

## Programme Specification (PG)

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|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Awarding body / institution:                | Queen Mary University of London                                                   |
| Teaching institution:                       | Queen Mary University of London                                                   |
| Name of final award and programme title:    | MA Film (Theory)<br>MA Film (Documentary Practice)<br>MA Film (Directing Fiction) |
| Name of interim award(s):                   | n/a                                                                               |
| Duration of study / period of registration: | 1 year FT / 2 years PT                                                            |
| Queen Mary programme code(s):               | P3R2 / P3R4 / P3R6                                                                |
| QAA Benchmark Group:                        |                                                                                   |
| FHEQ Level of Award:                        | Level 7                                                                           |
| Programme accredited by:                    | N/A                                                                               |
| Date Programme Specification approved:      |                                                                                   |
| Responsible School / Institute:             | School of the Arts                                                                |

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

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Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

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### Programme outline

The MA in Film draws on the established strengths of the Department of Film and offers a wide range of modules taught by specialists in the field. The MA programme offers a flexible approach and students are able to choose one of three pathways according to their interests: Theory pathway, Documentary Practice pathway or Directing Fiction pathway.

The Theory pathway offers students the opportunity to explore key aspects of film analysis, theory, history and practice. Through a range of different approaches to the study of film, including genre and textual analysis, audience studies, and media archaeology, students will be exposed to some of the most pressing debates about film today. Questions of ethics and whether we can consider film as a document; of how film works on our bodies as an affective medium; the reasons for film's close affinity to urban, cosmopolitan and diasporic cultures; and the historical legacy of film as an international, and now transnational medium, are all central to the programme. In exploring these questions, students will be introduced to some of the liveliest and most important chapters in the history of cinema.

The Documentary Practice pathway investigates, articulates, questions and challenges issues of individual, social, political and ideological importance. It utilizes documentary production as a professional creative skill and as a practice-based research tool

to create work of sophisticated, intellectual and critical enquiry. The programme involves critical enquiry and research into documentary production and also result in creative production work to a professional standard.

The Directing Fiction pathway trains students in the technical, theoretical, creative and aesthetic skills necessary to direct fiction film, and helps students find their own voice and vision as a director. The programme consists of an innovative combination of technical training, suitable for those completely new to filmmaking and those wanting to further their craft, mentoring in the production of a number of short films written and directed by the students, and historical and theoretical teaching.

Both Documentary Practice and Direction Fiction pathways have students graduate with a roster of festival ready films, and the skills to pursue independent filmmaking or work in the industry, and all three pathways equip students with skills and knowledge to pursue a range of careers in film and broadcasting, as well as continuing on to PhD study.

## Aims of the programme

This programme will:

- Allow students to explore key aspects of film analysis, theory, history and practice.
- Give students the opportunity to develop practical film making skills, as well as study theoretical modules.
- Offer students the chance to debate cutting edge issues in Film Studies. QMUL has particular strengths in new areas of research in Film Philosophy, in Ecocinema and Screening Nature, New Independent Indian Cinema, and in film outside the cinema – in art galleries, on public screens, across social media.
- Enable students to develop knowledge, intellectual, critical understanding and insight into current documentary practices, which are informed by the forefront of professional practice and also through established and cutting edge academic research.
- Enable students to study the forms, aesthetics and production methods of documentary practice as they have developed historically and in a contemporary context. To frame this study with a theoretical engagement with questions of representation, culture and ideology, while maintaining a strong theoretical and practical sense of the political and ethical.
- Enable students to obtain a comprehensive understanding of research techniques applicable to their own work in terms of both written, research-based and practice-based outputs.
- Enable students to demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- Enable students to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and communicate clearly through their research to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Enable students to employ initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Enable students to reach a standard where they are suitable to undertake high level and/or undertake work in academic research and (if selected, in film practice) to a standard of excellence.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in terms of academic and discipline content and transferable skills. The programme outcomes are referenced to the relevant QAA benchmark descriptor(s) (see above) and 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 2003 and Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

### Academic Content:

|    |                                                                                                                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A1 | Reflect on multiple academic modes of viewing and analysing abstract concepts relating to the study of the moving image.          |
| A2 | Cultivate a wide-ranging awareness of scholarly literature on multifarious dimensions of Film Studies                             |
| A3 | Develop the ability to relate and apply epistemological and pedagogical concepts to practical and performative cinematic examples |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A 4 | A critical and engaged understanding of film practice and film theory informed by a range of current research issues                                                                                        |
| A 5 | A sophisticated knowledge of documentary practice supported by a highly developed understanding of practice-based documentary production techniques and skills                                              |
| A 6 | A comprehensive understanding of research techniques in relation to outputs for both specialist and non-specialist audiences.                                                                               |
| A 7 | A sophisticated understanding of group and team work, production planning, research and problem-solving skills, enabling the production of work to a standard of both professional and academic excellence. |

| Disciplinary Skills - able to: |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B 1                            | Further the ability to conduct probing analytical interpretations of film texts and develop critical perspectives on cinema using a range of research methods, theoretical, philosophical and disciplinary paradigms. |
| B 2                            | Gain a broad understanding of diverse forms of cinema commensurate with a global worldview                                                                                                                            |
| B 3                            | Express critical readings of cinema through sophisticated written work and film practice                                                                                                                              |
| B 4                            | Engage confidently in academic and professional communication with others within the field of practice and film theory.                                                                                               |
| B 5                            | Apply knowledge and to interpret knowledge within the discipline                                                                                                                                                      |
| B 6                            | Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the shared disciplines of practice and film theory                                                                                                   |
| B 7                            | Evaluate new methodologies, develop critiques of them and where appropriate propose new hypothesis and practices.                                                                                                     |
| B 8                            | Continue and advance knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills to a high level.                                                                                                                           |

| Attributes: |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| C 1         | An ability to research and formulate critical analyses of films, calling upon topical discourses and pertinent analogies                                                                                                               |
| C 2         | An ability to identify confluences in film theory, analysis and practice                                                                                                                                                               |
| C 3         | Skills, abilities and knowledge that have applicability in both academic and non-academic spheres                                                                                                                                      |
| C 4         | Demonstrate the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision-making and problem-solving in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development. |
| C 5         | Clarify a group task and lead, work with or work within a group towards a defined outcome. Be able to negotiate and handle conflict with confidence.                                                                                   |
| C 6         | Produce work to a professional standard in both written and audio-visual communication                                                                                                                                                 |
| C 7         | The ability to plan and produce work, both written and practice-based to a high level academic standard and to a high professional standard.                                                                                           |
| C 8         | The ability to undertake independent high quality research and produce work which can communicate to specialist and non-specialist audiences.                                                                                          |

C9

The ability to plan, schedule and complete complex tasks, when working individually or as part of a group.

### How will you learn?

The MA in Film will involve the following teaching strategies:

Lectures  
Screenings  
Seminars  
Case studies  
Practical skills training  
Research skills training  
Production tutorials  
Project work  
Team and group work

### How will you be assessed?

The MA in Film will involve the following assessment strategies:

Essays  
Practical production work  
Outputs from research: Dissertation  
Outputs from research: Project Work and Project Reports

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

MA Film (Theory pathway) - Full time students

30 credits compulsory module FLM7221 Thinking Film Studies (Semester A)

30 credits compulsory module FLM7223 Global Screens (Semester B)

60 credits core dissertation EITHER:

SMLM005 Dissertation (Semester C)

OR

FLM7200 Final Project (Semester C)

0-60 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 MA Film Studies modules

0-30 credits optional modules may be chosen Level 7 intercollegiate optional modules from agreed intercollegiate institutions, to be agreed with the student's adviser

0-30 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 versions of level 6 FLM-coded modules, to be agreed with the student's adviser.

MA Film (Theory pathway) - Part time students

YEAR 1:

30 credits compulsory module FLM7221 Thinking Film Studies (Semester A)

30 credits compulsory module FLM7223 Global Screens (Semester B)

YEAR 2:

## Programme Title: MA Film

Students select 60 credits of optional modules from:

0-60 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 MA Film Studies modules

0-30 credits optional modules may be chosen Level 7 intercollegiate optional modules from agreed intercollegiate institutions, to be agreed with the student's advisor

0-30 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 versions of level 6 FLM-coded modules, to be agreed with the student's advisor

Students take 60 credits core dissertation EITHER:

SMLM005 Dissertation (Semester C)

OR

FLM7200 Final Project (Semester C)

MA Film (Documentary Practice pathway) - Full Time Students

30 credits compulsory module FLM7201 Documentary Film: Theory and Practice (Semester A)

30 credits compulsory module FLM7202 Documentary Production Project (Semester B)

60 credits core dissertation FLM7200 Final Project (Semester C)

0-60 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 MA Film Studies modules

0-30 credits optional modules may be chosen Level 7 intercollegiate optional modules from agreed intercollegiate institutions, to be agreed with the student's advisor

0-30 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 versions of level 6 FLM-coded modules, to be agreed with the student's adviser.

MA Film (Documentary Practice pathway) - Part-Time Students

YEAR 1:

30 credits compulsory module FLM7201 Documentary Film: Theory and Practice (Semester A)

30 credits compulsory module FLM7202 Documentary Production Project (Semester B)

YEAR 2:

Students select 60 credits of optional modules from:

0-60 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 MA Film Studies modules

0-30 credits optional modules may be chosen Level 7 intercollegiate optional modules from agreed intercollegiate institutions, to be agreed with the student's advisor

0-30 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 versions of level 6 FLM-coded modules, to be agreed with the student's adviser

Students take 60 credits core dissertation FLM7200 Final Project (Semester C)

MA Film (Directing Fiction pathway) - Full Time Students

30 credit compulsory module s FLM7214 Making Fiction Film (Semester A)

30 credit compulsory module FLM7212 Directing Fiction (Semester B)

60 credits core dissertation FLM7200 Final Project (Semester C)

0-60 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 MA Film Studies modules

0-30 credits optional modules may be chosen Level 7 intercollegiate optional modules from agreed intercollegiate institutions, to be agreed with the student's advisor

0-30 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 versions of level 6 FLM-coded modules, to be agreed with the student's adviser.

MA Film (Directing Fiction pathway) - Part Time Students

YEAR 1:

30 credit compulsory module s FLM7214 Making Fiction Film (Semester A)

30 credit compulsory module FLM7212 Directing Fiction (Semester B)

YEAR 2:

Students select 60 credits of optional modules from:

0-60 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 MA Film Studies modules

## Programme Title: MA Film

0-30 credits optional modules may be chosen Level 7 intercollegiate optional modules from agreed intercollegiate institutions, to be agreed with the student's advisor  
0-30 credits optional modules to be chosen from level 7 versions of level 6 FLM-coded modules, to be agreed with the student's advisor  
Students take 60 credits core dissertation FLM7200 Final Project (Semester C)

## 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 will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School of the Arts and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School together with appropriate representation from staff. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments, and meets regularly throughout the year.

It reports in turn to the School of the Arts Education Committee (including the Director of Education), which advises the School Board 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 the university's Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

The School of the Arts operates regular Programme Reviews of taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision according to University policies. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Director of Education, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the School's Programme Reviews. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and module evaluations.

## What academic support is available?

All students beginning study on the programme will participate in a series of Welcome Week activities, including introductions to the programme, inductions in the use of the online learning environment and the use of the School's practical spaces and technical facilities. 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 advisor, with whom regular meetings are scheduled. All teaching staff will hold regular drop-in hours in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress.

The School's Director of Student Support is a designated member of staff with whom students can also raise issues and problems, and from whom they can seek advice and guidance.

Both the Director of Student Support and all advisors are able to refer students, where appropriate, to relevant professional service departments in the College, including Disability and Dyslexia, Welfare, and Counselling.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning differences 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 difference 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)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

Our provision at Queen Mary is enhanced by our proximity to major cultural centres such as the British Film Institute, which includes the BFI Southbank, National Library and National Archive, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Cine- Lumiere at the French Institute, the Whitechapel Gallery and the film archives at the Imperial War Museum. Our London location adds a large amount of value to the programme as we have links with the London Film Festival, BFI, local film festivals, UK Asian Film Festival and East London Film Festival.

Our teaching staff have national and international reputations in their fields. You will be taught by experienced filmmakers, as well as by leading academics in areas which cover many different periods of film history and which draw on films and cinema traditions from around the world. The learning outcomes and transferable skills gained from the MA in Film Studies will serve as a valuable springboard to an array of career options.

The programme engages with current platforms – BFI Film Festival; DOCHOUSE; RECLAIMING THE FRAME at Genesis. Relevant platforms are researched each year so as the programme stays current. 100 pounds has been made available for each student. These funds support the extra curriculum work of the programme that places students at the heart of current industry debate.

## Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Lara Fothergill

Programme Title: MA Film

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Anat Pick, Head of Film

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

24 Jan 2025

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