

Postgraduate Certificate in Film and Screen Studies

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:

Postgraduate Certificate in Film and Screen Studies

Duration of Programme: Three academic terms (September-June) equivalent to PT study

UCAS Code(s): Not applicable

HECoS Code(s): (100058) Film Studies

QAA Benchmark Group: Not applicable

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 7

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: May 2021

Home Department: Media, Communications and Cultural Studies

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

Not applicable

Programme overview

PG Certificate in Film and Screen Studies offers a unique combination of critical and creative approaches to the past and the future of audiovisual media.

The Certificate will equip you with skills and knowledge to address current transformations of moving image media in a globalised world, from the media in your pocket to architectural screens. It explores both the old and the new, philosophy and history, theory and practice, so as to help you understand the challenges of the 21st century's culture of moving images, changing artistic and political contexts as well as ever developing technologies.

What distinguishes the PG Certificate in Film and Screen Studies is its innovative approach to learning and research. It takes you well beyond the borders of traditional film studies. It encourages you to think critically and imaginatively, across media forms, disciplinary boundaries as well as conceptual and creative work. Students taking the Media Arts pathway will have the opportunity to submit some work in non-traditional forms.

Teaching draws on the diverse research strengths of the globally renowned academics at one of the world's leading media communications, and cultural studies departments, which also has strong traditions in audiovisual practice.

You'll be taught by scholars of international standing who have expertise in the interface between film criticism and creation; new screen technologies; in early cinema and the media archaeology of modernity; in artist's film; and in non-fiction film (eg documentary and avant-garde). See more information about our research interests.

The PG Certificate in offers two pathways:

PG Certificate in Film and Screen Studies: Moving Image Studies Pathway. The moving image media today are a concentrated form of culture, ideas, socialisation, wealth and power. 21st century globalisation, ecology, migration and activism fight over and through them. How have the media built on, distorted and abandoned their past? How are they trying to destroy, deny or build the future? This pathway explores new critical approaches that address the currency of moving image media in today's global context – their aesthetics, technology and politics. It seeks to extend the boundaries for studying moving images by considering a wider range of media and introducing students to a wider range of approaches for investigating moving images' past and present.

PG Certificate in Film and Screen Studies: Media Arts Pathway. The most intense and extreme forms of media, experimental media arts, test to breaking point our established ideas and practices. From wild abstraction and surrealist visions to activist and community arts, they ask the profoundest questions about high art and popular culture, the individual and the social, meaning and beauty. This pathway explores these emerging experimental practices of image making and criticism. Students on this pathway are encouraged not just to study but to curate and critique past, present and future media arts by building exhibitions and visual essays of their own. Short practical workshops will enable students to make the most of the skills you bring into the programme.

Programme entry requirements

Applicants will normally have, or expect to gain a first degree of at least upper second class standard (or equivalent). Those whose first language is not English will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent.

The programme is suitable for students from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds within the humanities and limited prior knowledge of scholarship on screen-based media is required. It is also suitable for film and media industry professionals who wish to reflect critically on their own practice through a taught module and who can demonstrate the

relevant experience and expertise in one area of practice which will be inform their dissertation. These applicants will also need a relevant first degree as above. Consideration may also be given to students without an academic background in a relevant subject area if they have significant professional experience in the film and media industry and are able to demonstrate their ability and commitment to the pursuit of a programme of rigorous academic study.

All applicants need to demonstrate an awareness of the historical and contemporary significance of screen-based media and a willingness to accept the challenge of interdisciplinary study.

Aims of the programme

The aim of this programme is to offer a critical, contextual, historical and theoretical approach to Film and Screen Studies. Historically, Screen Studies emerged when Film Studies added on other screen-based media, such as television, animation, games and technical and scientific imaging. However, this supplementary approach is no longer adequate, as digitisation and the proliferation of media vehicles for delivering films (from videotape to Blu-Ray, internet, and mobile platforms) has led to questioning of the assumptions underlying Film Studies. In these circumstances, this program seeks to re-think both Film and Screen Studies. Put simply, what material practices have constituted, now constitute, and will in future constitute what we have historically understood as 'film'?

In order to provide a contextual framework and facilitate the conceptualisation of Film and Screen Studies, the programme will draw on a range of disciplines including: media and cultural studies, sociology, anthropology and philosophy. Nevertheless, the programme will remain focused on key contemporary concerns about screen-based media and the circumstances of their production, distribution and consumption.

All students will be equipped with skills in critical evaluation and contextualisation which can be applied to future developments in film and screen media. The programme is therefore appropriate for careers in the media and cultural industries, as well as in education.

Students on the PG Certificate in Film and Screen Studies: Moving Image Studies Pathway will study the moving image media as concentrated forms of culture, ideas, socialisation, wealth and power. They will be introduced to themes of 21st century globalisation, ecology, migration and activism as they are expressed in the material forms, practices, distribution and consumption of moving image media. This pathway addresses new theoretical approaches to moving image media in global context – their aesthetics, technology and politics.

Students in the PG Certificate in Film and Screen Studies: Media Arts Pathway will focus on the most innovative and provocative forms of moving image media, experimental media arts. They will be encouraged to investigate how emerging experimental practices of image making and criticism question established ideas and practices. Students on this pathway are encouraged not just to study but to curate and critique past, present and future media arts by building exhibitions and visual essays of their own.

What you will be expected to achieve

The programme's subject specific learning outcomes require students to analyse, contextualise, historicise, and theorise developments in screen-based media with reference to key debates in the history, sociology, anthropology and philosophy of film and the media.

All students will develop a wide range of transferable qualities and skills necessary for employment in related or unrelated areas. These are described by the Quality Assurance Agency as: 'the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations, and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development'.

Students who exit the programme at the Postgraduate Certificate stage should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Contribute to current debates – both academic and professional – within the field of Film and Screen Studies	Compulsory modules
A2	Demonstrate knowledge in two differing fields of inquiry	Compulsory modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Deploy a range of intellectual skills and linguistic tools to produce academic work of an appropriate level	Compulsory modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Interpret a variety of source material in the context of the analysis of Film and Screen Studies and associated fields	Compulsory modules

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Prepare and deliver clearly argued and informed work	Compulsory modules
D2	Utilise conceptual knowledge and critical reasoning skills in complex problem solving	Compulsory modules
D3	Demonstrate to a high level a range of transferable skills such as 'communication skills, skills of initiative and personal responsibility', and 'the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development'	Compulsory modules

How you will learn

The core teaching team from within the Department of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies provides expertise in critical, practical and contextual approaches to Film and Screen Studies. The expertise of the core teaching team is based on high research or professional profiles in relevant areas and is supported by a wide range of seminar and guest lecture programmes in Screen Studies provided by the department and within the College.

Learning strategies that enable the outcomes to be achieved are centred on lectures, small group workshops, seminars, and tutorials. The seminars and workshops combine teaching and learning in a number of possible formats including: short individual presentations by staff and students designed to stimulate debate; team work in pairs; whole group discussion and task-based work appropriate to specific topics. Seminars and workshops are guided by questions designed to focus the debate and clarify the aims of the session. The need for adequate preparation is emphasised and consists of reading from the bibliographies provided and preparing notes and materials based on the questions given. Individual feedback is available in discussion with module tutors in tutorial hours and comments provided by tutors on essay work.

The first three learning outcomes (concerning mapping, analysis and evaluation) are the particular foci for the compulsory modules, the common compulsory module Archaeology of the Moving Image, and pathway compulsory module Politics of the Audiovisual (Moving Image Studies pathway) and Experimental Media (Media Arts pathway). The Experimental Media compulsory module will in addition help students towards the subject-specific outcome, communicating findings in audiovisual form.

How you will be assessed

Assessment strategies which enable the outcomes to be demonstrated centre on the production, to a deadline, of written work. The written work takes different forms appropriate to the range and depth of subject-specific knowledge and skills specified in the programme. The number of assignments ensures that students have a grasp of the breadth as well as depth of the field. What is being assessed is not only the intellectual and/or practical knowledge and skills of the students but their capacity to think independently and resourcefully. In-depth knowledge of different areas of inquiry is assessed by means of examined essays.

Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	Awarded when candidates show evidence of extensive relevant reading and an impressive grasp of current major issues in the field. Candidates will have very effectively demonstrated their achievement of the appropriate module knowledge, understandings and skills outcomes. This knowledge will have been reviewed critically with insight and independence of thought. Arguments and the presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning. The writing will be clear, well-focussed and cogent.
70-79%	Distinction	Awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction but to an outstanding degree. Such work may be of publishable quality, and will be a significant contribution to debate within the field.
60-69%	Merit	Awarded when candidates show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating evidence and theories drawn from a wide range of sources. Candidates will have effectively demonstrated their achievement of the appropriate module knowledge, understandings and skills outcomes. They will demonstrate an ability to relate this reading to their topics, and

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		will clearly have understood and assimilated the relevant literature.
50-59%	Pass	Awarded when there is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas or critical comment. Candidates will have demonstrated a satisfactory level of achievement of the appropriate module knowledge, understandings and skills learning outcomes. 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.
30-49%	Fail	A mark below 50% 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. Candidates will have demonstrated an unsatisfactory level of achievement of the appropriate module learning outcomes. Research involved in writing the coursework or dissertation may be poorly organised and inadequately discussed. There may be confusion and incoherence and unfocussed comment on the literature.
10-29%	Bad fail	Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes at Masters standard.
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.

How the programme is structured

The programme structure is comprised of two compulsory 30 CATs compulsory modules (60 CATs total).

The first compulsory 30 CATs compulsory module is Archaeology of the Moving Image, which is taught in the Autumn term. This module functions as a foundation and offers students on both pathways a map of the key debates in Film and Screen Studies around the historical and material qualities of screen-based media. The module is taught in ten three-hour lecture/seminar sessions and is supported by the provision of tutorial.

The second compulsory 30 CATs compulsory module for students on the Moving Image Studies pathway is Politics of the Audiovisual, which is taught in the Spring term. This module functions as a foundation and offers students a map of the key debates in Film and Screen Studies around the globalisation and political aesthetics of screen-based media. This module is taught in ten three- hour lecture/seminar sessions and is supported by the provision of tutorials.

The second compulsory 30 CATs compulsory module for students on the Media Arts pathway is Experimental Media, which is taught in the Spring Term. This course functions as a foundation and offers students a map of experimental practice in the media arts. This module is taught in ten three-hour lecture/seminar sessions and is supported by the provision of tutorials, workshops and screenings.

Media Arts Pathway

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Archaeology of the Moving Image	MC71145A	30	7	Compulsory	1
Experimental Media	MC71153B	30	7	Compulsory	2

Moving Image Studies Pathway

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Archaeology of the Moving Image	MC71145A	30	7	Compulsory	1
Politics of the Audiovisual	MC71146B	30	7	Compulsory	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 PG Certificate is primarily aimed at students who want to develop their skills or retrain. 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 Department has strong industry links and hosts a range of events that bring together industry experts, academics and students.

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

Careers

Possible careers include film and video distribution, film exhibition, museums, film and television criticism, new media criticism, new media art, and other jobs associated with screen culture, as well as further academic study.

Skills

You will develop skills enabling you to analyse, contextualise, historicise and theorise current and future developments in screen-based media and to communicate your ideas in written and, on the Media Arts pathway, in audiovisual form.

The requirements of a Goldsmiths award

The Postgraduate Certificate has a total value of 60 credits.

Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section “How the programme is structured” above.

All modules are at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

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

Progression

Some programmes may require students to pass specific modules prior to completion of the dissertation/major project (or equivalent). Additionally, where a programme of study extends beyond one calendar year, students may be required to pass specific modules in their first year of study before progressing to the second year. Where this is the case, these requirements will be set out in this Programme Specification.

Award of the degree

In order to graduate, students must successfully complete all modules specified for the programme, as set out within the section “How the programme is structured” above.

Classification

Final degree classification is calculated on the basis of a student’s mean average mark (based on credit value) across all modules on the programme.

Masters degrees are awarded with the following classifications:

- Distinction – 70%+
- Merit – 60-69%
- Pass – 50-59%

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

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

Not applicable.

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](#).