

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MA Film and Screen Media <i>Pathway exit awards:</i> - MA Film and Screen Media with Film Programming and Curating - MA Film and Screen Media with Television MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip, PG Cert Students who are enrolled on the MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad) but unable to participate in the study abroad path of the programme will be permitted to obtain the MA Film and Screen Media should they fulfil the requirements of the programme.
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication Study Abroad partner universities: Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3 Università degli Studi di Udine Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano Université de Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense Université de Liège Ruhr Universität Bochum Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona Université Lille 3 Università degli Studi Roma 3 University of Amsterdam Université de Montréal
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	MA Film and Screen Media: 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad): 2 years full-time October, January* (*January start is available on all pathways except the Study Abroad pathway)
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMAFMSCR_C

	Routes/pathway codes:: TMAFMSCR_C MA Film and Screen Media TMAFMSCJ_C MA Film and Screen Media (January start) TMAFSMEU_C: MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad)
HECoS Code	100058 (film studies) 100444 (media and communication)
Start date of programme	MA Film and Screen Media: Autumn 1995 MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad): Autumn 2011 MA Film and Screen Media (with Programme and Curating): Autumn 2018 MA Film and Screen Media (with Television) Autumn 2019
Date of programme approval	1994
Date of last programme amendment approval	June 2026
Valid for academic year and cohorts	2026-27
Date of last revision to document	22/06/2026

Admissions requirements

MA Film and Screen Media: Good honours degree in a relevant subject.

MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad): Good honours degree in a relevant subject (e.g. humanities, modern languages or social sciences). Good knowledge of at least one other European language at a level to allow you to follow postgraduate-level courses at our European partner institutions.

Applicants are normally required to have a first degree of second class honours level or equivalent. While this degree will ideally be in some aspect of film or media study, applicants who do not fully satisfy the entrance requirements, but who have degrees in other subjects that would prove to be a valuable additional input into the study environment of the MA, or who have substantial practical or industrial experience, will also be considered. The ability of applicants to think and write about the subject in meaningful and interesting ways is tested both by a short written exercise submitted with the application form and at interview.

Course aims

MA Film and Screen Media:

The aim of the MA Film and Screen Media is to provide an advanced and leading edge course in the history and theory of film and related media. The compulsory module 'Screen Media: History, Technology and Culture' is designed to introduce students both to the historical, technical and cultural interaction between the main media forms – from pre-cinematic forms through sound cinema, television and on to the internet, world wide web and the digital – and specific methodological approaches: historical contextualisation, close formal analysis and theoretical frameworks. The option modules offer students the opportunity to perform specific studies of aspects of the history and theory of film and related screen media which particularly interest them. The purpose of the work placement or research project is to provide students with direct industry experience, or an extended individual research period in which to conduct an empirical project. The reports written consequent upon this experience constitute a variable non-essay based writing experience. The work placement and/or research project also allows students to begin to orient their scheme of study towards particular interests and career plans. Finally, the dissertation, prepared over 6-8 months for part-time students and 3 months for full-time students, enables them to undertake substantial research, write an extended piece of work, and develop their personal time-management and self-motivation skills.

Distinctive Features

The programme is delivered both full- and part-time over one or two years, primarily during the evenings, but with some daytime attendance for full-time students, and in face-to-face study. A unique component on the taught MA programme is the opportunity for students to take up a two month placement at a company or institution involved in an aspect of the media. This gives them, across the whole period of the MA, the opportunity to acquire both academic and practical work experience, giving them the widest possible range of skills to take on to their future careers.

MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad)

MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad) Media offers students the possibility to participate in a study abroad programme at one of our European partner institutions for one term in the Year 2. Students can also take a Level 6 language modules at the Department of Cultures and Languages in Year 1 to help them boost their linguistic competence in preparation for their term abroad in Year 2.

The creation of this pathway is possible thanks to the unique collaboration among a number of European institutions which are renowned for research and teaching excellence in the area of

film and audiovisual studies. The length of the MA (2 years FT) and the level of commitment it demands from the student mean that the programme will be of particular interest to those students who are interested in research and likely to continue their studies further onto a PhD level. It is also likely to attract a different profile of a student from a typical Birkbeck student, i.e. a person who is not in full-time employment, and who has not yet embarked on a particular career path. The programme is likely to educate a new generation of academics and experts in film and audiovisual media whose research will benefit greatly from the international exposure and academic contacts offered by the pathway. The pathway will ultimately strengthen the College's international profile and allows to develop fruitful collaboration with the Department of Cultures and Languages.

Partner institutions include:

- l'Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3, France
- l'Université de Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, France
- l'Università degli Studi di Udine, Italy
- l'Università Cattolica del Sacre Cuore di Milano, Italy
- l'Université de Liège, Belgium
- Ruhr Universität Bochum, Germany
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona
- L' Université Lille 3
- l'Università degli Studi Roma 3
- University of Amsterdam
- Université de Montréal

Aims

The aims of the MA Film and Screen Media are to:

- Provide an advanced and leading-edge course in the history and theory of film and related media
- Introduce students both to the historical, technical and cultural interaction between the main media forms – from pre-cinematic forms through sound cinema, television and on to the internet and the web
- Introduce student to specific methodological approaches: historical contextualisation, close formal analysis and theoretical frameworks.
- Offer students the opportunity to perform specific studies of aspects of the history and theory of film and related media based on individual research interests
- Give students direct industry experience or an opportunity to conduct extended empirical research via the work placement or research project
- Allow students to begin to orient their scheme of study towards particular interests and career plans via the placement or research project
- Enable students to undertake substantial research, write an extended piece of work, and develop their personal time-management and self-motivation skills.

Students on the MA Film and Screen Media can graduate with the award of **MA Film and Screen Media with Film programming and Curating** or **MA Film and Screen Media with Television** if they have taken the required modules for these exit awards as set out below

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
MA Film and Screen Media, Full-time – 1 year					
7	AHVM031S7	Screen Media: History, Technology and Culture	30	Core	T1
7		Option (see term 1 options list below)	30	Option	T1
7		Option (see term 2/3 options list below)	30	Option	T2
7	AHVM043S7	Research/Placement Project and Report)	30	Compulsory	T3
L7	AHVM020D7	Final Project/Dissertation	60	Core	T3 & Summer
MA Film and Screen Media, Part-time – 2 years*					
Year 1					
7	AHVM031S7	Screen Media: History, Technology and Culture	30	Core	T1
7		Option (see term 2 options list below)	30	Option	T2
7	AHVM043S7	Research/Placement Project and Report)	30	Compulsory	T3
Year 2					
7		Option	30	Option	T1 or T2
L7	AHVM020D7	Final Project/Dissertation	60	Core	T3 & Summer
MA Film and Screen Media, Full-time – 1 year, January start					
Note: Jan starts students receive intensive non-credited PG study skills sessions which are normally part of the MA Core Course: Screen Media: History, Technology and Culture in October					
7		Option	30	Option	T2
7		Option	30	Option	T2 or 3
7	AHVM043S7	Research/Placement Project and Report)	30	Compulsory	T3
7	AHVM031S7	Screen Media: History, Technology and Culture	30	Core	T1
7	AHVM020D7	Final Project/Dissertation (due Jan)	60	Core	Summer & T1
MA Film and Screen Media, Part-time – 2 years, January start					
Year 1					
7		Option	30	Option	T2
7	AHVM043S7	Research/Placement Project and Report	30	Compulsory	T3
<i>Students can spend Summer months (out of term) working on dissertation.</i>					
7	AHVM031S7	Screen Media: History, Technology and Culture	30	Core	T1
Year 2					
7		Option	30	Option	T2
7	AHVM020D7	Final Project/Dissertation (due Jan)	60	Core	T3 & T1

MA Film and Screen Media (with Study Abroad), Full-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	AHVM031S7	Screen Media: History, Technology and Culture	30	Core	T1
7		Option	30	Option	T2
7		Option	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
7	AHVM043S7	Research/Placement Project and Report	30	Compulsory	T3
Year 2					
7	From a range	Option Modules (at European partner institution, to a total of 30 credits)	30	Option	T1
7		Option	30	Option	T2
L7	AHVM020D7	Final Project/Dissertation	60	Core	T3 & Summer
Indicative options - Term 1					
L7	AHVM008S7	British Cinema & Television: 1960-1985	30	option	T1
L7	AHVM025S7	European Cinema at the Crossroads	30	Option	T1
L7	ARVC159H7	Curating Film, Sharing Passions	15	Option	T1
L7	ARMC197H7	Essay Film and Archive	15	Option	T1
Indicative options – Terms 2/3					
L7	ARVC001S7	Film Festivals	30	option	T2
L7	ARMC194S7	Issues in Global Television	30	option	T2
L7	ARMC054S7	Curating as Critical Practice	30	option	T2
L7	ARMC172S7	Theoretical Perspectives in Media	30	option	T2
L7	ARMC199H7	Artists' Film: Museum, Gallery and Beyond	15	option	T2
L7	ARMC198H7	Themes in Film Festivals	15	option	T3

**Note on the PT structure either 60 or 90 credits of taught modules in year one and final project plus 30 or 60 credits of taught modules in year two, taking no more than 30 credits in any one term.*

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*

Pathway awards

To exit from the MA Film and Screen Media with a final award title of **MA Film and Screen Media with Film Programming and Curating**, either ARVC001S7 Film Festivals or AHVM025S7 European Cinema at the Crossroads must be taken as a compulsory module. (Note: these modules are offered in alternate years).

To exit from the MA Film and Screen Media with a final award title of **MA Film and Screen Media with Television**, ARMC194S7 Issues in Global Television: Analogue, Digital, National, Transnational must be taken as a compulsory module

How you will learn

The teaching format of the core module "Screen Media: History, Technology and Culture" is a lecture followed by a 90-minute seminar, either that same evening (p/t), or the following

afternoon (f/t). Option modules are taught in seminars lasting 2-3 hours, which may begin with short introductory lectures.

Lectures present an overview of the salient issues attached to the week's subject area, pointing students in the direction of required reading and viewing of additional audio-visual materials, as well as further reading, research and viewing materials. Handouts are designed to facilitate this, directing students towards supplementary information. Seminars then allow students to discuss both the required reading/viewing and the results of personal research and study, as well as allowing them to experience the formal presentation of ideas to their peers. Further support and expansion of areas of interest come in the form of weekly tutorials, where students can discuss issues with lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

How we will assess you

Assessment for this course is done via coursework and a mix of the following methods: written work-related assignments of up to 5000 words, presentations of up to 20 minutes, special projects and a research dissertation/ independent study.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

On successful completion of the MA Film and Screen Media students will be expected to have:

Subject Specific:

- Substantial knowledge and understanding of the history and theory of media interactions in a technical and cultural context
- Knowledge and awareness of current and newly developing media technologies and forms
- Knowledge of the theoretical frameworks developed over the history of film and media theory
- Specialist knowledge of a chosen aspects of film and media history or theory, acquired during the option modules.
- In depth knowledge of specific areas of interest in film and media history/theory gained during the placement/research projects and dissertation period.

Intellectual:

- Ability to select and acquire relevant material and evidence and to analyse, present and interpret this as appropriate within the context of the course
- Develop appropriate historical and theoretical methodological frameworks and approaches
- Ability to understand advanced abstract material.

Practical:

- Ability to work with and interpret historical documents & various media objects and texts
- Ability to debate in an atmosphere of open discussion
- Report writing
- Short, and extended-length academic writing
- The skillful operation of a range of audio-visual and multimedia equipment
- Ability to capture still images from video and/or DVD using specialist multimedia software and to incorporate these into coursework.

Personal and Social:

- Experience of working in groups
- Experience of co-ordinating preparation and execution of presentations

- Self motivation and time management
- Experience of developing schemes of personal research and study.

Careers and further study

Graduates can pursue career paths in film and television companies, museums and galleries, arts administration, education, publishing and film criticism. Possible professions include:

- arts administrator
- museum or gallery curator
- teacher
- programme researcher
- television/film/video producer.
- Film programmer & curator

It is also possible to continue on to a PhD which offers employment opportunities in academia and other areas.

Jobs gained by some of our MA and PhD graduates include:

- Deputy Editor, Sight & Sound
- Freelance editor
- Independent film producer
- Temporary Exhibitions Curator, Science Museum
- Curator of Public Programmes, British Film Institute
- Associate Lecturer, University of Surrey
- Reader, King's College London
- Academic Publishing Sales Manager, Taylor & Francis Group
- Sales agent
- Marketing & communication manager at the BFI
- Film festival director

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.

[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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