

**MA Filmmaking (Directing Fiction);**  
**MA Filmmaking (Producing);**  
**MA Filmmaking (Screen Documentary);**  
**MA Filmmaking (Cinematography);**  
**MA Filmmaking (Sound Recording, Post-Production and Design);**  
**MA Filmmaking (Editing)**  
**MA Filmmaking (Experimental Film)**  
Programme Specification

**Awarding Institution:**

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

**Teaching Institution:** Goldsmiths, University of London

**Final Award:** MA

**Programme Name:**

MA Filmmaking: Directing Fiction

MA Filmmaking: Producing

MA Filmmaking: Cinematography

MA Filmmaking: Sound

MA Filmmaking: Editing

MA Filmmaking: Screen Documentary

MA Filmmaking: Experimental Film

**Total credit value for programme:** 180

**Name of Interim Exit Award(s):** Not applicable

**Duration of Programme:** 1 year full time

**UCAS Code(s):** Not applicable

**HECoS Code(s):** (100443) Media Production

**QAA Benchmark Group:** Not applicable

**FHEQ Level of Award:** Level 7

**Programme accredited by:** N/A

**Date Programme Specification last updated/approved:** Nov 2024

**Home Department:** Media, Communications and Cultural Studies (MCCS)

**Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:**

Not applicable

## **Programme overview**

The MA Filmmaking in 7 different pathways combines applied theory from a vibrant Cultural Studies department with specialised film and television industry training and creative practice. Students are provided the opportunity to make films at a professional standard, gaining strong independent skills in their choice of specialisation. The programme is taught by highly qualified, industry-active and award-winning staff and guest lecturers.

The five narrative fiction pathways – Directing, Producing, Cinematography, Sound and Editing – work together to create film crews in a professional structure, which allows students to get realistic industry experience while making work with extremely high production values.

The Screen Documentary and Experimental Film pathways trains students to be all-rounders, with skills in all areas, ready for employment as conceptual storytellers; self-shooting, producing and editing ready for employment in the independent film and television industry as well as NGOs, galleries and promotional media agencies.

A range of optional modules deepen aesthetic perception, creative thinking and practical expertise within the wider context of filmmaking as a cultural activity. Students are also encouraged to develop a variety of transferable intellectual, organisational and communication skills in order to equip themselves for a range of future employment and research contexts. The programme provides specialised technical and creative skills in filmmaking so that our graduates will have the range of vocational training consistent with that of a Film School.

Work from the MA Filmmaking regularly wins the top awards and nominations – BAFTA, Royal Television Society, Grierson, Learning on Screen. Graduate films have played at film festivals all over the world and in some cases been broadcast on television.

The programme is embedded in the Department's ethos of diversity and interdisciplinarity. This is reflected in the combination of theory and practice which allows us to challenge norms and engage with real-world issues. The programme is practice-driven, but grounded in theory. Students can choose up to 60 credits of optional modules, in both practice and theory, from a wide range of options that include everything from race and gender to media law and film theory, tailoring the programme to their individual interests alongside the chosen specialism.

MCCS is committed to the college's 'Liberate My Degree' strategy and is determined to develop a diverse and inclusive curriculum that incorporates the interests and concerns of a diverse student body. We want to learn from students themselves and, in our module evaluation forms, we invite students to identify examples of diversity and inclusivity in each module and suggest how our teaching and learning materials might be improved. This process is overseen by DLTC, a dedicated Anti-Racist Committee (ARC) and an ongoing process of curriculum review.

The Department is dedicated to providing personal tutoring for all our students in a way which is consistent, equitable, structured and proactively supportive of their academic progression. Personal tutoring in the Department is guided by the College's personal tutor policy and supported by a dedicated senior tutor for postgraduate students. Meetings with their personal tutor provide students with an opportunity to reflect on their learning progression, set goals and identify areas where they would like to improve. In addition, personal tutors make themselves available to students seeking advice with routine academic concerns and pastoral issues.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

## **Programme entry requirements**

The programme is aimed at film graduates and existing filmmakers wishing to develop their filmmaking skills to a professional level with a high degree of intellectual rigour. Candidates should normally hold an appropriate first degree in the Arts or Humanities and should be able to demonstrate a keen interest, as well as some practical experience in the specialist pathway to which they apply.

Those students who do not hold a degree, but who nonetheless possess significant filmmaking experience, and who can demonstrate a commitment to reflecting on their practice, may qualify for the programme. Non graduates, and students holding a degree in an unrelated field, may be subject to a qualifying examination.

If your first language is not English, you normally need a minimum score of 7 in IELTS (including 7 in the written element) or equivalent.

## Programme learning outcomes

### Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	SPECIFIC TO DIRECTING FICTION: Systematically understand key aspects of the development process and modes of collaboration with writers and producers through realising a shooting script. Co-ordinate the work of the cast and crew to realise a cinematic narrative and generate appropriate engagement from the audience. Apply an advanced understanding of the craft of acting and performance, and methods of working with actors. Demonstrate critically and technically informed decision-making in the postproduction process.	Specialist Skills Module Final Project
A2	SPECIFIC TO PRODUCING: Systematically understand key aspects of the script development process and modes of collaboration with writers and directors. Evidence the ability to apply practical and theoretical concepts of producing to each stage of the filmmaking process. Demonstrate the ability to schedule, create and control a budget. Demonstrate the ability to operate flexibly and independently, engage key members of the creative team to include cast and crew.	Specialist Skills Module Final Project
A3	SPECIFIC TO CINEMATOGRAPHY: Systematically understand key aspects of theoretical principles of cinematography to the visual storytelling of high production-value fiction films.	Specialist Skills Module Final Production Module Final Project
A4	SPECIFIC TO SOUND RECORDING, POST-PRODUCTION AND DESIGN: Systematically understand key aspects of practical and theoretical concepts of sound recording and sound design and apply these notions to narrative storytelling. Demonstrate an ability to use music and of other non- diegetic sound material in the generation of the film soundtrack.	Specialist Skills Module Final Production Module Final Project

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A5	<p><b>SPECIFIC TO EDITING:</b> Systematically understand key aspects of the criteria that underpin editing decisions in fiction filmmaking. Demonstrate the ability to integrate practical and theoretical concepts of film editing and to apply these through making appropriate and effective editing decisions in the context of fiction filmmaking.</p>	<p>Specialist Skills Module Final Project</p>
A6	<p><b>SPECIFIC TO SCREEN DOCUMENTARY:</b> Systematically understand key aspects of documentary production techniques and practices, and the means by which they may be realised, in the generation of your own approach and distinctive storytelling voice.</p>	<p>Specialist Skills Module Short Film Practice Final Project</p>
A7	<p><b>SPECIFIC TO EXPERIMENTAL FILM:</b> Systematically understand key aspects of diverse creative film modes and techniques in pursuit of original and distinctive authorship as an experimental filmmaker.</p>	<p>Specialist Skills Module Short Film Practice Final Project</p>
A8	<p>Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the key aesthetic and critical issues relevant to the production of film drama or documentary.</p>	<p>Specialist Skills Module Final Project</p>
A9	<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the complex structural aspects of screen narration.</p>	<p>Specialist Skills Module; Final Project Contemporary Screen Narratives; Representing Reality</p>
A10	<p>Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the working production practices relevant to the construction of screen drama or documentary.</p>	<p>Specialist Skills Module; Final Project</p>
A11	<p>Demonstrate an awareness of the critical importance of collaboration, communication and organisation in the successful realisation of a film production to exhibition standard.</p>	<p>Specialist Skills Module; Final Project</p>

**Cognitive and thinking skills**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
B1	Develop written and oral communication skills in the formation of intellectual, creative and organisational projects and planning. *	Specialist Skills Modules
B2	Critically reflect on the relationship between theories of film and filmmaking practice.	Specialist Skills Module; Final Project Contemporary Screen Narratives; Representing Reality
B3	Critically reflect on creative and production practice, in the context of contemporary media production. *	Specialist Skills Module; Final Project

**Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
C1	Systematically understand key aspects of current trends in the UK media industries.	Specialist Skills Module
C2	Demonstrate an understanding of crew roles and how your specific role interfaces with other specialisations and norms.	Specialist Skills Module
C3	Demonstrate an ability to develop new creative projects individually or in a team situation. The ability to pitch effectively to potential funders and content producers.	Final Project
C5	Critically reflect on work and be able to appraise and accept criticism from others, revise or improve individual level of skills as a result.	Final Project
C6	Systematically understand key aspects of the distribution outlets for your work (web, cinema, television, festivals) and how to successfully promote your films or your contribution to a film, either individually or as a team.	Final Project

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Deploy written and oral communication skills required in the development of intellectual and creative projects.	Specialist Skills Modules
D2	Demonstrate originality in making creative choices within the chosen specialised area of film production.	Specialist Skills Modules
D3	Manage organisational and problem solving skills in relation to the successful realisation of complex tasks.	Specialist Skills Modules
D4	Developed written and oral communication skills in the formation of intellectual, creative and organisational strategies.	Specialist Skills Modules
D5	Demonstrate a comprehensive working knowledge of the interrelated production practices relevant to the construction of screen drama or documentary.	Specialist Skills Modules
D6	Appreciate the importance of collaboration, communication and organisation in the successful realisation of a film production to exhibition standard.	Specialist Skills Modules

## Grading Criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	<p>Main Film Project and Portfolio Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction to an exceptional degree where the work is also both highly original and innovative. This is work that the Department would normally regard as appropriate to exhibit or broadcast externally. It will have been exceptionally well researched and planned, and exhibit a highly developed critical awareness of the medium, and a highly effective use of audio and visual elements to sustain the engagement of an audience.</p> <p>Production Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction to an exceptional degree. This is work that the Department would normally regard as appropriate to publish externally.</p>

		<p>Theory Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction to an exceptional degree. Such work may be of publishable quality, and will be a significant contribution to debate within the field.</p> <p>Coursework Log Marking Criteria: 80% and over will be awarded when the log demonstrates the achievement of the outcomes to an outstanding degree. (Screen Documentary &amp; Experimental Film only)</p>
70-79%	Distinction	<p>Main Film Project and Portfolio Grading Criteria: Work of outstanding overall quality. It will consist of an original and ambitious project which has achieved its goals with a good to high level of technical competence. It will be informed both by the strength of its original idea(s) and an appropriate and distinctive structure. It will have been very well researched/planned and exhibit a developed critical awareness of the medium, and a effective use of audio and visual elements to sustain the engagement of an audience.</p> <p>Production Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when candidates demonstrate an impressive grasp of key issues to be examined in each of the four areas of evaluation. The issues will be critically reviewed with insight and independence of thought. Arguments and the presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, with clear awareness of issues of methodology and evidence, and be particularly clear, well focused and cogent.</p> <p>Theory Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when candidates show evidence of extensive relevant reading and an impressive grasp of current major issues in the field. This knowledge will have been reviewed critically with insight and independence of thought. Arguments and the presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, with clear awareness of issues of methodology and evidence, and be particularly clear, well focused and cogent.</p> <p>(Screen Documentary &amp; Experimental Film only) Coursework Log Marking Criteria: 70-79% is awarded when the Log demonstrates the very effective application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes. Candidates will also demonstrate an impressive degree of insight into their own development as it has related to key issues in documentary. Their arguments and the presentation of evidence in their reflective essays, presentation notes, production paperwork and collaborations will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, with clear</p>



		awareness of issues of methodology and evidence, and be well-focused and cogent.
60-69%	Merit	<p>Main Film Project and Portfolio Grading Criteria: Work that overall achieves a high standard. The work will have achieved the majority of its goals and will demonstrate a significant degree of originality and ambition with a good level of technical competence. It will be based on an original idea and will be well structured. It will show significant evidence of research/planning and demonstrate a critical awareness of the medium for storytelling with sound performances and good use of audio visual elements to sustain the involvement of the audience. It will be work that the Department would normally regard as appropriate to exhibit or publish or broadcast externally.</p> <p>Production Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when candidates show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating major issues. They will demonstrate an ability to skilfully review products and processes with well- reasoned arguments and the presentation of evidence.</p> <p>Theory Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when candidates show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating evidence and theories drawn from a wide range of sources. They will demonstrate an ability to relate this reading to their topic, and will clearly have understood and assimilated the relevant literature.</p> <p>(Screen Documentary &amp; Experimental Film only ) Coursework Log Marking Criteria: 60-69% is awarded when the Log demonstrates the effective application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes. Candidates will also show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating their own work. They will demonstrate an ability to skilfully review products and processes with well-reasoned arguments and the presentation of evidence. They will present evidence of a moderate amount of work on other student’s productions, and of competent production management.</p>
50-59%	Pass	Main Film Project and Portfolio Grading Criteria: Work of an overall satisfactory standard showing degrees of originality and ambition and the achievement of its primary goal(s). Technically it will be competent in quality with a recognisable and successful overall structure. It will be based on a degree of research/planning and exhibit some critical

		<p>awareness of the medium but with marked variations in the effectiveness of performances and in the use audio and visual elements to sustain the involvement of the audience. It will be work that the Department would normally consider appropriate for internal College &amp; Departmental exhibition.</p> <p>Production Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when there is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding of major issues, but where there may be limited depth of reasoning and/or an inability to remain consistently focussed in use of arguments or evidence. Within these limitations there will be an indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field.</p> <p>Theory Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category is awarded when there is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas, critical comment or methodology. There will be reference to relevant reading, though not necessarily critical evaluation. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field.</p> <p>(Screen Documentary &amp; Experimental Film only ) Coursework Log Marking Criteria: 50-59% is awarded when the Log demonstrates a satisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes. There is also clear evidence of knowledge and understanding of major issues in their own work, but where there may be a more limited depth of insight and/or an inability to remain consistently focused in use of arguments or evidence. Within these limitations there will be an indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field to a good level, and helped on other students' productions at least to a limited extent.</p>
30-49%	Fail	<p>Main Film Project and Portfolio Grading Criteria: Work of an overall unsatisfactory standard, demonstrating little originality or ambition. It is likely that its goals will not have been achieved to a satisfactory extent and its level of technical competence will range from adequate to poor with a weak structure. It will show evidence of a lack of research/planning and indicate little critical understanding of its medium for storytelling with uneven development of content and generally ineffective use of audio and visual elements to sustain the involvement of the audience. It will be work that the Department would not normally regard as appropriate for any exhibition or publication.</p>

		<p>Production Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category indicates that a candidate has not satisfied the examiners that they have understood the essential evaluation issues and when there is inadequate organisation of the work. The Notes will be poorly organised and the issues inadequately discussed.</p> <p>Theory Essay Grading Criteria: A mark in this category indicates that a candidate has not satisfied the examiners that they have read and understood the essential texts of the module and when there is inadequate organisation of the work. There may be confusion and incoherence and unfocused comment on the literature.</p> <p>(Screen Documentary &amp; Experimental Film only ) Coursework Log Marking Criteria: A mark of 30--49% indicates that the Log demonstrates an unsatisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes. The candidate will not have satisfied the examiners that they have understood the essential evaluation issues and there also will be an inadequate organisation of the work. Relevant issues will have been inadequately discussed, and there will be little or no evidence of work on fellow students' productions.</p>
10-29%	Bad fail	A mark in this category represents a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

## Mode of study

On campus

## Programme structure

In Terms 1 and 2, you will work for one or two days a week in your specialist pathway, acquiring skills and reflecting on current learning in the field. These sessions comprise practical demonstrations and exercises, lectures, screenings, small group seminars and workshops.

You will elect to take between two and four options, which will be taught through practical workshops and hands-on experience, as well as critical discussion and essay writing.

In Term Three on your Final Project, you will learn through a series of progress and feedback meetings, plus by individual tutorials.

## Academic year of study

### Fiction Pathways

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
1 FINAL PROJECT	MC71167C	60	7	compulsory	1,2,3
2 SPECIALIST SKILLS	TBC	60	7	compulsory	1,2,3
3 Optional Modules	Various	60	7	optional	1,2

### Screen Documentary & Experimental Film Pathways

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
1 FINAL PROJECT	MC71167E	60	7	compulsory	2,3
2 Short Film Practice	TBC	30	7	compulsory	1
3 SPECIALIST SKILLS	TBC	30	7	compulsory	1,2,3
4 Optional Modules	various	60	7	optional	1,2

## Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least three a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the [Library](#) and information available on [Learn.gold \(VLE\)](#) so that they have access to department/programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the [Goldsmiths website](#) and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing Services](#) maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service provides central support for skills enhancement, running The Gold Award scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The Centre for Academic Language and Literacies works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

## **Placement opportunities**

Students will be encouraged and supported by the University to seek mentorships and internships during their period of study.

## **Employability and potential career opportunities**

Upon completing the programme, graduates will be prepared to enter the highly competitive freelance filmmaking arena, equipped with an enriched understanding of their practical, intellectual and creative capabilities as filmmakers within their specific discipline.

They are able to apply themselves to a range of related occupations in the media industries. Past graduates have achieved significant successes, from being commissioned by the BBC, to working for Paramount and a range of independent film companies. Their films have been screened at festivals in the UK and Internationally, and have won awards at the One World events the RTS, London Independent Film Festival and many others.

## **Programme-specific requirements**

If English is not your first language you must hold an overall IELTS (or equivalent English language qualification) of 7.0 with a 7.5 in writing and no element lower than 6.5.

## **Tuition fee costs**

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/>

## **Specific programme costs**

Students are expected to raise the funds for travel and production design and locations if necessary to their individual concepts.