

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Honours Degree programme in Film, Television and Digital Production**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2015**.

The aims of the Honours Degree programme in Film, Television and Digital Production are:

- to 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;
- to provide a flexible and progressive structure in which students are able to gain knowledge and understanding of theory and practice in media arts and to explore the relationships between theory and practice in the field;
- to offer courses in which the teaching of theory and practice in media arts is informed by research activity and professional expertise;
- to produce graduates who can confidently apply both creative and 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.

The programme is delivered full-time in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student 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. The programme gives equal weight to media theory and media practice, and in both media theory and media practice a foundational first year provides the basis for increased specialisation in subsequent years, where students are able to develop and pursue their individual creative and intellectual interests.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

### Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of: film and television drama, the documentary mode, processes of media signification and their relationship

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to subjectivity, and theories of contemporary media production. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- understanding and application of theories of meaning and communication in audio-visual media;
- competence in the interpretation of existing audio-visual texts and the creation of new texts;
- knowledge of selected cinema, television and media art traditions in Europe and North America;
- competence in independent thinking informed by appropriate critical theories of media and culture including gender studies, psychoanalytic theory, cultural studies and postmodernism;
- creative understanding of audio-visual media informed by an awareness of fine art, drama and performance;
- practical skills in selected areas of media production including screenwriting, screen drama, documentary, digital media arts, performance and television production;
- collaborative competencies developed by working as part of a creative team;
- individual skills in theoretical research on a specialised topic relevant to the discipline;
- individual skills in devising and carrying out a specialised media arts practical project;
- understanding of the role and significance of audio-visual media in contemporary society;
- ability to make informed contributions to debates about communication and public life.

### *Skills and other attributes*

- engage critically with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within the field and put them to productive use;
- understand forms of communication, media and culture as they have developed historically, with reference to social, cultural and technological change;
- examine media forms critically with appropriate reference to social and cultural contexts and the diversity of contemporary society;
- analyse and interpret, and exercise critical judgement in the understanding of media forms;
- develop substantive and detailed knowledge and understanding in selected areas of the field;
- consider and evaluate own work in a reflexive manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions;
- produce representations which demonstrate the effective manipulation of sound, image and/or the written word;
- utilise effectively relevant technical concepts and theories;
- produce media texts showing competence in operational aspects of media production technologies, systems, techniques and professional practices;
- manage time, personnel and resources effectively, by drawing on planning and organisational skills;\*
- produce media texts which demonstrate an understanding of media forms and structures, audiences and specific communication registers;
- initiate, develop and realise distinctive and creative work within various forms of writing or of aural, visual, audio-visual or electronic media;
- experiment appropriately with forms, conventions, techniques and practices;
- assess the merits of contrasting theories, explanations and interpretations;
- analyse, problem-solving, decision-making;\*
- plan and carry through creative practical projects;\*
- critically judge and evaluate information, critically interpreting both written and audio-visual texts;
- abstract and synthesise information;\*
- develop a reasoned argument;\*
- learn and study, taking responsibility for own learning, and developing habits of reflection on that learning;\*
- written communication, verbal presentation and the formulation of arguments expressed cogently;\*
- audio-visual media communication in selected forms and modes;
- flexibility and creativity in both independent and group contexts;\*

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- reflection and self-evaluation;\*
- information technology (including word processing, email and WWW) and development of specific proficiencies in utilising selected media technologies;
- information handling and retrieval: identifying, retrieving, synthesising and presenting information, investigating a wide range of sources;\*
- interpersonal skills including listening, leadership, responding to others appropriately and contributing to a team.\*
- 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.

\* transferable skills

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### Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, small-group tutorials, practical workshops, media practice including location work, group work, guided independent research, and guided independent study. All students are expected to meet basic standards in information technology, training for which is provided by the College Computer Centre. Assessment is by formal examinations, coursework essays, practical exercises, papers on practical work, oral presentations and through the independent dissertation or research project. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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### Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that not all optional courses run each year. A full list of optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

#### Single Honours Degree programme

##### **Stage one:**

Students must take the following **mandatory** courses:

MA1007 Introduction to Media Practice 2 (1 unit)

MA1051 Film, Television and Digital Histories (1 unit)

MA1052 Introduction to Critical Theory and Textual Analysis (1 unit)

MA1107 Introduction to Media Practice 2 (1 unit)

##### **Stage two:**

Students must take the following **mandatory** course:

MA2080 The Creative Industries (0.5 unit)

Students must choose Media Theory options to the value of 4.5 credits from the following:

MA2051 Women's Cinema (0.5 unit)

MA2052 Documentary (0.5 unit)

MA2055 European Cinema and Culture (0.5 unit)

MA2057 Hitchcock & Point of View (0.5 unit)

MA2059 Going Underground: American Avant-garde Film (0.5 unit)

MA2061 Hollywood Star Performances (0.5 unit)

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MA2064 Television Genre (0.5 unit)  
MA2065 Modern European Cinema (0.5 unit)  
MA2066 Post Classical Hollywood (0.5 unit)  
MA2070 TV and Identity (0.5 unit)  
MA2072 The Cultures of Celebrity (0.5 unit)  
MA2073 UK Film Industry (0.5 unit)  
MA2075 US Television Fiction (0.5 unit)  
MA2076 Contemporary Chinese Cinema (0.5 unit)  
MA2077 Beyond Bollywood: Indian Cinema in a Transnational Frame (0.5 unit)  
MA2078 Right of reply: Autobiography and Poetry in American underground film, 1945-2005 (0.5 unit)  
MA2079 Television Aesthetics (0.5 unit)

**and** two Media Practice options from the following:

MA2003 Directing Screen Fiction (1 unit)  
MA2003P Directing Screen Fiction WP (1 unit)  
MA2004 Screen Documentary (1 unit)  
MA2004P Screen Documentary WP (1 unit)  
MA2005 Screenwriting (1 unit)  
MA2006 Producing Film and Television (1 unit)  
MA2012 Moving Pictures (1 unit)  
MA2013 Transmedia (1 unit)  
MA2020 Contemporary Media Art (1 unit)  
MA2022 Creative Sound Design (1 unit)

### **Stage three:**

Students must take:

MA3061 Dissertation (1 unit)

**or**

MA3062 Media Research Project (1 unit)

Students must choose Media Theory options to the value of 1 whole unit from the following:

MA3054 Film III: Modern European Cinema (1 unit) not available in 2015-16  
MA3056 Film III: Avenues & Alleyways (1 unit) not available in 2015-16  
MA3064 Television Histories (0.5 unit)  
MA3080 Film Aesthetics 1: Issues of Interpretation and Evaluation (0.5 unit)  
MA3081 Film Aesthetics 2: The World and Its Image (0.5 unit)  
MA3070 World Cinema (1 unit)  
MA3071 British Cinema 1 (0.5 unit)  
MA3171 British Cinema 2 (0.5 unit)  
MA3072 German Cinema (1 unit)  
MA3073 Critical Problems in Modernism & Modernity (1 unit) not available in 2015-16  
MA3075 Melodrama (1 unit) not available in 2015-16  
MA3076 Transnational Cinema 1: Issues and Identities (0.5 unit)  
MA3176 Transnational Cinema 2: Issues and Identities (0.5 unit)  
MA3077 Television and Digital Culture (1 unit) not available in 2015-16  
MA3083 Cinephilia (0.5 unit)  
MA3085 360 Degree Film (0.5 unit)  
MA3084 Film, Television and the Holocaust (0.5 unit)

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and Media Practice options to the value of 2 whole units from the following:

MA3003 Directing Screen Fiction (2 units)

MA3004 Screen Documentary (2 units)

MA3005 Screenwriting (1 unit)

MA3005P Screenwriting (1 unit)

MA3006 Producing Film and Television (2 units)

MA3012 Moving Pictures (2 units)

MA3013 Transmedia (2 units)

MA3020 Creative Digital Arts (1 unit)

MA3022 Creative Sound Design (2 units)

MA3104 Screen Documentary – Production paper (1 unit)

MA3105 Advanced Screen Writing Outline (1 unit)

MA3120 Creative Digital Arts (Research) (1 unit)

MA3122 Creative Sound Design (Practical Theory & Analysis) (1 unit)

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### Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway as outlined in the College's Undergraduate Regulations. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Failing marks of 30 – 39% can normally be condoned in up to 30 credits across stages 1 and 2. In the final stage failing marks in up to 30 credits can normally be condoned. However, on some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details). Additionally there are requirements on the number of courses that must be passed in order to qualify for particular joint or combined Honours degrees

Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. The College's Undergraduate Regulations include full details on progression and award requirements for all undergraduate programmes offered by the College.

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

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### Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser who meets with them regularly through the programme. The adviser's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Students meet with their personal advisers two or three times during the first term in groups of 8-10. Subsequently, responsibility for meetings is placed on the student.
- The Year Tutor is at the centre of the Department's student support systems. Year Tutors, Programme Coordinators, course leaders, seminar leaders and departmental administrators provide a back-up system of

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- academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- All staff available and accessible through dedicated office hours system.
- Representation on the Staff-Student Committee.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources.
- Departmental reading room, with collection of articles and books supporting teaching and learning.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- College Careers and Employability Service and Departmental Careers and Employability Tutor.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties.

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### **Admission requirements**

Details of the Department's typical offer for each programme of study is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. For further guidance it may be helpful to contact the [Recruitment and Partnerships Office](#).

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### **Further learning and career opportunities**

As well as providing a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research, and careers in Media Arts, the degree programme will provide students with skills that are transferable to a wide variety of employment positions. An award-winning [work-placement scheme](#) exists for second year students to undertake work in a range of media companies, typically around London, for 2-4 weeks. Research opportunities exist within the department for exceptional undergraduates and a significant number choose to pursue further studies to Masters and PhD level at Royal Holloway or other universities. Students who leave formal education after completing their honours degree are usually successful in finding work within the media industries. Typical positions occupied by graduates two or three years after graduation include vision mixer, offline editor, social media manager, PR account managers, and development researcher or production manager. The wide range of transferable skills acquired during their studies mean that graduates have found work in other, less related, fields such as charity administrator or Internet advertising sales. For further details, please refer to the [Careers & Employability Service](#).

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### **Indicators of quality and standards**

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4\* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 3\* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4\* or 3\* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This result placed Royal Holloway 31st overall in the UK for 4\* and 3\* research and 33rd based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score.

The Department of Media Arts is ranked 8th in the UK for the overall quality of its research based on the Grade Point Average Score.

Staff are leading writers in their academic fields, and several maintain professional media careers as award-winning directors, producers, filmmakers and screenwriters. Staff are frequently called upon to serve on national bodies including the RAE, HEFCE, AHRB, Skillset, UK Film Council and BFI advisory committees etc.

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### **List of programmes**

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to an award of the University of London. The programme is not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)).

### **Single Honours Degree programmes in Media Arts**

BA Film, Television and Digital Production (UCAS code W625)

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