

Royal Holloway, University of London
Programme specification for an undergraduate award
BA Film Studies (W620)

Section 1 – Introduction to your programme

This programme specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your programme and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree programme in Film Studies is delivered full-time in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). It is characterised by its progressive structure, which allows for increasing specialisation through the programme. A foundational first year provides the basis for increased specialisation in subsequent years, where you are able to develop and pursue your individual intellectual interests.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, programmes and the availability of individual course units, especially optional course units are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree programme – Also referred to as 'degree course' or simply 'course', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Course unit – Also referred to as 'module', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree programme. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise four full units, or a combination of full and half units, to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree programmes a certain number of optional course units must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Programme details			
Date of specification update	February 2018	Location of study	Egham Campus
Programme award and title	BA Film Studies	Level of study	Undergraduate
Programme code	2511	UCAS code	W620
Year of entry	2019/20		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Media Arts	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the programme	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the programme	Three years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	study@royalholloway.ac.uk .

Section 3 – Degree programme structure										
3.1 Mandatory course unit information										
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study										
Year	Course code	Course title	Contact hours*	Self-study hours	Written exams**	Practical assessment**	Coursework**	Credits	FHEQ level	Course status (see below)
1	MA1051	Film and Television History	91.5	208.5	0	0	100%	30	4	MC
1	MA1052	Critical Theory	88	212	40%	0	60%	30	4	MC
1	MA1054	Introduction to Narrative	40	160	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	MA1154	Screen Narrative: Theory and Practical	40	160	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	ML1101	International Film	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	MC
1	ML1102	The Birth of Film	20	130	0	0	100%	15	4	MC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory courses on your degree programme. These courses are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree programme will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these courses each year. Mandatory courses fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) courses, you must pass the course before you can proceed to the next year of your programme, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) courses, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree programme may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example; where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

*Contact hours come in various different forms, and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

**The way in which each course on your degree programme is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the course, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the course you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular course.

3.2 Optional course units

In addition to mandatory course units, there will be a number of optional course units available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional course units that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example; where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and programme requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via their [webpage](#).

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
None	MA2066 Post-classical Hollywood	MA3071 Contemporary British Cinema 1
	MA2059 Avant Garde	MA3085 360° Cinema
	MA2057 Hitchcock	MA3076 Transnational Cinema 1
	MA2076 Chinese Cinemas	MA3082 Psychoanalysis and Cinema
	MA2051 Women's Cinema	SN3118 Spanish Cinema 1940s – 1980s
	MA2064 Television Genre	SN3111 Contemporary Mexican Cinema
	SN2113 Mexican Visual Arts	
	IT2340 Postwar Italian Cinema	
	FR2106 Cinema in France	
	SN2013 Identity in Modern Spanish Film	

3.3 Optional course unit requirements

In stage 2, students choose five options from courses offered in the Department of Media Arts and three options from the film and television courses offered in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

In stage 3, students must choose either: MA3061 Dissertation (1 unit) or MA3062 Media Research Project (1 unit), plus choose options totalling three full units. These must include two Media Arts courses to the value of 2 full units and 1 full course unit may be taken from the range of film and television courses offered in the School of Modern Languages, subject to timetabling, availability, and course prerequisites, if any (e.g., language competences).

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree programme

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#). All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the College's Undergraduate Regulations (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the programme

The aims of this programme are:

- foster intellectual enquiry into the functions and operations of film, television, video and digital media arts, meeting the general requirements of the subject benchmarking statement in the development of knowledge, understanding, and discipline-specific key skills;
- provide a flexible and progressive structure in which students are able to gain knowledge and understanding of film and television studies;
- offer courses in which teaching is informed by research activity and professional expertise;
- produce graduates who can confidently apply conceptual skills, whether in the communication industries or in the wider world of work or further learning, to contribute to the national and international community.

Section 6 - Programme learning outcomes	
<p>In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (<i>Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)</i>)</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding and application of theories of meaning and communication in audio-visual media (K); 2. Knowledge of selected cinema, television and media art traditions in Europe and North America (K); 3. Understanding of the role and significance of audio-visual media in contemporary society (K); 4. Understanding forms of communication, media and culture as they have developed historically, with reference to social, cultural and technological change (K); 5. Develop substantive and detailed knowledge and understanding in selected areas of the field (K); 6. Competence in the interpretation of audio-visual texts (S); 7. Competence in independent thinking informed by appropriate critical theories of media and culture (for example, gender studies, psychoanalytic theory, cultural studies and postmodernism) (S); 8. Ability to make informed contributions to debates about communication and public life (S); 9. Ability to engage critically with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within the field and put them to productive use (S); 10. Ability to examine media forms critically with appropriate reference to social and cultural contexts and the diversity of contemporary society (S); 11. Ability to consider and evaluate own work in a reflective manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions (S); 12. Ability to carry out analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making, and to abstract and synthesise information (S*); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. The ability to develop a reasoned argument and to articulate these through written and oral communication (S*); 14. Learn and study, take responsibility for own learning, and develop habits of reflection on that learning (S*); 15. Information technology (including word processing, email and WWW) and development of specific proficiencies in utilising selected media technologies (S*); 16. Information handling and retrieval: identifying, retrieving, synthesising and presenting information, investigating a wide range of sources (S*); 17. Interpersonal skills including listening, leadership, responding to others appropriately and contributing to a team (S*); 18. In addition, the programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthen our graduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include: personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; creativity; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability (S).

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, small-group tutorials, guided independent research, and guided independent study. Assessment is by formal examinations, coursework essays and other exercises, oral presentations and through the independent dissertation or research project. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Section 8 – Additional costs

£50 - £350

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree programme at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
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Your programme is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent programmes of study.

QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
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Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of programmes in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.

Section 10 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on course units, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Course Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Your programme will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your programme may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

Section 11 – Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the programme as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory course units, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Section 12 - Associated award(s)	
Single Honours Degree programmes in Film Studies BA Film Studies (W610) Joint Honours Degree Programmes with Film Studies and another subject as equal components BA English and Film Studies (QW36)	Combined Honours Degree programmes with Film Studies as a major component BA Film Studies with Philosophy (W6V5)