

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Film and Media BA Film and Media with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBAFMED_C (Full-time) UBAFMMED_C (Part-time) UUBFFMED_C (Full-time with Foundation Year) UBFFMMED_C (Part-time with Foundation Year)
5	UCAS code	P390/P39A (with Foundation Year)
6	Home Department	Film, Media and Cultural Studies
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE Cert HE Media Studies Cert HE Media Practice
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years full-time 4 years part-time 4 years full-time with Foundation Year 6 years part-time with Foundation Year
9	Mode of Study	PT/FT
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A
13	QAA Benchmark Group	Communications, media, film and cultural studies

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>For Foundation Year, see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>The BA Film and Media at Birkbeck is an established and highly esteemed course which combines the academic study of film, television and digital media, with the chance for students to develop their creative skills in a range of practice-oriented modules. The aim of the BA Film and Media is to introduce students to a wide, international range of world cinemas and media through regular screenings of film and audio-visual material in class. The programme covers a range of critical approaches and theories, giving students the intellectual tools to analyse and think critically about media culture and products and their histories. It aims to enable students to make sense of how our world and our place in it is shaped by the media.</p> <p>The programme also offers students the opportunity to develop skills of communication in areas of creative media practice, as well as transferable skills in how to study, write, perform, and work with others. It also teaches students to be self-critical and to self-evaluate their own performance, a crucial skill for creative work. Graduates go on to work in the film and media and creative industries, cultural and educational bodies and</p>

	<p>institutions as well as continuing on to further academic study.</p> <p>Teaching is in the evenings two to three nights a week, and approaches to learning are varied, mixing lectures and group discussions in class, giving students the opportunity to develop their confidence and ideas. Students at Birkbeck benefit outside of class, from one-to-one tutorials and generous feedback on their written and creative work. Students also learn a great deal from their peers as there are many mature students attracted to Birkbeck who bring interesting professional working experiences, cultural and educational backgrounds with them to the classes. The lecturers who teach are all research active with a wide range of interests in film and media. Birkbeck has excellent resources to support students. There is a cinema in the School of Arts at 43 Gordon Square with a wide and interesting programme of films and events, and the Birkbeck library has large book, audio-visual and online resources to enhance student learning. Set in Bloomsbury, the location offers access to many other important film and media libraries and resources in the area, such as the British Film Institute and library at the Southbank.</p>
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p>
	<p>For Foundation Year, see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>UCAS tariff: 96-120 points, A-levels: CCC-ABB</p> <p>The UCAS tariff score is applicable where applicants have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>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. Admission is normally based on an interview and applicants may also be asked to complete a written task.</p>
16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p>
	<p>For Foundation Year, see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>Knowledge and Understanding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge of the main theories relating to film and media from cultural studies, film studies, media studies and other disciplines which study audio-visual media. 2. Understanding of film and media language, narrative and genre. 3. Knowledge of the historical development of film and media. 4. Knowledge and understanding of the historical, social and political context of theories relating to film and media industries, audiences and institutions. 5. Understanding of the practice and theory of film and television, print culture and electronic multimedia in a variety of historical, cultural and commercial contexts. 6. Knowledge of mainstream media forms and alternatives to the mainstream, in national and international contexts. <p>Intellectual</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Ability to understand and critique theoretical arguments. 8. Ability to analyse texts in different forms of media.

	<p>9. Ability to assess a wide variety of information in different media, and to present theoretical and empirical arguments about the use and role of media historically.</p> <p>10. Ability to critically evaluate arguments and evidence.</p> <p>11. Ability to draw on academic research to analyse media.</p> <p>12. Ability to evaluate one’s own work critically.</p> <p>13. Ability to communicate ideas in different media formats.</p> <p>14. Ability to plan one’s own learning.</p> <p>Practical</p> <p>15. Ability to write and communication ideas in print or electronic form.</p> <p>16. Ability to communicating ideas in dramatic and visual form.</p> <p>17. Ability to analyse a creative brief and to identify appropriate creative models.</p> <p>18. Ability to analyse the effectiveness of one’s own creative work.</p> <p>19. Ability to develop ideas and creative projects though group work (web design, screenwriting, TV Studio workshop), and to gain skills in working with others and exchanging ideas.</p> <p>20. Ability to write clearly and concisely.</p> <p>21. Ability to make informed decisions.</p> <p>22. Ability to evaluate appropriate uses of new technologies for researching areas of the media (Multimedia and web design modules).</p> <p>Transferable Skills</p> <p>23. Ability to communicate effectively using different media.</p> <p>24. Interpersonal skills such as group participation, constructive criticism, professional collaboration and self-reflection.</p> <p>25. Ability to take responsibility for one’s own learning and time management.</p> <p>26. Ability to work to deadlines and under pressure.</p>
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>For Foundation Year, see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>Learning and Teaching</p> <p>Lectures and seminars: In Film and Media Studies students will experience teaching styles which deliver a lecture and s eminar together, a combination of presentation with student participation. Lectures take up a part of the class and then interactive discussion reinforces students' understanding of the subject of the lecture. This is achieved often through student analysis of film extracts and television programmes. This is tailored to suit Birkbeck’s diverse student body, whose life experiences and cultural backgrounds provide a strong resource in the learning process.</p> <p>Small group work: Small group work is used across the programme and is designed to allow students to undertake focused tasks in a supportive environment so that they can develop their creative, analytical, communication and interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Discussion groups: Discussion group work is designed to develop students’ critical and analytical, presentation and communication skills.</p> <p>Tutorials: One-to-one tutorials develop student skills in presenting and discussing ideas verbally, and to engage in the construction of arguments through interaction with the tutor.</p>
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Creative Workshops: Creative workshops are designed to combine the generation of creative ideas, alongside critical and interpersonal skills. Multimedia, Web design, Screenwriting and TV workshop modules are designed to develop students' practical, creative and intellectual skills and their ability to work in groups.

Guest Lectures, Performances and External Event: Guest lectures and performances bring film and media professionals to Birkbeck to acquaint students with the professional and freelance world of film and media production and exhibition. The Gordon Square Cinema at Birkbeck is often the site for such events. Group visits to exhibitions, festivals and screenings broadens students' experience of the range of venues and spaces in London in which film and media are shown.

Web-based Learning: Web-based learning augments face-to-face learning, providing students with opportunities to access materials at their own pace, carry on interactions with other students through alternative mediums, and gain valuable skills in web-based interaction and ideas-generation (through wikis, blogs, tweets, podcasts, discussion forums). The internet is also a major provider of film and media and students are made aware of these resources.

Assessment

Students are assessed in **theoretical** modules with reference to a standard marking criteria similar to other institutions at the University of London and English higher education institutions more generally. The assessment criteria are in the Student handbook. Scholarly essays are used across most theoretical modules. The assessment expectations for essays evolve on a progressive basis as students advance through the degree. At Level 4, essays are designed to assess descriptive and comparative skills. The exam is designed to assess students' abilities in textual analysis and in the application of conceptual ideas to media through their developing knowledge and study. At Level 5, essays assess contextualisation and application of abstract theories to practical film and media examples. At Level 6 essay assessment emphasises the originality of arguments and engagement with contemporary academic discourse as well as the ability to produce an independent project. Aside from essays, however theoretical modules frequently employ a range of alternative and creative assessments, such as writing exercises, audio-visual presentations, mind maps, conceptual representations and media diaries.

Students are assessed in **practical courses** with reference to industry criteria. Screenplays, treatments and character descriptions are assessed within formats, layouts and creative expectations used in industry practice. Newspaper, periodical and online articles, reviews, features and comment pieces are assessed according to clarity of content, presentation, conciseness and appropriateness for intended audience within journalistic practice. Skills in audiovisual production and editing are assessed according to planning, production, critical reflection, performance under simulated 'real-world' conditions, group work and appropriateness for intended medium. Web-

	<p>based and multimedia skills are assessed according to their adaptability and appropriateness for different contexts, and demonstration of some facility in conceptual layout, design and interactive functionality. Students move through different levels of these creative practical modules building their skills in journalism, screenwriting or web design and can be assessed on their ability to produce an independent practical project in one of these areas in their final year.</p> <p>Feedback is a critical aspect built into Birkbeck’s learning, teaching and assessment methods. All class tutors give written feedback on coursework. In addition, all BA Film and Media students are entitled to two 30-minute tutorials per module (one for half modules) in which they may obtain further oral feedback. For practical modules this feedback will include an assessment of a student’s development according to professional creative standards.</p>
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18	<p>Programme Description</p>
	<p>For Foundation Year, see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>The BA Film and Media is structured to develop students’ knowledge and skills throughout the degree with core courses in film and media to allow students to progress to a range of stimulating options. Special features include a pathway in Screenwriting, Journalism or Multimedia.</p> <p>Students take 12 modules of 30 credits each for a total of 360 credits overall. The modules are divided into three levels. Students take four modules at Level 4, four modules at Level 5, and four modules at Level 6. Students may take 12 theoretical modules or a mixture of theory and practice modules. This programme structure means that students complete four modules each year over three years, or three modules each year over four years, including the final project in the final year, when students learn to study independently with a supervisor, and research and write a dissertation of 6,000-8,000 words on a chosen topic, write a screenplay or build a website.</p> <p>The courses are taught and assessed through written and practical assignments and both individual and group work. The degree is taught over two to three evenings a week between October and July and students are expected study outside of class up to a minimum of ten hours a week.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
Students take the Core level 4 module <i>Introduction to Cinema</i> and the Compulsory level 4 module <i>Doing Film, Media and Cultural Studies</i> plus 2 level 4 options from the list below				
4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core
4	ARMC241S4	Doing Film, Media and Cultural Studies	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Optional
4	FFME005S4	Television: History and Future	30	Optional
4	FFME025S4	Screenwriting	30	Optional
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Optional
4	FFME027S4	Introduction to Journalism Practice	30	Optional
4	FFME007S4	Journalism in British Life	30	Optional
4	ARMC217S4	Media Studies: Key Thinkers and Approaches	30	Optional
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
Students take the Core level 5 modules <i>Film Theory: Key Concepts and Contexts and Approaches to Cinema History</i> plus 2 level 5 options from the list below				
5	ARMC250S5	Film Theory: Key Concepts and Contexts	30	Core
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Core
5	FFME017S5	Media, Technology and Culture	30	Optional
5	FFME063S5	Documentary	30	Optional
5	LNLN027S5	French Cinema: History, Practice, Analysis	30	Optional
5	ARMC093S5	Theorising Japanese Cinema	30	Optional
5	FFME013S5	Journalism and Politics	30	Optional
5	FFME029S5	Journalism: Interview Skills and Feature Writing	30	Optional
5	FFME026S5	Screenwriting - The Thirty-Minute Script	30	Optional
5	FFME011S5	Storytelling in Television	30	Optional
5	ARMC254S5	Working with Film Sound	30	Optional
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
Students take the Core final year project plus 3 level 6 options from the list below:				
6	FDME001S6	BA Film and Media Final Year Project	30	Core
6	FFME019S6	Gender and Sexuality in Cinema	30	Optional
6	FFME050S6	Globalisation and Media Cultures	30	Optional
6	ARMC176S6	Media and Conflict	30	Optional
6	FFME090S6	Principles of Digital Video and Editing	30	Optional
6	ARMC225S6	Aspects of Screenwriting: Adaptation	30	Optional
6	ARMC173S6	Media, Digitalisation and the City (level 6)	30	Optional
6	FFME015S6	World Cinema	30	Optional
6	FFME036S6	Contemporary European Cinema	30	Optional
6	ARMC230S6	Memory, Media and Digital Culture	30	Optional
6	ARMC255S6	Working with Found Footage	30	Optional

Year of entry: 2022/23

Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
Students take the Core level 4 modules <i>Introduction to Cinema</i> the Compulsory module <i>Doing Film, Media and Cultural Studies</i> plus 1 level 4 option from the list below				
4	FFME002S4	Introduction to Cinema	30	Core
4	ARMC241S4	Doing Film, Media and Cultural Studies	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Optional
4	FFME005S4	Television: History and Future	30	Optional
4	FFME025S4	Screenwriting	30	Optional
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Optional
4	FFME027S4	Introduction to Journalism Practice	30	Optional
4	FFME007S4	Journalism in British Life	30	Optional
4	ARMC217S4	Media Studies: Key Thinkers and Approaches	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
Students take the Core level 5 module <i>Film Theory and its Applications: Key Concepts and Contexts</i> and choose 1 level 4 and 1 level 5 option from the list below				
5	ARMC250S5	Film Theory: Key Concepts and Contexts	30	Core
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Optional
4	FFME005S4	Television: History and Future	30	Optional
4	FFME025S4	Screenwriting	30	Optional
4	ARMC240S4	Working with the Film Camera	30	Optional
4	FFME027S4	Introduction to Journalism Practice	30	Optional
4	FFME007S4	Journalism in British Life	30	Optional
4	ARMC217S4	Media Studies: Key Thinkers and Approaches	30	Optional
5	FFME017S5	Media, Technology and Culture	30	Optional
5	FFME063S5	Documentary	30	Optional
5	LNLN027S5	French Cinema: History, Practice, Analysis	30	Optional
5	ARMC093S5	Japanese Cinema History	30	Optional
5	FFME013S5	Journalism and Politics	30	Optional
5	FFME029S5	Journalism: Interview Skills and Feature Writing	30	Optional
5	FFME026S5	Screenwriting - The Thirty-Minute Script	30	Optional
5	FFME011S5	Storytelling in Television	30	Optional
5	ARMC254S5	Working with Film Sound	30	Optional
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
Students take the Core module <i>Approaches to Cinema History</i> plus 1 level 5 option module and 1 level 6 option module from the list below				
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Core
5	FFME017S5	Media, Technology and Culture	30	Optional
5	FFME063S5	Documentary	30	Optional
5	LNLN027S5	French Cinema: History, Practice, Analysis	30	Optional
5	ARMC093S5	Theorising Japanese Cinema	30	Optional
5	FFME013S5	Journalism and Politics	30	Optional

Year of entry: 2022/23

5	FFME029S5	Journalism: Interview Skills and Feature Writing	30	Optional
5	FFME026S5	Screenwriting - The Thirty-Minute Script	30	Optional
5	FFME011S5	Storytelling in Television	30	Optional
5	Code TBC	Working with Film Sound	30	Optional
6	FFME019S6	Gender and Sexuality in Cinema	30	Optional
6	FFME050S6	Globalisation and Media Cultures	30	Optional
6	ARMC176S6	Media and Conflict	30	Optional
6	FFME090S6	Principles of Digital Video and Editing	30	Optional
6	ARMC225S6	Aspects of Screenwriting: Adaptation	30	Optional
6	ARMC173S6	Media, Digitalisation and the City (level 6)	30	Optional
6	FFME015S6	World Cinema	30	Optional
6	FFME036S6	Contemporary European Cinema	30	Optional
6	ARMC230S6	Memory, Media and Digital Culture	30	Optional
6	ARMC255S6	Working with Found Footage	30	Optional

Year 4

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
Students take the Core <i>Final Year Project</i> plus 2 level 6 options from the list below				
6	FDME001S6	BA Film and Media Final Year Project	30	Core
6	FFME019S6	Gender and Sexuality in Cinema	30	Optional
6	FFME050S6	Globalisation and Media Cultures	30	Optional
6	ARMC176S6	Media and Conflict	30	Optional
6	FFME090S6	Principles of Digital Video and Editing	30	Optional
6	ARMC225S6	Aspects of Screenwriting: Adaptation	30	Optional
6	ARMC173S6	Media, Digitalisation and the City (level 6)	30	Optional
6	FFME015S6	World Cinema	30	Optional
6	FFME036S6	Contemporary European Cinema	30	Optional
6	ARMC230S6	Memory, Media and Digital Culture	30	Optional
6	ARMC255S6	Working with Found Footage	30	Optional

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student

COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board

OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

²⁰	Programme Director	Dr Michael Temple
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	October 2000
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Autumn 1999
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Spring 2000
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	January 2016