Template C4

Programme Specification

Title of Course: *MA Film Studies*

Date first produced	01/01/2012
Date last revised	30/08/2024
Date of implementation of current version	01/08/2024
Version number	7
Faculty	Kingston School of Art
School	School of Creative and Cultural Industries
Department	Department of Creative Industries
Delivery Institution	Kingston University

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Award(s) and Title(s): *Up to 10 pathways*	MA Film Studies
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): *There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway*	PgDip in Film Studies PgCert in Film Studies
Course Code *For each pathway and mode of delivery*	PPFIL1FIL01 PFFIL1FIL01
UCAS code *For each pathway*	N/A

RQF Level for the Final Award:	Masters
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Penrhyn Road
Language of Delivery:	English
Modes of Delivery:	Part-time Full-time With Professional Placement
Available as:	Full field
Minimum period of registration:	Part-time - 2 Full-time - 1 With Professional Placement - 2
Maximum period of registration:	Part-time - 4 Full-time - 2 With Professional Placement - 3
Entry Requirements:	The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are: A second class degree or above in a Humanities subject (Film, Media Studies, Languages, History, English, etc) or in the History of Art, Fine Art or other studio-based subjects which include an art historical or contextual studies component, or another area appropriate to the degree. Consideration is also given to non-standard entrants with relevant work experience that demonstrates the necessary skills and intellectual achievement required to undertake the course.

	Applicants are invited for an interview with the Course Leader or another senior member of the teaching team. International students based overseas can arrange for an interview by email or telephone. All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirement, which is Academic IELTS of 6.5 overall, with no element below 5.5. Recognition of Prior Learning – Applicants with prior qualifications and learning may be exempt from appropriate parts of a course in accordance with the University's policy for the assessment of prior certificated learning and prior experiential learning. Mature students are welcome.
Programme Accredited by:	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:	N/A
Approved Variants:	N/A
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	

For Higher or Degree Apprenticeship proposals only	
Higher or Degree Apprenticeship standard:	N/A
Recruitment, Selection and Admission process:	N/A
End Point Assessment Organisation(s):	N/A

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

The Aims of the course are:
- To offer the study of cinema to graduates within a taught programme and to provide research experience to enable the student to continue with further postgraduate work at a higher level if they wish.
- To create a critical and lively postgraduate experience such that the student may use this experience in their profession.
- To provide a rigorous and critical theoretical framework through which the student may engage self-critically with their chosen field.
- To provide a thorough understanding of the ways in which cinema reflects, contributes to and grows out of its political, social and cultural contexts.
- To enable students to acquire the necessary analytical and critical skills for an in-depth knowledge and understanding of cinema.
- To establish the foundations of research methods and an understanding of Film Theory and Analysis appropriate for postgraduate study, including diploma and MA levels.
- Through the addition of the Major Project to enable the student to develop the capacity for in-depth critical research and to write a sustained and coherent 12,000 – 15,000 word dissertation, or equivalent Creative/Critical project, on a specific topic.
- The 2-year programme with integrated placement(s) also provides students with an opportunity to enhance their professional skills, preparing them for higher levels of employment, further study and lifelong learning.

B. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme outcomes are referenced to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics 2020, the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and relate to the typical student.

- While there is no benchmark statement relating specifically to Film Studies at postgraduate level, changes to the programme since the Validation have been informed by the undergraduate benchmarking statement for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies.
- The awards made to students who complete the field or are awarded intermediate qualifications comply fully with the national Qualifications Framework.

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They must align to the levels set out in the 'Sector Recognised Standards in England' (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes

	Knowledge and Understanding On completion of the course students will be able to:		Intellectual Skills On completion of the course students will be able to		Subject Practical Skills On completion of the course students will be able to
A6	Produce a substantial piece of original and critical writing according to high professional standards.	B5	Devise ways in which their research may be developed professionally into the future, in terms of publications, teaching, employment, and scholarly participation in the widest sense	C6	Demonstrate professional skills (including self-presentation, communication, interpersonal/teamwork, research and information literacy, numeracy, time-management and project-planning, management and leadership skills, and ethical practice).
A5	Identify, synthesise and utilise current theoretical and methodological debates appropriate to the selected dissertation topic, together with the historical and cultural context;	B4	Progress to higher research degrees including PhD	C5	Present a sustained piece of original work according to appropriate professional standards
A4	Work independently and research in depth a topic of their choice for the dissertation;	B1	Carry out high level research in depth using both primary and/or secondary material	C4	Conduct independent research at an advanced level
A2	Demonstrate advanced knowledge of a specialised area of postgraduate research in American, European or World cinema;	B2	Have a rigorous grasp of the appropriate theoretical and methodological issues raised by the research	C3	Give oral PowerPoint presentations of a high standard, including illustrations with film stills and edited film clips
A1	Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of, and critical engagement with, the importance of theory, methodology and analysis to the study of film.	B3	Write about their topic in its cultural and historical contexts with sophisticated understanding	C2	Make effective use specialist film resources and conduct archival research to support oral presentations and written work

A3	Recognise those research methods that will create a foundation for independent study at postgraduate level.			C1	Work both independently and with their peers, managing their time efficiently

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop the following range of Graduate Attributes:
1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

C. Outline Programme Structure

This programme is offered in full-time, part-time and 'with professional placement' modes, and leads to the award of MA in Film Studies. Entry is normally at level 7 with BA-level or equivalent qualifications. Intake is normally in September.

The programme comprises of four modules, each worth 30 credit points, and the dissertation worth 60 credits. All students take two yearlong core modules:

FM7001 *Film History, Theory and Analysis*, which is an introduction to the main areas of debate in the history of film criticism. Students develop their ability to relate critical concepts to an analysis of films both orally and in writing.

FM7009 *Film and Philosophy* explores the many ways in which philosophy and film can form a productive relationship. Concepts discussed include film ethics, phenomenological film of the body, gender and feminism, adaptation, Freudianism, and Comedy. We will also have lectures that build conceptual bridges with lectures ongoing in philosophy (Art Theory, Recent French Philosophy).

Students then choose two further areas of specialist interest, subject to availability, from various teaching block-long validated specialist modules, focusing on Hollywood, European and World cinema. FM7005 *Cinematic Animals – Monsters, Beasts and Humans on Film* explores issues of cinematic identity construction across a range of cinematic genres; FM7007 *British cinema – from the 1960s to today* explores the variety of British cinema from kitchen sink dramas to contemporary work; *FM7004 Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Cinema* explores these issues in relation to the construction and disruption of cinematic identities and FM7010 Film and Adaptation introduces students to key theories around the adaptation of other media (primarily but not exclusively novels) to film, and the issues involved, through a varied range of case studies.

In the Dissertation/major project module, the students build on the insights and skills developed in the taught modules. This independent extensive research project will be guided and supported by one-to-one supervisory tutorials as well as small group dissertation workshops focusing on specific film-related research methods. In writing the dissertation, students demonstrate their ability to research in depth a topic of their choice, with a rigorous grasp of current theoretical and methodological debates relevant to the subject area, as well as an understanding of its historical and cultural context.

For those interested in further research, this course provides an excellent foundation for MPhil/PhD level study.

Typically, a full-time student will complete 180 credits in one academic year. All students will be provided with the University Postgraduate regulations. Full details of the field structure, content and teaching staff will be provided in the MA Film Studies field guide. More detailed information about each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

Students on the 2-year programme (with integrated placement) must complete all modules by the end of TB3 and then work in their placement(s) for a maximum of 12 months. The student should confirm that their placement opportunity is available by the end of May, and the course team will confirm whether this is acceptable within two weeks. Students on placement(s) must complete a professional placement portfolio which includes a reflection on how they have applied the skills they have developed during the previous year, within a professional working environment.

MA Film Studies

Level 7							
MA Film Studies							
Core modules	**Module code**	**Credit Value**	**Level**	**Teaching Block**	**Pre-requisites**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Beyond the Frame: Film, Industry and Context	FM7011	30	7	1 and 2	None	1	1
Cinema and Difference: framing representation	FM7012	30	7	1 and 2	None	1	1
Film History Theory and Analysis	FM7001	30	7	1, 2			
Major Project	HA7201	60	7	1, 2, 3			
The Visible Universe: Film between Art and Experiment	FM7009	30	7	1, 2			
Optional Modules							
Professional Placement (CSCI)	WP7002	120	7	TB1, TB2, TB3 (Yr 2)			

Level 7 information

Students exiting the programme with 60 credits are eligible for the award of PgCert in Film Studies. Students exiting the programme with 120 credits are eligible for the award of PgDip in Film Studies.

D. Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The teaching/learning strategy is predicated on the notion of several principles. Underpinning the entire course, our first aim is to provide learning opportunities for the students' understanding of the main currents in film criticism. In doing so we actively encourage students to adopt critical standpoints in relation to the various approaches in film criticism through the advanced application of one or more of the approaches to the analysis of film. Through seminars led by student discussion and debate, our aim is to develop in students the skills of analysis and synthesis both orally and in writing and to foster, with the

team, an advanced understanding of current research methodologies and issues in film studies and the ways in which they relate to students' individual research plans.

Behind the entirety of the MA is the principle of small-group seminar-based teaching and tutorial support. All classes are designed to be highly interactive, predicated on student discussion. All of us on the MA, staff and students alike, are a part of a community of advanced scholars, exploring contemporary developments in cinema together. Because of this focus on small-group teaching and discussion-based learning, students on the course are offered significant personal support by the teaching team. Each student is allocated a personal tutor who will be their main point of contact for any questions, issues or problems and who will be responsible for supporting the student in the transition to PG study. In addition, throughout the degree all members of the teaching team act as de-facto personal tutors to the students, offering support and advice in their own areas of expertise under the guidance of the MA course leader. This process is designed specifically to allow students to have a single point of contact but also, crucially, to become familiar, comfortable and confident with the whole teaching team and their areas of expertise. This better allows the students to make informed choices with regards to dissertation topics by having the whole team accessible to them for preliminary discussions. The ethos of this MA is very much that of a team working together in a creative and stimulating intellectual environment. To foster the student engagement with this environment, and to foster their own self-confidence, the assessment regime for each module has been designed to provide formative opportunities that allow students to practice and to receive feed forward on their performance in preparation for the summative assessment. Feedback on student progress in these areas takes the form of:

- Feedback on formative assessment to help prepare students for the formal submissions. This may take the form of: written feedback with action points; peer review; verbal feedback following presentations.
- Summative assessments are accompanied with feedback sheets providing commentary on how well the assessment met the marking criterion and offering feed forward through the provision of suggestions regarding areas in which the students might improve their skills and where they might find support in doing so.

The modules, Film Theory, History and Analysis (FM7001) and Film and Philosophy (FM7009) between them offer a grounding in the key skills and approaches which form the basis of the degree. In these modules students will be exposed to a number of key theoretical and critical approaches to the study of film, along with advanced practical techniques around researching, preparing and presenting work at an advanced level. In addition to basic research skills around identifying and approaching key readings, students will learn how to 'read' and analyse a film, and advanced techniques around archival research (both film and paper archives) and audience research. These skills are then augmented and developed through two specialized research-led modules, Cinema and Difference: framing representation (FM7xxx) and Beyond the Frame (FM7xxx) which encourage students to explore their own interests and pathway through the programme in preparation for the final dissertation. These modules also encourage students to explore new methods of audiovisual research and analysis.

The assessments on the taught modules have been designed to prepare students for the rigours of the dissertation; to enable them to carry out high level research in depth using both primary and/or secondary material; to have a rigorous grasp of the appropriate theoretical and methodological issues raised by the research; to write about their topic in its cultural and historical contexts with sophisticated understanding; and to present their dissertation in accordance with professional standards.

The School uses the virtual learning environment (Canvas/VLE), which acts as the main online location and portal for course and School information and news. Course materials such as handbooks, module guides, timetables and information on talks programmes, lectures and events are all accessible through the VLE.

All courses based in the Kingston School of Art offer students free access to the online video tutorial platform LinkedIn Learning. This provides a wide range of subjects to choose from, many with downloadable exercise files, including software tutorials covering photography, graphics, web design, audio and music, CAD and Microsoft Office software, as well as courses on Business and Management skills. Some of these are embedded in the curriculum and offer additional self-paced learning, others may be taken at will by students wishing to broaden their employability skills in other areas.

The integrated work placement is primarily reliant on independent activity on the part of the student, with some support from their tutor. During the period of the placement(s) students will be supervised (online) by a tutor who, if possible, will visit during the placement. Depending on the location of the placement, meetings might take place face-to-face or via platforms such as Microsoft Teams. The placement module will make use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Canvas for communication and dissemination of information between students and staff as well as making online learning materials available.

E. Support for Students and their Learning

Students are supported by:

- A Module Leader for each module who coordinates the teaching and learning activities and can advise students on any specific questions related to the learning and assessment for the module.
- A Course Leader to help students understand the programme structure.
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and personal support at all stages of study. Personal tutors are allocated when students join and remain the same throughout a students' study time. Contact with personal tutors is likely to be greatest at the start of a student's career, however meetings are scheduled at each stage to check progress, review achievement and help students plan for the future.
- Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software.
- A designated Course Administrator.
- An induction week at the beginning of each new academic session.
- Staff-Student Consultative Committee.
- The VLE/Canvas – a versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment accessible both on and off-site
- Careers and Employability Services Team – will provide support for students prior to undertaking work placement(s).
- LinkedIn Learning – an online platform offering self-paced software tutorials
- An Academic Success Centre that provides academic skills support for UG and PG students
- Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support, etc.
- Disabled student support
- Careers and Employability Services
- The Union of Kingston Students
- An English Language Development programme for those students whose first language is not English

F. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners
- Boards of Study with student representation
- Annual Monitoring and Enhancement
- Periodic review undertaken at subject level
- Student evaluation including Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQs) and a Postgraduate Survey
- Moderation policies
- Feedback from employers

G. Employability and work-based learning

Graduates from the MA Film Studies programme have gone into academia within the field of film as teachers or lecturers or continued their postgraduate study at PHD level, while others work in film related industries in a variety of areas including journalism and business and enterprise.

Our degree equips students with a range of skills which make them desirable to employers in a wide range of professions areas. Skills such as initiative and problem-solving, teamwork, communication skills, imagination and creativity and analytical and research skills, are increasingly recognised by the working world as highly valuable in careers from customer and public relations or sales and marketing to education. The Creative and Cultural industries are major contributors to the UK's economy and our postgraduates have the skills they are looking for.

Employability skills and professional development are developed through the embedding of key skills within the curriculum in collaboration with Kingston University's Careers and Employability Service. We run a number of events for postgraduate students where they can seek advice for future careers – something also available through discussions with personal tutors - get help with CVs and meet alumni working in a range of areas, while formative and summative feedback encourage students to reflect critically upon their areas of strength and areas for future development.

The 2-year integrated work placement programme is designed to provide students with enhanced opportunities for securing professional employment at the end of their degree, providing skills and experience that employers are looking for in their work force. These are supported by the Careers and Employability Services team, providing drop-in and scheduled events to support students in the preparation of CVs, applications, and preparation for interviews and assessment centres.

Work-based learning, including sandwich courses and higher or degree apprenticeships

Work placement is an integral part of the 2-year programme and students will receive support from the award-winning Careers and Employability Services team.

While it is the responsibility of individual students to secure appropriate placements, the Careers and Employability Services team offer each student support at all stages of the application process, including writing CVs, completing application forms, participating in mock interviews, assessment centre activities and psychometric tests. Sourcing and applying for placement(s) gives students the opportunity to experience a competitive job application process.

The experience of the work placement period enables students to apply their learning in the professional work environment, to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to their prior learning, and to evaluate the relationships between academic skills and employers' expectations. Students will be assessed during and at the end of this period, through a portfolio of work, which will be marked as pass/fail.

H. Other sources of information that you may wish to consult

QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (2015)
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement8019abbe03dc611ba4caff140043ed24.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81_12
 Course Page:
http://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate-course/film-studies-ma/

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code		Level 7					
		WP7002	HA7201	FM7011	FM7012	FM7009	FM7001
Knowledge & Understanding	A6		S	S	S	S	S
	A5		S			S	S
	A4		S				
	A2		S	S	S		S
	A1		S	S	S	S	S
	A3		S	S	S		S
Intellectual Skills	B5		S			S	S
	B4		S			S	S
	B1		S	S	S	S	S
	B2		S	S	S	S	S

	B3		S	S	S	S	S
	C6	S		S	S		
	C5		S			S	S
Practical Skills	C4		S	S	S	S	S
	C3						S
	C2		S	S	S	S	S
	C1		S	S	S	S	S

Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.