option modules

Level 4
FFME025S4 Screenwriting
ARMC240S4 Working with the film camera
ARMC217S4 Media studies: Key thinkers and approaches
FFME025S4 Screenwriting
ARMC240S4 Working with the film camera
SC04045S4 Working with Digital Media

Level 5
ARMC196S5 Researching Digitally
FFME020S5 Approaches to Cinema History
FFME026S5 Screenwriting: the 30-minute script
ARMC254S5 Working with Film Sound
FFME063S5 Documentary
ARMC252S5 Designing Digitally
FFME017S5 Media, Technology and Culture
FFME029S5 Journalism Formats and Specialisations
ARMC124S5 Working in the Creative and Cultural Sector
CASC001H5 Your Career Development (15 credits)
CASC002H5 Micro-Placement (15 credits)

Level 6
FFME036S6 Contemporary European Cinema
ARMC270S6 Story Matters: Writing for Television
ARMC175S6 Principles of Layout and Design
FFME090S6 Principles of Digital Video and Editing
ARMC271S6 Script Development and Script Editing
ARMC255S6 Working with Found Footage
ARMC176S6 Media and Conflict
FFME050S6 Globalisation and Media Cultures
ARMC235S6 Communicating Digitally
ARAR010S6 Industry Placement / Career Development Report

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

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.

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. For 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 this course, you will have the ability 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 to 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.
- 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
- Evaluate appropriate uses of new technologies for researching areas of the media (multimedia and web design modules)
- Work effectively as part of a team and individually to meet deadlines and manage your time and workload

Additionally, on successful completion of the **Language** component of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:

French, German, Italian, Spanish:

A. Use of the target language
   - Demonstrate appropriate use of the French, German, Italian and/or Spanish language. Our courses have been mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) as follows:
     - Stage 1 A1-A2
     - Stage 2 B1
     - Stage 3 B2
     - Stage 4 C1
     - Stage 5 C1/C2

     The aims and objectives for each of these stages can be found in each corresponding module proposal.
   - Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in the target language (TL), with competent or native speakers of the TL, to a level approximately equivalent to CEFR level B2 to C2, depending on starting level.
   - Be able to exploit for a variety of purposes and, as appropriate, to contextualise a broad range of materials in written or spoken TL appropriate to the level attained.
   - Be able to apply effectively and appropriately language skills in a professional context.

B. Explicit knowledge of language
   - Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of TL.
   - Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse TL. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)

C. Knowledge of related studies
   - Demonstrate an ability critically to evaluate through appropriate methodologies one or more aspects of the arts, cultures, histories, institutions or linguistic situation of the societies in which TL is spoken.
   - Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of the cultures and societies of countries in which TL is spoken gained through one or more of the creative media of TL.

D. Intercultural awareness and understanding
   - Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of one or more cultures and societies, other than the student's own.

Japanese:

A. Use of the target language
   - With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Japanese at natural speed using audio-visual materials; to use original texts from a variety of sources and subject fields to develop their reading techniques including scanning and skimming for key information, reading extended paragraphs and complex sentences, and in-depth reading; to sustain complex conversations in social, cultural, and business situations using appropriate speech forms and politeness registers; to begin to acquire academic-level verbal communication skills, including participation in discussions, and preparing and delivering presentations; to write substantial reports and short essays based on texts read and discussed in class, using their knowledge of between 800-1,000 kanji characters and of appropriate compositional structure.
   - Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in communicative exchanges in Japanese.

B-D. As above, and:
   - Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key moments and concepts in the cultural/social history of modern Japan.

Korean:
A. Use of the target language

- With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Korean at natural speed using audio-visual materials; to use original texts from a variety of sources and subject fields to develop their reading techniques including scanning and skimming for key information, reading extended paragraphs and complex sentences; to sustain complex conversations in social, cultural, and business situations using appropriate speech forms and politeness registers; to begin to acquire verbal communication skills, including participation in discussions, and preparing and delivering presentations.
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in communicative exchanges in Korean.

B-D. As above, and:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the modern Korean society and culture.

Mandarin Chinese:
A. Use of the target language

- With a focus especially on advancing students' reception skills, to demonstrate experience at comprehending Mandarin Chinese at natural speed using audio-visual materials; to use original texts from a variety of sources and subject fields to develop their reading techniques including scanning and skimming for key information, reading extended paragraphs and complex sentences; to sustain complex conversations in social, cultural, and business situations using appropriate speech forms and politeness registers; to begin to acquire verbal communication skills, including participation in discussions, and preparing and delivering presentations.
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in communicative exchanges in Mandarin Chinese.

B-D. As above, and:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the modern Sinophone societies and cultures.

Careers and further study

You will find Film, Media and Language 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 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.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

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.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is available online.

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