

BA (Hons) Media and Sociology

Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

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

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London**Name of Final Award and Programme Title:** BA (Hons) Media and Sociology**Name of Interim Exit Award(s):** Not applicable**Duration of Programme:** 3 years full-time**UCAS Code(s):** LP33**HECoS Code(s):**

(100444) Media and Communication Studies 50%

(100505) Sociology 50%

QAA Benchmark Group:

Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies; and Sociology

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 6**Programme accredited by:** Not applicable**Date Programme Specification last updated/approved:** March 2018**Home Department:** Media, Communications and Cultural Studies**Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:**

Sociology

Programme overview

This interdisciplinary degree gives you the opportunity to explore sociological and communications theories, and to develop a critical analysis of media, communications and culture from historical and contemporary viewpoints.

Why study BA Media and Sociology at Goldsmiths?

You'll be studying in two of the leading university departments in their areas – the Departments of Media Communications, and Cultural studies, and Sociology have been placed among the top in the country for research excellence and innovation.

You'll be taught by some of the leading names in media, communications, cultural studies and sociology – we write the books that are on your reading lists because they've actively shaped these disciplines.

You'll have access to industry-standard practice facilities, including TV/film, photography studios, digital video and audio editing suites.

You'll develop the practical and transferable skills that you can apply in the work place – our recent graduates are now working as news readers, editors, journalists, producers and photographers.

We regularly host debates and talks by international figures in media and cultural research; recent guests have included Danny Boyle, Gurinder Chadha and Noel Clark.

We're a top ten university for media and communications (2014 Complete University Guide league table).

Programme entry requirements

A-level: BBB

BTEC: DDM

IB: 33 Points, HL655

Access: Pass with 45 Level 3 credits including 30 Distinctions and a number of merits/passes in subject-specific modules

Aims of the programme

The BA (Hons) Media and Sociology degree programme aims to give you a challenging and flexible module of study over three years that stimulates your independent thinking and curiosity in a wide range of areas in communications and sociology. Many original and interesting approaches, ideas and research occur from the intersections between two different disciplines. You will explore key concepts in sociological thinking and apply these to critical analysis of media, communications, society and culture, both historically and in a contemporary context. The programme is taught in the two Departments of Media & Communications and Sociology. By exploring the links between your two disciplines you will gain an appreciation of their dynamic relationship, and how they provide interesting, refreshing and challenging ways of understanding the social world.

The programme aims to enable you to:

- Engage with a range of practical and theoretical tools that can be used to understand the dramatic transformations that have occurred in the fields of communications and technology, and how these relate to the globalisation of the modern world
- Develop your abilities in critical thinking by learning about and applying the socio-cultural theories used across the two disciplines of communications and sociology

- Develop knowledge and understanding of modern societies and social life, the central role and impact of media and communications within them, and the ways in which the media and new technologies of communications have transformed our understandings of societies and their forms of organisation
- Develop a range of practical skills and confidence in analysis, evaluation, argument and debate, critical reading and writing

The programme offers an understanding of how the media function by drawing on the theoretical disciplines of communications and sociology. The first year provides an introduction to a variety of conceptual and theoretical approaches within communications and sociology. These provide a foundation from which you will develop knowledge and understanding of more advanced and specialist areas in later years. During your second and third years, you will choose from a range of options modules in both departments which reflect your interests. You can choose to study from a wide range of areas taught by nationally and internationally renowned experts in their fields. Topics include the relationship between culture, representation and difference, media organisations, sexualities in contemporary societies, childhood, race and racism, world cinema, the body, and the globalisation of media and societies. From your second year you also choose from a range of modules that explore links between theoretical studies and media and communications practice. Two modules in cross-platform media practice enable you to explore how theory and practice elements can influence and enrich each other in the production of original work.. In the third year you will undertake a sociologically-informed dissertation that draws on the knowledge you have gained across both disciplines. You are also required to analyse the dynamic relation between media practice and theory through the completion of a production theory essay.

What you will be expected to achieve

Each component module of this programme has its own detailed learning outcomes and related methods of assessment that complement the overall learning outcomes of the programme. By the end of the programme, a typical student engaging fully in the programme modules and activities, should expect to have acquired knowledge and understanding of:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	The Enlightenment background to sociological forms of thinking; the rise of sociology as a core discipline of the social sciences from the 19th century; the basis and distinctive nature of 'the sociological	Sociology and Media core modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	imagination', sociological thinking within the study of communications; the role of 'imagining' and self-fashioning in communications theory, and the development of theories of the role of the media in social, political and cultural processes.	
A2	Key theories, insights and concepts, changing paradigms and debates that have informed sociological and communications disciplines from the nineteenth century up to the present period, including classical debates about the nature of modern, industrial society, contemporary debates about a late-modern, post-modern or global period, the rise of communications and information technologies, and the role of media and communications in the emergence of new forms of social and political organisation.	Sociology and Media core modules
A3	The diversity of theoretical approaches used within the two disciplines to understand: the social dynamics of media structures and institutions, media processes, and social change; their conceptions of historical processes, social action and interaction in the context of media practices; self- and personal identity; their conceptualisations of the relationships between individuals, media structures and media processes, including situating sociology and communications within the processes that they seek to theorise; and exploring approaches that have critically questioned the basis of these two disciplines.	Sociology and Media core modules
A4	The importance and influence of culture and cultural processes for contemporary communications and sociology, including	Sociology and Media core modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	the relationships between culture, citizenship, politics, science and technology in understanding many contemporary media and social processes.	
A5	The philosophical and methodological approaches and debates that have influenced communications and sociology and the interdisciplinary position in relation to other natural and human science disciplines and their objects of knowledge.	Sociology core modules
A6	A variety of specialist themes, concepts and topics in contemporary communications and sociology.	Level 5 and 6 Option modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	A critical and reflexive understanding of your own identity and that of others within a broader social, cultural and institutional framework.	Level 5 and 6 option modules
B2	The ability to think critically and make sociologically- informed judgments about the theoretical and methodological approaches, concepts and debates you have learned about.	All modules
B3	Original, critical and sociologically- informed approaches to an empirical or theoretical problem or issue.	Sociology modules
B4	Skills in the analysis and lucid evaluation of alternative views in your engagement with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within the two disciplines.	Sociology and Media modules
B5	An enhanced level of analysis, evaluation, judgment and synthesis of complex texts, theories or empirical evidence.	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B6	Enhanced written and verbal communication skills in the formulation, structuring and presentation of coherent and persuasive arguments, the ability to bring together and synthesise theory and evidence in support of an argument; the ability to recognise the limitations of elementary or general arguments based on specific or local situations; the ability to recognise social complexity and depth.	All modules
B7	A competent level of conceptual and technical skills in the initiation, research, development and realisation of two cross-platform media projects that seek to be original and to engage an audience.	Media practice modules
B8	Problem solving and editorial skills in often complex and sometimes unpredictable production contexts.	Media practice modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	An appreciation of the nature of evidence and methods in communications and sociology, including an appreciation of the distinctiveness of specific media genres, with the requisite skills of textual reading and analysis, the research process, developing research problems and practically applying research strategies and methods, including conducting your own research project; and real world practical and ethical issues in communications/social research.	Sociology and Media core modules, year 1
C2	A competent level of conceptual and technical knowledge in the planning, structuring and production of two media projects; your understanding of the connotative potential of images, sounds and the written word, and how meaning is constructed in media artifacts; your	Dissertation

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	understanding of the connections between the theoretical and practice elements of your module; the completion of an independently researched project spanning the interdisciplinary frame of communications and sociology and demonstrated by a written dissertation.	

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Enhanced communication and discussion skills, in written and oral contexts.	All modules.
D2	Ability to access verbal data using hard copy/electronic resources.	Staff give module-specific help.
D3	Ability to handle ideas in rational, critical and evaluative ways.	Staff and peer example, enhanced through feedback on work.
D4	Open-mindedness and capacity for independent judgement.	Staff and peer example, enhanced through feedback on work.
D5	Management of your own learning, including working effectively to deadlines.	Fostered across the timetabling, with demands eased through staff liaison about module deadlines.
D6	Ability to apply skills of close analysis to a variety of texts and contexts.	All modules.
D7	Power to organise information, and to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments.	All theoretical/literary modules.
D8	Ability to make positive contributions to groups, and perception of group dynamics.	Seminar requirements and Creative Writing module structure.
D9	An enhanced level of skills in the effective creative manipulation of image and text; competent use of appropriate production technologies.	Media practice modules
D10	An on-going self-reflexive approach to interpreting, evaluating and assessing the characteristics, strengths and weakness of theories and empirical evidence, including empirical data and the components of the practice media artifact created by yourself or others.	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D11	An ability to work productively with others in critical thinking and in the creative process.	All modules
D12	The confidence, knowledge and skills to work independently, flexibly, responsibly and to deadline in the preparation; management & production of media materials.	All modules

How you will learn

(Learning and teaching methods – Subject knowledge and understanding and Subject Specific Skills)

During the three years of your degree, you will attend and take part in a wide range of learning and teaching activities that will enable you to achieve the learning outcomes for your degree, including weekly lectures, tutorials, seminars, workshops, dissertation classes, practice sessions and individual supervisions. You will also be expected to regularly undertake a great deal of independent reading and research (Outcomes A1-A6).

Core module lectures. The main aim of a lecture is to introduce key writers, theories, debates, themes, concepts, and social historical context in a structured way. A lecture enables you to acquire concise knowledge and stimulate your thinking about a particular topic, while a lecture block enables you to situate weekly themes within a broader context. A variety of lecturing styles is used, from instructional lectures followed by student questions, the use of audio-visual material, to more participatory approaches that can combine several shorter lecture periods with discussions and exercises. The core modules lectures for the Media and Sociology degree cover the key areas of knowledge that you will need for your interdisciplinary degree.

Tutorials and Seminars. Core and options module lectures are supported by smaller group work in seminars or classes. The main aim of the tutorial class or seminar is to enable you to explore in greater depth and detail specific lecture themes and topics, relate these to other lectures, modules, and writers, and relate them to your own reading and ideas. Your knowledge and understanding of lectures and independent reading is reinforced in seminars and classes. In classes and seminars, lecture material may be covered in more detail, related to empirical examples that will facilitate and enhance your understanding of the lecture; a range of group work methods and exercises may be undertaken that extend your knowledge and understanding of the lecture and module themes. You are expected to produce regular non-assessed written work for your tutor or seminar leader and make at least one class presentation during each year. Non-assessed assignments and

presentations enable you to expand and demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of an area, develop your own arguments in relation to the literature, and develop your study, writing and presentation skills. You will receive both general and individual feedback on your non-assessed work and presentations.

Optional Modules. Second and third year options modules are taught by a combination of weekly lectures followed by seminars. Options modules are designed specifically for second years only or for third years only. These modules allow you to explore in greater depth the specialist areas that you are interested in, and develop more advanced understanding of increasing depth in your choice of second and third year options (Outcome C1).

Practice Based Work The acquisition of Outcome C2 is supported through small-group practice-based lectures, seminars and workshops and reinforced through the preparation and production of two media projects and an analytical essay inviting you to present an academic argument about the connections between the theory and practice elements of your degree module.

Dissertation workshops, tutorials and supervision. In your third year, you will attend dedicated dissertation workshops during which you will explore the methods and techniques you will require in order to undertake your Dissertation. You will also be assigned to small group dissertation classes of no more than six students, and you will receive one-to-one dissertation supervision and guidance during office hours. Your dissertation supervisor will encourage you to explore your ideas and creativity in undertaking an independent and critical piece of research, while drawing on knowledge and understanding from both your disciplines (Outcomes A5, A6 and C1).

Office Hours. Throughout your degree you will be able to visit lecturers and tutors during their regular office hours in order to discuss your work on a one-to-one basis, receive guidance and feedback on non-assessed work, and receive further detailed support in your learning.

(Learning and teaching methods – Cognitive skills)

The acquisition of these skills (B1-B6) is achieved by your full participation in the structured learning activities, the completion of the module, its examined work, and your independent study. You will receive feedback from tutors throughout the programme during seminars and tutorials and written feedback will be given on submitted coursework. The acquisition of skills B3 & B7-B8. are achieved through your participation in practice lectures, seminars and workshops, the completion of media projects or portfolios, a production essay and an independently-researched dissertation. Tutorial support is constantly available to advise you on your progress in skill acquisition in both theoretical and practice-based studies.

(Learning and teaching methods – Transferable skills)

The tutorial and seminar systems address the development of skills D1-D7 from the start of the programme. All core and options modules require you to read, analyse and critically evaluate arguments, judgments, ideas and evidence; work independently on your coursework; regularly produce written work; actively participate in groupwork activities; and contribute to options module seminar discussions and presentations. You will be expected to manage your timetable and your assessed and non-assessed coursework within the context of college, departmental and tutorial deadlines (D8). All third year students have to undertake and submit an independent research project (D8).

How you will be assessed

(Assessment – Subject knowledge and understanding and Subject-Specific Skills)

The Media, Communications and Cultural Studies, and Sociology departments use several complementary methods in order to examine your work in ways that are appropriate for and related to the different learning outcomes of the programme. Each module you take provides you with a written module outline in which module aims, learning outcomes and methods of assessment are explained in detail.

Core modules in both departments are examined by either seen or unseen exam papers; generally all first and third year core modules are examined by seen examination papers, and most second year core modules are examined by unseen papers.

Second year options modules are assessed by two 2,500 word essays (Sociology) or by one 3,000 word essay (Media, Communications, and Cultural Studies). Third year options modules are assessed by one 5,000 essay. Each option module may have additional requirements such as undertaking non-assessed work in the form of a short written essay or a class presentation.

In your third year, your knowledge and understanding is tested by seen exams, examined essays and the completion of a 8,000 word dissertation that involves independent study leading to a structured piece of sociologically-informed research of your own choosing.

Your second and third year practice-based work is based on the completion and assessment of two cross-platform media projects. In the third year you will also write an examined Production Essay

(Assessment methods – Cognitive skills)

You are expected to demonstrate progress towards skills B1-B8 in written, theoretical and practical submissions involving both formally examined as well as non-assessed coursework. Your tutor will provide you with detailed feedback on your progress through the non-assessed coursework that you produce. Similarly, criteria for examined work include the ability to think critically, provide a clear and focused argument, marshal and make use of evidence, and write and present ideas clearly and in a structured way. Skills B1-B6 are primarily tested through coursework, examinations, the dissertation, class participation and tutorials; skills B7-B8 are tested through tutorial supervision and marking of media projects and portfolios.

(Assessment methods – Transferable skills)

Transferable skills are not all formally examined, but your development of these skills is important in ensuring that you take full advantage of the opportunities offered by each of the components of your degree programme in order to achieve its learning outcomes. Your tutor will provide you with feedback on relevant transferable skills areas. For example, if your tutor believes that you could benefit from further development of your study, communications, time management, citation, information retrieval, group work or presentation skills they will give you advice on how you might do this, and direct you to further sources of advice and support. Some transferable skills are directly relevant to assessment criteria but are not necessarily formally examined. These include skills in finding, selecting and evaluating relevant information, creating and presenting a coherent and well-structured argument using appropriate evidence, powers of written expression, and ability to communicate clearly and in a structured way.

Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	1st: First (Exceptional)	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an exceptionally accomplished level. In the views of the examiners, the work is such that it is clear that the outcomes have all been achieved to the highest possible level for an undergraduate and that the work produced is intellectually unique and worthy of publication.
70-79%	1st: First (Excellent)	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to an excellent level. Work of excellent overall quality. It will demonstrate an excellent application of knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the course learning outcomes. The work will contain evidence of a broad and systematic understanding of the subject, together with

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		the ability to engage with complex ideas and develop original perspectives in a fluent and clear manner.
60-69%	2.1: Upper Second (Very good)	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to a very good level. Work that overall achieves a high standard and that demonstrates the effective application of knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the course learning outcomes. The work will have achieved its goals and will demonstrate a significant degree of originality and ambition with a very good level of analytical precision, very sound preparation and an awareness of different critical perspectives.
50-59%	2.2: Lower Second (Good)	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to a good level. Work of an overall good standard. It will demonstrate an overall effective application of knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the course learning outcomes. It will show some originality and ambition together with evidence of background reading and comprehension of the topic. The analytical dimension will not be fully developed and the reading may be limited to a few texts only.
40-49%	3rd: Third (Pass)	Represents the overall achievement of the appropriate learning outcomes to a threshold (satisfactory) level. Work of an overall satisfactory standard although little originality and/or ambition is demonstrated. The work is mainly descriptive and refers to only a limited range of ideas/examples. Although the work lacks a fluent argument, it exhibits some critical awareness of the topic.
25-39%	Fail	Represents an overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. Work of poor quality that demonstrates little or no originality and ambition and contains significant flaws in terms of content, structure or language.
10-24%	Bad fail	Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. Work of very poor quality that demonstrates little or no originality and ambition and is extremely weak in content, language and structure
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes (shall be deemed a non valid attempt and must be re-sat).
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

How the programme is structured

The programme is only available for full-time study over three years.

Level 4 – FOUNDATION YEAR

In your first year, you take six theoretical modules that introduce you to key areas, concepts and debates in Communications and Sociology. The aims of the core modules are to enable you to gain an introduction to sociological knowledge and communication studies, acquire basic skills of analysis, learn to read and think critically, express your ideas clearly, and develop your academic study skills.

Level 5 – INTRODUCING SPECIALISMS

In the second year you build upon the foundations of the first year. You will take more advanced core modules in both the Sociology and Media, Communications, and Cultural Studies department, you will start developing your media practice skills by choosing a practice option, and you will be able to choose one Sociology second year options module. During the second year, you will be introduced to the research specialisms of staff and you will begin to develop your own areas of interest.

Level 6 – DEVELOPING SPECIALISMS AND INDEPENDENT APPROACHES

The third year enables further independent study through the completion of a compulsory dissertation, sustained media practice work and an expanded number of options module choices.

Dissertation (30 credits) In undertaking the dissertation, students work under the supervision of a personal tutor with the aim of developing and completing a sustained and independent investigation of a sociologically-informed research problem or area. Assessment of the third year dissertation is by submission of a research dissertation.

Media Practice Modules

Media Practical. You will complete a cross-platform media practice option that builds on the foundation of skills learned in your second year. This module requires you to produce a self-directed project that demonstrates an ability to apply a variety of media practices to the telling of a single complex story.

Options modules

Students select options modules from the Media, Communications, and Cultural Studies department and from the Sociology department. Assessment for most third year options

module is by submission of 1 x 4,000 assignment. The range of third year options modules will be published annually.

Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Media History & Politics	MC51002A	15	4	Compulsory	2
Culture and Cultural Studies	MC51005B	15	4	Compulsory	2
Key Debates in Media Studies	MC51006C	15	4	Compulsory	2
Modern Knowledge, Modern Power	SO51003A	30	4	Compulsory	1-2
Researching Society and Culture 1A	SO51005A	15	4	Compulsory	1
Media and the Social	MC51020A	30	4	Compulsory	1-2

Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Philosophy and Methodology of Social Science	SO52003A	15	5	Compulsory	1
Cross-Platform Media Practice 1	MC52008B	30	5	Compulsory	2 & 3
Central Issues in Sociological Analysis	SO52001A	15	5	Compulsory	2
Sociology of Culture and Communication	SO52004B	15	5	Compulsory	2
A 15 credit module from an approved list of SO prefixed modules available from the Department of Sociology	Various	15	5	Optional	1 or 2
Modules to the value of 30 credits from an approved list of MC-prefixed modules available from the Department of Media Communications, and Cultural Studies	Various	30	5	Optional	1 or 2

Academic year of study 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Cross-Platform Media Practice 2	MC53029B	30	6	Compulsory	1
Modules to the value of 30 credits from an approved list of MC-prefixed modules available from the Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies	Various	30	6	Optional	1 or 2
Dissertation (Joints)	SO53035A	30	6	Compulsory	1-2
Modules to the value of 30 credits from an approved list of SO-prefixed modules available from the Department of Sociology	Various	30	6	Optional	1 or 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 twice 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 [Academic Skills Centre](#) 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.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects

From research conducted by the Media, Communications and Cultural Studies Department of past graduates, a large majority appear to be successful in finding work in their preferred fields with over 70% in our survey employed in media production, Public Relations, marketing and management and 15% in other fields. However, due to the use of short-term contracts across the media industries it is difficult to be conclusive about long term media employment success.

This interdisciplinary degree is demanding from an academic point of view and the students taking the module have a tradition for achieving a large proportion of 2.1 and first class or distinction marks, with some students producing outstanding third year dissertations and projects. The discipline and experience of independent research and dissertation writing provides a powerful framework of transferable skills, which are suited to a wide range of careers and employment areas, including the public and voluntary sector, the culture and media industries, marketing and corporate communications, publicity and promotion, publishing, media research, arts administration, and postgraduate study in sociology, media, cultural studies and related fields.

The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree

Undergraduate degrees have a minimum total value of 360 credits. Some programmes may include a year abroad or placement year and this may be reflected in a higher total credit value. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Full-time students take modules to the value of 120 credits each year and part-time students not less than 45 credits and not more than 90 credits each year. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section “How the programme is structured” above. Each full-time year corresponds to a level of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), as follows:

Year 1 = Level 4
Year 2 = Level 5
Year 3 = Level 6

More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the [Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework](#).

Modules

Modules are defined as:

- “Optional” – which can be chosen from a group of modules
- “Compulsory” – which must be taken as part of the degree
- “Compulsory (Non-compensatable)” – Some compulsory modules are central to the achievement of a programme’s learning outcomes. These are designated as “Non-compensatable” for that programme and must therefore be passed with a mark of at least 40% in order to pass the module.

Progression

Full-time students are required to have passed modules to a minimum of 90 credits before proceeding to the next year. Part-time students must normally pass new modules to a minimum value of 45 credits before proceeding to the next year.

In addition, some programmes may specify particular modules which must be passed, irrespective of the minimum requirements, before proceeding to the next year.

Award of the degree

In order to graduate with a classified degree, students must successfully complete modules to the minimum value of 360 credits, as set out within the section “The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree” above. A failed module with a mark of 35-39% may be compensated (treated as if it has been passed) so long as the average mean mark for all 120 credits at that level is 45% or above and the module has not been defined as “Non-compensatable”. No more than 60 credits may be compensated this way across a programme and no more than 30 credits at any one level.

Classification

Final degree classification will usually be calculated on the basis of a student's best marks for modules equivalent to 90 credits at Level 4, 105 credits at level 5 and 105 credits at level 6, applying a relative weighting of 1:3:5 to modules at level 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

Degrees are awarded with the following classifications:

- 1st: First Class – 70%+
- 2.1: Upper Second – 60-69%
- 2.2: Lower Second – 50-59%
- 3rd: Third – 40-49%

Students who, following the application of compensation and having used all their permitted resit attempts, have passed modules to the value of 300-345 credits, at least 60 of which are at level 6 may be awarded a pass degree.

More detail on the [calculation of the final classification](#) is on our website.

Interim exit awards

Some programmes incorporate interim exit points of Certificate of Higher Education and/or Diploma of Higher Education, which may be awarded on the successful completion of

modules to the value of 120 credits at level 4 or 240 credits (120 of which at level 5) respectively. The awards are made without classification.

When these awards are incorporated within the programme, the relevant learning outcomes and module requirements will be set out within the “What you will be expected to achieve” section above.

The above information is intended as a guide, with more detailed information available in the [Goldsmiths Academic Manual](#).

Programme-specific rules and facts

General programme costs

In addition to your tuition fees, you will be responsible for meeting standard costs associated with your study. Find out more information at gold.ac.uk/programme-costs.

Specific programme costs

In addition to these standard costs, you will also be expected to meet some costs which are specifically related to your programme, which are set out below:

Practice project costs

The Department pays for all reasonable equipment and material costs which you incur as part of your practice coursework. However, apart from the agreed use of College equipment and facilities, you fund the costs of your projects yourself, to enable the Department to focus its resources on the provision of high quality facilities, technical support and teaching.

How teaching quality will be monitored

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes.

Programmes and modules are formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year, such as in departmental committees, a variety of student feedback mechanisms and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme has at least one External Examiner who reviews comments annually on the standards of awards and student achievement. External Examiner(s) attend Boards of Examiners meetings and submit an annual written report.

Modules, programmes and/or departments are also subject to annual and periodic review internally, as well as periodic external scrutiny.

Quality assurance processes aim to ensure Goldsmiths' academic provision remains current, that the procedures to maintain the standards of the awards are working effectively and the quality of the learning opportunities and information provided to students and applicants is appropriate.

Detailed information on all these procedures are published on the [Quality Office web pages](#).