

Programme Specification

Academic Year 2017-18

MA Film Studies

Programme code: 4144 (Full Time); 4145 (Part Time)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton, Avenue Campus
Mode of study	Full time or part time is permitted
Duration in years	1 year (full time) or 2 years (part time)
Final award	MA Film Studies
Name of award	Master of Arts
Interim Exit awards	PG Cert
FHEQ level of final award	HE7
UCAS code	P300
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (2010)
Programme Lead	Dr Kevin Donnelly
Date specification was written	22/07/2003
Date specification was last updated	June 2017

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The MA programme in Film Studies provides a flexible course of study which concentrates on a considered and theoretical approach to methods of research, while embracing precise textual analysis and film history as well as offering a choice of options to suit your own interests.

Compulsory modules on the programme enable you to engage with crucial topics concerning film studies research. Core modules will assist you in developing your academic research skills and ability to engage in independent study. A number of option modules are offered which will enable you to develop particular areas of interest in film studies.

Learning and teaching

Seminar discussion and one-to-one tutorial sessions will enable you to develop your critical thinking skills and to engage with a range of theoretical concepts, applying them to the study of film texts and issues in cultural management. Oral presentations, both individual and as part of a group, will develop your communication skills and your ability to present your research findings in a cogent, succinct manner. They will also build your self-confidence in public speaking. Written essays, reports and an independent research project will develop your written communication skills as well as your capacity to employ a range of research methodologies. They will enable you to display your engagement with theoretical arguments and your understanding of critical debates in film studies and the field of cultural management.

Assessment

A range of assessment methods are employed to facilitate your intellectual development, understanding and knowledge as well as your communication skills. These include oral presentations, written essays, reports and a substantial dissertation on a subject of your choice. Each of the forms of assessment is designed to encourage you to explore your own research interests and hence to develop independent critical thinking.

University of Southampton

HUMS CQA 2015/16

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration, however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

- develop your critical awareness of debates and issues in Film Studies
- encourage you to reflect upon different methodologies, and to use them effectively in your own work
- enhance your capacity for independent thought and research
- encourage you to produce written work and scholarship to high professional standards
- enable you to use and evaluate a wide range of research tools, including electronic information retrieval and subject-specific archival resources

The programme aims to challenge many of the established tenets in the study of film and television, and you will be expected to participate actively in this process, whether in seminar discussion or your own writing. You will be encouraged to develop your own research interests, applying the skills and resources you acquire during the programme. At the same time, we foster a collaborative ethos in which students exchange knowledge and ideas. The emphasis is on progression towards shaping the direction of your degree yourself, rather than relying on your tutors to set the agenda for you. Your tutors are all highly regarded subject specialists with international research profiles in areas such as:

- Audience and reception studies
- Contemporary American cinema
- British and European cinema and television
- Transnational approaches to world cinema
- History, film and television
- Silent cinema
- Star study
- Film sound and music
- Gender and national identities
- Film theory and cultural theories
- Visual analysis

Within this context, the programme aims to provide a solid foundation on which to build your own pathway to future professional development.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 critical debates and issues in Film Studies
- A2 cultural and social implications of the above
- A3 different research methodologies
- A4 cultural and social significance of film and television as a form of mass communication and as art
- A5 history of film and television industries
- A6 contextual approaches to film interpretation

Teaching and Learning Methods

Thinking skills are developed through activities such as seminar discussion, oral presentations, tutorial consultations, and through the essays and dissertation. As well as the use of web-based resources, wide reading and evaluation of secondary sources indicated on module reading lists are actively encouraged.

Assessment methods

Some modules include projects designed to test your thinking skills. The dissertation is the primary method for testing your thinking skills, enabling you to progress from the critical evaluation of resources to building a cogent and original argument of your own.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- B1 design and execute effectively an advanced independent research project within in the field of Film Studies.
- B2 engage critically with complex ideas and theories in Film Studies and express them succinctly.
- B3 evaluate different research methods in Film Studies and apply them
- B4 integrate theoretical concepts with the analysis of film texts.
- B5 analyse the relationship between cinematic texts and various contexts (history, aesthetics, society, economics/industry).
- B6 demonstrate an understanding of film as one of the most important mass media since the late 19th century, and its impact on social developments in a variety of cultural contexts
- B7 demonstrate awareness of the intellectual development of Film Studies as a discipline and its relationship to other disciplinary traditions in the Humanities and beyond

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching and learning takes place through a variety of student-centred activities, mainly focused on seminar discussion, supported by one-to-one tutorial supervision. Those who wish for introductory film content are encouraged to attend the undergraduate lecture series *Introduction to Film I and II*. Student oral presentations,

whether individual or group, are a central feature of seminar work, and of the Research Skills modules leading to the dissertation. Some modules include special writing projects or group activities. You are strongly encouraged to use web-based and library resources at Southampton and at the British Film Institute in London. Film Studies modules are accompanied by lecture theatre screenings. (Formats include 35mm, video and DVD). MA students are expected to attend the Film Studies Graduate seminar series.

Assessment methods

The primary assessment method for testing your knowledge and understanding is an essay of no more than 4,000-words for each 15-credit module, the topic normally decided in consultation with the module tutor. Oral presentations delivered as part of the Research Skills module are also formally assessed. To gain the full MA award, you will need to complete an independently researched dissertation of no more than 15,000 words, which will demonstrate your acquisition of sophisticated knowledge and research skills and your ability to present your ideas and argument to professional standards in the appropriate academic style.

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- C1 communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats, to professional standards.
- C2 communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations, both in academic contexts and in other public engagements.
- C3 identify, select and utilise a wide range of printed and electronic sources.
- C4 demonstrate interpersonal skills while working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence.
- C5 demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent research, as well as respect for the ideas and work of others.
- C6 lead discussion in seminars, and in other professional contexts (e.g. at conferences) effectively to achieve relevant feedback from the (peer) group.
- C7 evaluate the usefulness of your primary and secondary sources.
- C8 structure your own ideas and arguments lucidly and cogently
- C9 edit and revise your written work.
- C10 demonstrate originality in your own research and writing.
- C11 manage deadlines and the effective use of your time.
- C12 demonstrate verbal and linguistic skills to a high professional standard.
- C13 utilise technology and audio-visual material effectively in oral presentations.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills are developed through the emphasis of the programme on active participation, independent learning and personal initiative. You are expected to read and research beyond the parameters of individual

modules. Your ability to take responsibility for your work is aided by activities such as oral presentations, coursework essays, and the dissertation supported by one-to-one supervision. Through the dissertation you will demonstrate your ability to use your initiative in identifying a significant area for study, working independently on it and managing any problems that emerge along the way.

Assessment methods

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through participating in individual and group presentations, class exercises, essays and the dissertation. The dissertation is a key element in establishing the acquisition of key skills appropriate to the MA as opposed to the Diploma.

Programme Structure

Programme details

The programme may be studied over one year (full-time) or two years (part-time). The programme consists of the equivalent of seven single modules, four of which are cores, plus a dissertation. It is worth 90 ECTS (180 CATS) overall. (ECTS = European Credit Transfer Scheme; CATS = Credit Accumulation & Transfer Scheme). Each taught module is worth 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS). The Dissertation is worth 37.5 ECTS (75 CATS). If you satisfactorily complete the taught elements of the programme you will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma.

Availability of Modules

The information contained in programme specification is correct at the time it was published. Typically, around a quarter of optional modules do not run due to low interest or unanticipated changes in staff availability. If we do have insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module, this may not be offered. If an optional module will not be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative module.

The MA will typically follow the structure set out below:

Core modules		Credits
FILM6027	Dissertation	37.5 ECTS (75 CATS)
FILM6029	Research in Film Studies	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
FILM6043	Preparing for the Dissertation	15 ECTS (30 CATS)
Compulsory modules		
FILM6028	Post-Classical Film Theory	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
FILM6032	Classical Film Theory	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
Subject Specific Option modules		
FILM6031	Screen Stars in Context	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
FILM6033	Current Issues in Film Distribution and Exhibition	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
FILM6034	Film Policy: National and Global Contexts	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
FILM6045	Auteur Film Makers: Case Studies in Cinema	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
FILM6046	East Asian Action Cinema	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
FILM6036	Individually Negotiated Topic	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)

The list of option modules is not exclusive and you may, in consultation with the convenor, choose a module offered by another Humanities MA. It may be possible for you to undertake an Individually Negotiated

Topic (INT) in place of an Option module once during your programme. This may be linked to the proposed dissertation but should never overlap with it, and must be agreed with the programme convenor and a named supervisor. INTs fall under the regulations of the Faculty.

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. Costs that students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 2.

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Standalone Masters Programmes](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html) as set out in the University Calendar <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

Intermediate exit points

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

Qualification	Minimum overall credit in ECTS credits	Minimum ECTS credits required at level of award
Postgraduate Certificate	at least 30	20

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Student Services Centre
- Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV

- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy (multi-faith), health service, 'out of hours' service for students in Halls.
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; Students' Union provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feed back on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group
- Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty ▪ Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Criteria for admission

University Commitment

The University will at all times seek to operate admissions regulations that are fair and are in accordance with the law of the United Kingdom, and the University's Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

This includes specific compliance with legislation relating to discrimination (e.g. Equality Act 2010) and the University's Equal Opportunities Policy Statement. This includes a commitment that the University will:

- actively assist groups that experience disadvantage in education and employment to benefit from belonging to the University
- actively seek to widen participation to enable students that do not traditionally participate in Higher Education to do so;

- ensure that admission procedures select students fairly and appropriately according to their academic ability and that the procedure is monitored and regularly reviewed.

Entry Requirements

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Honours degree or equivalent	First- or upper second-class	An arts related subject. Previous study of Film at undergraduate level is useful but not essential.	

Mature applicants

Studying for a degree later in life can be extremely rewarding and mature students are often among our most successful.

If you are over 21 and feel you would benefit from degree-level studies, we can be more flexible about our entry requirements. For full-time courses, selectors will expect you to demonstrate your commitment by means of some recent serious study, for example, one or two A level passes, successful completion of an Open University foundation course or an appropriate Access course. Your application will be considered on individual merit and you may be asked to attend an interview.

Immigration issues

Potential Tier 4 sponsored students must make an appointment with VISAS before acceptance. Once in the UK, Tier 4 visa students are required to have full attendance monitoring. Any failure of attendance could lead to a termination of sponsorship by the University.

More information on the entry requirements for MA Film Studies can be found on the Film Studies webpage here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/film_studies/p300_ma_film.page

For further information, please contact our Admissions Team: pgafh@southampton.ac.uk

The University's Admission policy is available at

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/admissions/admissionspolicies/policy/>

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

Career Opportunities

The MA Film Studies programme is designed to equip you with a range of practical and intellectual skills that will enable you to complete your degree successfully, and put you in a good position to gain employment in the arts and media industries.

External Examiners(s) for the programme

Name Dr Justin Smith

Institution. University of Portsmouth

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their personal tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/film_studies/p300_m_a_film_page?.

Appendix:

		Knowledge and Understanding									Subject Specific Intellectual Skills								
Module Code	Module Title	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6				B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7		
FILM6027	Dissertation (core)	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
FILM6028	Post-Classical Film Theory (comp.)	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X	X	X	X		
FILM6029	Research in Film Studies (core)	X		X	X		X					X	X			X	X		
FILM6032	Classical Film Theory (comp.)	X		X	X							X		X	X	X	X		
FILM6043	Preparing the Dissertation (core)	X		X							X		X						

		Transferable/Key Skills												
Module Code	Module Title	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12	C13
FILM6027	Dissertation (core)	X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X		
FILM6028	Post-Classical Film Theory (comp.)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					
FILM6029	Research in Film Studies (core)	X	X	X				X	X			X	X	X
FILM6032	Classical Film Theory (comp.)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					
FILM6043	Preparing the Dissertation (core)	X		X				X	X		X	X		

Module Code	Module Title	Coursework 1	Coursework 2	Exam
FILM6027	Dissertation	15,000 word dissertation 100%	n/a	n/a
FILM6028	Post-Classical Film Theory	4,500 word essay 100%	n/a	n/a
FILM6029	Research in Film Studies	Presentation (50%) and presentation report (2,000 words) 50%	n/a	n/a
FILM6032	Classical Film Theory	4,500 word essay 100%	n/a	n/a
FILM6043	Preparing the Dissertation	Written research proposal (2,000 words) 50%	Literature review and annotated bibliography (2,000 words) 50%	n/a

Appendix 2:

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for: [insert relevant bullet points from the following list]:

- Books and Stationery Equipment (such as Lab equipment, Field Equipment, Art equipment, Recording Equipment, stethoscopes, fob watch, Excavation equipment, Approved Calculators)
- Materials (such as laboratory materials, textbooks, drawing paper, fabric, thread, computer disks, Sheet Music)
- Software Licenses
- Clothing (such as Protective Clothing, Lab Coats, specific shoes and trousers)
- Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).
- Typing Costs
- Field Trips (including accommodation costs for the field trips)
- Work Experience and Placements (including accommodation costs near the placement, additional insurance costs)
- Travel Costs for placements, field trips and to and from the University and various campus locations (including travel insurance).
- Paying for immunisation and vaccination costs before being allowed to attend placements.
- Obtaining Disclosure and Barring Certificates or Clearance Subsistence Costs
- Paying for a Music accompanist
- Translation of birth certificates (for programmes abroad)
- Conference expenses
- Professional exams
- Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)
- Replacing lost student ID cards
- Other activities (e.g. visiting specialist marine stations and other institutions)
- Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation).

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.

