

# MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice

## Programme specification

### 1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
b) Programme code(s)	730277B
c) Programme credit value(s)	180 CATS 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Akanksha Mehta & James Burton
e) Entry requirements	You should have (or expect to be awarded) an undergraduate degree of at least 2:2 standard in a relevant/related subject. You will also be considered if you aren't a graduate or your degree is in an unrelated field, but you have relevant experience and can show you can work at postgraduate level.
f) Academic year effective from	2026-27

### 2. Programme Aims & Overview

#### Aims

1) Introduce students to an interdisciplinary approach of understanding contemporary culture and politics. 2) Foster meaningful engagement with a range of critical theoretical and practice-based work on culture, race, and justice, centred on urgent globally relevant issues. 3) Provide students with conceptual and methodological resources suitable for grasping complex cultural and social justice issues. 4) Develop students' ability to work across academic, artistic, and activist registers. 5) Provide students with a strong understanding of the histories of critical traditions including cultural studies, critical race studies, decolonial and postcolonial studies, and feminist studies. 6) Nurture transferable skills for students' work in a variety of fields and industries.

#### Overview

The MA Cultural Studies and Social Justice offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary culture (in all its forms), race, and justice. The programme is theory-driven but grounded in practice, media, creative approaches, and social justice. It centres current global issues and sociopolitical and cultural

debates as sites for intervention. Students are introduced to a variety of perspectives, theories, and traditions engaging with culture and social justice. These include critical race theories, Black, indigenous, and anti-colonial feminisms, the Birmingham School of Cultural Studies and its legacy, decolonial and postcolonial thought, critical theories of class and capitalism, queer and disability justice theory, activist, abolitionist, and grassroots struggles across the world, creative and cultural industries, and artistic practices. The programme will provide an in-depth exploration of research and scholarship into cultural studies and race across the overlapping fields of sociology, media and communications, gender/feminist studies, and more.

An interdisciplinary approach is employed to give students the analytical tools and skills to explain and critique why contemporary global understandings and representations of race and culture take the shape that they do. They will engage how these can be understood by paying attention to histories, presents, and structures and systems of global politics, media, technology, society, capitalism, and creative industries and how critique can be transformed into a tool for imagining futures, building community, artistic and activist practice, and generating crucial research.

In the first of the two core modules, “Doing Cultural Studies”, students address examples of cultural phenomena as case studies, critiquing and exploring them through a range of cultural studies research and theory with the aim of developing new insights and approaches to them. Case studies might relate to technology, arts, music, cultural memory, media platforms, state institutions or any cultural sphere. They will be approached through conjunctural analysis as a means of thinking through a particular situated phenomenon, about its intersection with a wider range of discourses, institutions, and epistemes in a specific historical, political, social context. They develop the cultural studies approach as a “tool kit” for exploring a particular case study. This aims to find out what it may tell us about broader social and political issues and conditions.

In the programme’s second core module, “Race and the World: Intersectionalities and Solidarities”, students engage with how race shapes the contemporary world and what this means for culture, media, politics, and justice. They examine various contemporary issues – from resistance movements to debates on statues of colonialism, from diversity initiatives in cultural and media industries to the rise of the far-right, from how gender and class shape race to queer and disability politics – to offer critical analysis and showcase creative approaches to understanding broader social, cultural, and political issues.

Both the core modules are taught with radical, creative, involved, decolonial pedagogies that centre learning and teaching as transformative processes. They constitute 60 credits of core teaching. Additionally, students will take optional modules and a dissertation module.

The programme convenors (in consultation with students) will also organise additional events, film screenings, exhibition visits, talks from academics, activists, and artists etc.

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### 3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	N/A
c) HECoS Code(s):	100444 Media & Communications
d) QAA Benchmark group:	N/A

#### 4. Awards

Item	Information
a) Awarding institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
b) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
c) Home School:	MCCS
d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. None <b>If other, name here:</b>
e) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
f) Interim exit awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
g) Final awards:	MA

#### 5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, specify:
c) Mode of study:	On Campus
d) Total hours directed learning/year	<b>120</b>
e) In-person hours	120      100%
f) Online hours	0      0%
g) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time
h) Duration of programme	Full time: 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months
i) External accreditation:	N/A

Item	Information
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A

## 6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

### Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

### On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

	Learning Outcome	Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	Demonstrate conceptual and methodological knowledge and awareness of the key concepts and creativity in the study of culture and social justice including new approaches within this growing field.	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	To analyse socio-cultural phenomena in relation to specific theoretical approaches and texts across the range of fields of topics followed in chosen option module.	7	Diversity of perspective
D3	Synthesise, critically analyse and assess the literature on, and development of the field of culture, race and social justice with interdisciplinary areas of social and cultural theory more generally.	7	Diversity of perspective
F1	Systematically, creatively and critically engage in debates relating to the main themes in the analysis of culture, race and social justice in original and imaginative ways.	7	Diversity of perspective
F2	Establish creative connections between theories, concepts and creative practices and developing interdisciplinary thinking.	7	Collaboration
F3	Critically engage cultural communication theories, methodologies and creative practices relevant to contemporary culture, race and social justice to generate intellectual engagement with these theories and methods through a project.	7	Political in the personal
P1	Adapt concepts and methods flexibly and imaginatively to pursue future specific aims relating to employment or further	7	Responsible agency

	Learning Outcome	Level	Graduate Attribute
	research linked to the study of Cultural Studies and Social Justice (e.g. research degrees; studies for national agencies or government organisations; policy design, implementation or evaluation; various forms of media and culture industry research, such as archiving and curation).		
P2	Demonstrate understanding of cultural and social theory and the empirical methodological application.	7	Political in the personal
P3	The ability to summarise arguments of varying degrees of complexity and manage self-directed learning that demonstrates a competence required for continuous autonomous professional development.	7	Political in the personal

## 7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Programmes are staged in **Phases**, where each Phase relates to an exit award.

**Compulsory** modules must be taken by all students.

**Option** modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

### Phase 1 (FT)

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Doing Cultural Studies	MC71225 B	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y1	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Race & the World	MC71039 D	30	7	Compulsory	2	Y2	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
MCCS Dissertation	MC71044 B	60	7	Compulsory	3	Y2	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Storytelling Strategies	MC71179 B	30	7	Option - Shared	1	Y1	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Media & Culture in the Middle East	MC71042 D	30	7	Option - Shared	1	Y1	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Political Comms in the Digital Age	MC71083 A	30	7	Option - Shared	1	Y1	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Journalism in Context	MC71121 A	30	7	Option - Shared	1	Y1	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Beyond Capitalism	MC71222 A	30	7	Option - Shared	1	Y1	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Queer Crip Decolonial Feminisms	MC71232 B	30	7	Option - Shared	1	Y1	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Feminist Practices	SO71087 A	30	7	Option - Shared	1		MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Embodiment & Experience	MC71051 C	30	7	Option - Shared	2		MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Mediating the City	MC71042 D	30	7	Option - Shared	2		MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Activist Film & Social Change	MC71168 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2		MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Media Power & Politics	MC71084 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2		MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Gender Sexuality & Affect	MC71156 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2		MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Race & Technology	MC71243 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2		MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Spirituality in Media Cultures	MC71268 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2		MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice

## 8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

### Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching on the programme is delivered via a range of formats to be relevant to different topics and the learning outcomes as well as to be engaged and transformative. The programme centres radical, decolonial, feminist, creative, and involved pedagogies that ensure that the classroom is a space of collaborative learning, interaction, hope and possibility, and generative critique. The core modules will be centred around lectures and seminars but will likely incorporate workshops, screenings, and events in other formats. Each of these will contain multiple student-focused methods. The teaching and most activities will be in-person, with some optional online activities. These are designed to give students the best learning experience that can be tailored to their needs and requirements. These

are also designed to nurture a collective community with your cohort. You are expected to attend all of your timetabled learning activities.

**Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:**

Lectures, Seminars, Workshops, 1-1 Tutorials; possible additional screenings and events

**Assessment modes and approaches**

You will be assessed in a range of ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

You will also have the opportunity to have 1-on-1 tutorials with your lecturers and tutors to develop your assessments.

**Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:**

Module	Assessment Type	Submission	Learning Outcomes	Credits
Dissertation	Coursework	12-15,000 words	all	60
Doing Cultural Studies	Essay	5,000 words	all	30
Race and the World	Essay	4-5,000 words	all	30
??	Journal/Reflective Piece	1000 words	all	??
Optional modules	Essay/ Project	Various theory & practice depending on module chosen	all	60

**Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)**

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1
Exam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Live	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Portfolio (multi-modal)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Practical / multimedia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Written	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	3
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Of which...	Individual:	4	Group:	0		

## 9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	<a href="https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/">https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/</a>
b) Placement opportunities	N/A
c) Programme-specific requirements	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	N/A

## 10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

## 11. Curriculum map

### Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Doing Cultural Studies	MC71225 B	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Race & the World	MC71039 D	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
MCCS Dissertation	MC71044 B	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Strategies of World Cinema	MC71065 B	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Political Comms in the Digital Age	MC71083 A	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Journalism in Context	MC71121 A	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Beyond Capitalism	MC71222 A	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Queer Crip Decolonial Feminisms	MC71232 B	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Fashion Sustainability & Global Cult	MC71256 A	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Feminist Practices	SO71087A	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Embodiment & Experience	MC71051 C	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Mediating the City	MC71042 D	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Media Power & Politics	MC71084 A	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Gender Sexuality & Affect	MC71156 B	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Race & Technology	MC71242 A	Option - Shared	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Activist Film & Social Change	MC71168 B	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spirituality in Media Cultures	MC71268 A	Option - Shared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>