

# MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary

## Programme specification

### 1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
b) Programme code(s)	730XXX
c) Programme credit value(s)	MA 180 + MFA 180 CATS MA 90 + MFA 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Leah Borrromeo
e) Entry requirements	You should have (or expect to be awarded) an undergraduate degree of at least second class standard in a relevant/related subject as well as a level of practical experience from work in the arts or the media.
f) Academic year effective from	2026-27

### 2. Programme Aims & Overview

#### Aims

- Develop advanced practical, technical and conceptual skills in experimental film and documentary production.
- Enable students to create distinctive and critically informed moving image work across a range of nonfiction and experimental forms.
- Foster creative, ethical and reflective approaches to filmmaking practice within contemporary cultural and political contexts.
- Equip students with professional production, post-production and storytelling skills relevant to independent film, television and creative industries.
- Support students in developing an independent filmmaking practice capable of sustaining exhibition, festival and professional contexts.

#### Overview

The MA Experimental Film & Documentary 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 camera, sound and post-production. The programme is taught by highly qualified, industry-active and award-winning staff and guest lecturers. Students are trained to be all-rounders and 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 Experimental Film & Documentary regularly wins the top awards and nominations – BAFTA, Grierson, Royal Television Society, 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 School’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 practical filmmaking training.

### 3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	N/A
c) HECoS Code(s):	(100443) Media Production
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 2. None 3. 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 type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input type="checkbox"/> PGDip
g) Final awards:	MA/MFA

## 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>MA: 280 / MFA: 60</b>
e) In-person hours	<b>MA: 280 / MFA: 60</b>
f) Online hours	0
g) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time
h) Duration of programme	Full time: MA 1 year, MFA 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months Part time: <input type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months
i) External accreditation:	N/A
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 comprehensive knowledge of the key aesthetic and critical issues relevant to the production of experimental film & documentary.	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the working production practices relevant to the construction of experimental film & documentary.	7	Collaboration
D3	Critically reflect on the relationship between theories of film and filmmaking practice.	7	Diversity of perspective
F1	Manage organisational and problem-solving skills in relation to the successful realisation of complex tasks.	7	Responsible agency
F2	Critically reflect on work and be able to appraise and accept criticism from others, revise or improve individual level of skills as a result.	7	Political in the personal
F3	Demonstrate originality in making creative choices as a conceptual storyteller.	7	Diversity of perspective
P1	Demonstrate an awareness of the critical importance of collaboration, communication and organisation in the successful realisation of a film production to exhibition standard.	7	Collaboration
P2	Systematically understand key aspects of diverse creative film modes and techniques in pursuit of original and distinctive authorship as an experimental / documentary filmmaker.	7	Collaboration
P3	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.	7	Responsible agency

## 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
Short Film Practice	MC71267 A	30	7	Compulsory	1	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Specialist Skills (Doc & Exp)	MC71257 A	30	7	Compulsory	2	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Final Project (Doc & Exp)	MC71255 A	60	7	Compulsory	3	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Producing & Legal Fundamentals	MC71173 C	30	7	Option - Shared	1	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Storytelling Strategies	MC71179 B	30	7	Option - Shared	1	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Media & Culture in the Middle East	MC71042 D	30	7	Option - Shared	1	Y1	MA Cultural Studies & Social Justice
Adaptation for Filmmakers	MC71189 A	30	7	Option - Shared	1	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Feminist Practices	MCXXXX	30	7	Option - Shared	1	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Data, AI & Forensic Journalism	MC71260 A	30	7	Option - Shared	1	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Immersive & Generative Arts	MC71241 B	30	7	Option - Shared	1	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
		30	7	Option - Shared	1	N/A	
Experimental Media	MC71153 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Gender Sexuality & Affect	MC71156 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Activist Film & Social Change	MC71168 B	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Film Editing Fundamentals	MC71171 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Mobile & Podcast Journalism	MC71264 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
Digital Methods	MC71247 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary
After Images	MC71230 A	30	7	Option - Shared	2	N/A	MA/MFA Experimental Film & Documentary

## Phase 2 (FT)

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
MFA Independent Practice	MC7XXX A	180	7	Compulsory	1-2-3	N/A	MFA Experimental Film & Documentary

## 8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

### Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your learning experience. You are expected to attend all of your timetabled learning activities.

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

Teaching will be delivered through lectures, seminars, screenings, technical workshops, production labs, tutorials, collaborative exercises and supervised independent filmmaking practice. Students will engage in practical film production, editing and sound work alongside critical reflection on documentary and experimental film traditions. Teaching combines conceptual inquiry with intensive practice-based learning and industry-oriented production workflows.

### Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range 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.

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

Module	Assessment Type	Submission	Learning Outcomes	Credits
Final Project (Doc & Exp)	Coursework	Individual Film of 15 mins	all	60
Specialist Skills (Doc & Exp)	Portfolio/Essay	Portfolio & Reflective Essay	all	30
Short Film Practice	Portfolio	3 x 3-5 min films	all	30
Options	Essay/ Project	Various theory & practice depending on module chosen	D3, F1, F2	30 x 2
MFA Independent Practice	Practice Project	Film & Reflective Essay	all	180

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

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	0	0	0	1	1
Exam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Live	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	0	0	0	2	2
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	3	0
Written	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Of which...</b>	<b>Individual:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Group:</b>	<b>0</b>		

**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

Item	Information
c) Programme-specific requirements	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	N/A

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## 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
Short Film Practice	MC71267 A	Compulsory	<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"/>
Specialist Skills (Doc & Exp)	MC71257 A	Compulsory	<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"/>
Final Project (Doc & Exp)	MC71255 A	Compulsory	<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"/>
Adaptation for Filmmakers	MC71189 A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archaeology of the Moving Image	MC71145 C	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feminist Practices	MCXXXX	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Producing & Legal Fundamentals	MC71173 C	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storytelling Strategies	MC71179 B	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data, AI & Forensic Journalism	MC71260 A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immersive & Generative Arts	MC71241 B	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile & Podcast Journalism	MC71264 A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Film Editing Fundamentals	MC71171 A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experimental Media	MC71153 B	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Activist Film & Social Change	MC71168 B	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Sexuality & Affect	MC71156 B	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Digital Methods	MC71247 A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Images	MC71230 A	Option - Shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MFA Independent Practice	MC7XXX XA	Compulsory	<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"/>