

Programme Title: BA Film Studies



Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	BA Film Studies
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	3 years
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	P303
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 6
Programme Accredited by	n/a
Date Programme Specification Approved	24 Mar 2014
Responsible School / Institute	School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

n/a

Programme Outline

Film Studies is a genuinely interdisciplinary academic field. Encountering films of different genres, styles, periods and national industries is the core of the subject. As a film student you will naturally devote a lot of time to viewing films, reading and writing about them, and discussing their meaning and importance.

Through practical modules, you will also gain hands-on experience of the roles of producer, director, screenwriter and actor, gaining crucial insights into the fundamental aspects of film production. However, this is just the beginning. Film Studies is a 'gateway subject' that inevitably fosters an understanding of visual aesthetics, narrative forms and technological ability, but that also leads students into areas of study as diverse as history, politics, philosophy, technology and performance.

Film Studies demands creative and original thought: it asks us to question, for example, how class, race, ethnicity and sexuality are represented on the screen, and investigates why this might be different from country to country, or from period to period. It asks us to think about film production in terms of the development and impact of new media technologies. It examines the effects of international commerce on the type of films that we get to see, and probes the impact of practices and regulations such as censorship, cultural policy, star systems, festivals and industry awards. It invites us to think critically and theoretically about media practices, and to anchor this understanding in a framework that is both intellectually rigorous and culturally relevant.

This programme introduces you to a range of international cinema movements, figures, texts and theories. You will also develop some practical skills, for example scriptwriting and film production. In the first year you take eight modules designed to provide a solid foundation in cinema history, the European industry, film language, concepts and technology. In later years you take modules in film theory and a selection of options in specialist areas of your choice. The final year gives you the opportunity to undertake a supervised project, either written or practical, while the remainder of the programme is made up of advanced study in specialist areas that correspond to your interests and skills.

Aims of the Programme

1. To provide a coherent, innovative and intellectually challenging programme which promotes the study of film to a broad constituency of well-qualified students.
2. To offer knowledge and understanding of the history, practice and theory of film studies, of cinema as institution and cultural practice and of performance and mise-en-scène as forms of communication, expression and socio-political intervention.
3. To foster an understanding of the historical, aesthetic and intellectual contexts for the development of different forms of filmic texts, practices and critiques.
4. To give students access to a range of material and media that is worthy of study either as a product of the specific national culture concerned or in a broader cultural and intellectual perspective, or both.
5. To provide an opportunity to develop skills in interpretation, analysis, synthesis, critical appreciation, argumentation, communication, and study.
6. To familiarize students with the key technical and practical aspects of film production and give students practical experience of making films.
7. To enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgment and to undertake independent research tasks.
8. To develop a range of skills necessary to the effective communication of ideas and arguments.
9. To develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills appropriate to a wide range of subsequent careers; in particular, to develop graduates' capacity for further learning; to prepare them for further study or research; to equip them to meet international, national, regional or local needs.

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the areas below. The programme outcomes are referenced to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education 2010 and Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Academic Content:

A 1	Ability to demonstrate a knowledge of the core concepts in the study of film and evaluate different theoretical perspectives on these concepts.
A 2	Ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a wide range of primary and secondary material related Film Studies including cultural products (literary works, films, screenplays, reviews, critical works) and the concepts and techniques necessary to understand, analyse and produce them.
A 3	Ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the national and international contexts of the films studied, and the relation of these to aesthetic forms and to social and political history.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	analyse film and related cultural products with sophistication.
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B 2	construct cogent and sophisticated critical essays with evidence of independent study and initiative.
B 3	formulate theoretically informed arguments and express these clearly and effectively in the form of oral presentations.
B 4	bring critical skills to bear on the analysis of texts. In addition, to compare the effectiveness of different critical techniques.
B 5	demonstrate and deploy a range of key transferable skills appropriate to analytical investigation and independent critical thinking.
B 6	use technology appropriate to filmmaking, and its basic applications.

Attributes:	
C 1	Demonstrate effective spoken and written communication skills, using IT competently, and adapting communication appropriately according to the social, professional or cultural setting.
C 2	Critically evaluate information from a variety of sources to extend understanding of a subject or situation, and apply this knowledge confidently and constructively.
C 3	Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

How Will You Learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy of the School. Teaching will be led by research-oriented staff. These strategies aim to:

Foster a sense of community amongst students and staff in the pursuit of teaching and learning;
 Promote the relationship between staff research, teaching and student learning;
 Expose students to a diverse set of approaches to the study of their subject area;
 Encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and progress and to develop qualities of self-discipline and self-direction;
 Inspire intellectual independence in students;
 Employ a variety of assessment methods;
 Prepare graduates for training and/or employment, or further academic study through the acquisition of transferable skills.

Teaching takes a number of forms:

Lectures;
 Seminars, including a variety of group work;
 Small group tutorials;
 Workshops;
 Lab work using multi-media resources;
 Writing intensive courses;
 Field trips;
 Independent work by students, including research, presentations and peer review;
 Individual supervision of projects and dissertations;
 Individual and group feedback on written work.

How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment is typically by a combination of examination and coursework, or of different kinds of coursework. The kind of examination or coursework will vary with the content of each module. Examinations may take the form of essay questions, analysis or exercises. Coursework may consist of essays, longer research projects, textual commentaries, critical reviews, practical exercises, diaries of your own research, poster presentations, short film productions. Oral presentations, suitably monitored, or in-

class quizzes may also be used. Language examinations may include oral and aural assessments.

How is the Programme Structured?

Requirements

Students must take a minimum of 240 credits in Film Studies over the period of their studies.

Structure

Year 1 - Level 4

30 credits Introduction to Film Studies (core module)
30 credits Approaches and Analysis (compulsory module)
30 credits Scriptwriting: Creativity and Technique (compulsory module)
30 credits Production Skills (compulsory module)

Progression Requirements to Year 2

To successfully progress from Year 1 to Year 2 students must pass a minimum of 90 credits including any core module. Students who have passed 90 credits not including the core module are not eligible for progression.

Year 2

30 credits What is Cinema? (core module)
15 credits Research Methods (Film) (compulsory module)
Minimum 30 credits/ Maximum 75 credits optional modules to be chosen from FLM-coded modules at level 5.
Minimum 0 credits/ Maximum 45 credits optional modules to be chosen from all modules offered in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, subject to space available on modules and with the guidance of the students' adviser. Maximum 30 of these credits may be at level 4 or 6 with the advisers' agreement.

Progression Requirements to Final Year

To successfully progress from Year 2 to Final Year students must pass a minimum of 180 credits including any core modules. Students who have passed 180 credits not including these core modules are not eligible for progression.

Final Year

Minimum 75 credits/ Maximum 120 credits optional modules to be chosen from FLM- coded modules at level 6.
Minimum 0 credits/ Maximum 45 credits optional modules to be chosen from all modules offered in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, subject to space available on modules and with the guidance of the students' adviser. Maximum 30 Credits of these modules may be at level 5.
Students may not take level 4 modules in their final year.

Requirements for award

Students must pass a minimum of 270 credits to be awarded their degree.

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester

What Are the Entry Requirements?

The entry requirements are as stated in the Queen Mary prospectus for current entry, and on the Queen Mary website <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/coursefinder/index.html>

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

Academic Support

All students beginning study on the programme participate in a series of Welcome Week activities, which involve introductions to the programme and specific inductions in the use of the online learning environment. These events also include opportunities for social interaction, and scheduled small group and individual meetings with personal advisers.

Each student's academic progress and personal welfare is monitored by an adviser, the designated members of staff with whom students can raise issues and problems, and from whom they can seek advice and guidance.

All teaching staff hold regular office hours in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress.

There is a dedicated Student Experience Manager in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, who works with academic staff to assist students in need of support.

Where appropriate, students will be advised to make use of relevant professional service departments in the College, including Disability and Dyslexia, Welfare, and Counselling.

The School of Languages, Linguistics and Film recognises how closely writing is linked to thinking; and how important writing skills are both in the academic and professional worlds, and collaborates with the College's Thinking Writing team which

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supports students in the development of their writing skills. The College also offers a range of services to support you in your learning and help you develop academically and professionally. These include: Academic Study Workshops, Academic English and Study Skills Support and One-to-One Tutorials working with you on your written assignments.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

None.

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

Graduates from Queen Mary's School of Languages, Linguistics and Film Studies go on to work in a wide variety of careers. Some apply their degree knowledge directly, entering careers such as directing and film production, whilst others transfer skills gained during study into areas such as public relations and marketing.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Jill Evans, Head of Administration

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Person responsible for management of programme

Prof D J Adger, Head of School

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

February 2014

**Date Programme Specification approved by
Taught Programmes Board**

24 Mar 2014