PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MA Film Programming and Curating** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Dip, PG Cert
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time – 1 year Part-time – 2 years September, January
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMAFMCUP_C
HECoS Code	100058 (film studies) 100914 (curatorial studies)
Start date of programme	Autumn 2014
Date of programme approval	Autumn 2012
Date of last programme amendment approval	May 2023
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	30/05/2023

Admissions requirements

Good honours degree (second-class or above, or overseas equivalent). Professional or work experience in a field relevant to graduate study in the humanities may also be taken into account.

All courses are taught in English, and all coursework and dissertations must be written and submitted in English. Students who do not have English as a first language may find the following advice helpful as a guide to the level of language competence that is expected:

A minimum of 7 in the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), with a minimum of 6.5 in the subtests.

Applicants must submit with an online application a 500-word personal statement with regards to why they are interested in studying in this programme, along with a 700-1000 words admissions exercise. Two referees required.

Applicants who satisfy the entry criteria will be invited to attend an interview with the Academic Director and one other member of faculty. At the interview they will be expected to expand on points made in their application, as well as their admissions exercise. International applicants will be interviewed through Skype (or other online means) if they are unable to travel to London. Applicants will be notified shortly after interview whether they are being offered a place on the programme.

Course aims

This one-year full-time, or two-year part-time, taught MA offers a specially selected programme of cultural events, as well as teaching by internationally distinguished academics and experienced film programmer and curators. Core coursework is combined with independent research.

The MA Film Programme and Curating aims to provide students with a historical, theoretical and curatorial overview of moving image practices within a multidisciplinary intellectual framework. The moving image is more ubiquitous and more deeply embedded in everyday life than at any time since the birth of film. At a time when digital technologies are transforming and expanding the everyday terms of engagement with moving images of all kinds, both traditional notions of curating and conventional models of film distribution are undergoing rapid change. Bringing together recent thinking about programming film and curating moving image with close analysis of the history of film distribution and exhibition, and offering modules that focus in detail on cinema, non-theatrical film and artists' film practice, the MA offers a complex exploration of the mediation of film and the moving image through a practice-led research approach to programming and curating. As well as attending to a broad range of moving image practices, the course includes a critical consideration of contemporary film culture. A key attraction of the programme is the privileged access students have to a network of leading film programmers and cultural institutions and organisations across London, including a 5-week placement.

In recent years, moving image formats have undergone a rapid process of diffusion and diversification, and as a result the number of professional and creative fields, which utilise moving images has greatly multiplied. This innovative, practice-led MA will look at the mediation of moving images across multiple contexts and will seek to situate the institutional and commercial sectors that handle film within a broad historical and theoretical matrix. The MA provides students with an inventive and rich configuration of taught elements, a weekly programme of screenings, and a unique range of talks by guest lectures and site visits. The MA

challenges students to think about the mediation of moving images in an expanded field of practical and theoretical knowledge and seeks to open productive and original avenues of communication networks between a wide variety of fields and practices. The degree is ideal for students of film and media history, and any of the taught core elements offer the potential for in-depth explorations of these areas, and the degree also appeals to students of the humanities and social sciences generally.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module title	Credit	Compulsory/ Core/ Option	Planned teaching term
Full-time – 1 year					
7	ARVC159H7	Sharing Passions, Curating Film	15	Compulsory	T1
7	ARMC199H7	Artists' Film: Museum, Gallery and Beyond	15	Compulsory	T2
7	ARMC197H7	Shaping Contemporary Film Culture,A: The Essay Film and the Archive.	15	Compulsory	T2
7	ARMC273S7	History, Theory, Methods: Perspectives on Audiences and Spaces of Film Exhibition	30	Core	T1
7	ARMC272S7	History, Theory, Methods: Great Collections, and Practices in Curation	30	Core	T2
7	ARMC198H7	Shaping Contemporary Film Culture B: Themes in Film Festivals	15	Compulsory	T3
7	ARMC201D7	Final Project	60	Core	T3 & Summer
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	ARMC273S7	History, Theory, Methods: Perspectives on Audiences and Spaces of Film Exhibition	30	Core	T1
7	ARMC272S7	History, Theory, Methods: Great Collections, and Practices in Curation	30	Core	T2
Year 2					
7	ARVC159H7	Sharing Passions, Curating Film	15	Compulsory	T1
7	ARMC199H7	Artists' Film: Museum, Gallery and Beyond	15	Compulsory	T2
7	ARMC197H7	Shaping Contemporary Film Culture, A: The Essay Film and the Archive.	15	Compulsory	T2
7	ARMC198H7	Shaping Contemporary Film Culture B: Themes in Film Festivals	15	Compulsory	T3
7	ARMC201D7	Final Project	60	Core	T2, 3 & Summer

		Full-time – 1 year, January start				
7	ARMC273S7	History, Theory, Methods: Great Collections, and Practices in Curation	30	Core	T2
7	ARMC199H7	Artists' Film: Museum, Gallery and Beyond	15	Compulsory	T2
7	ARMC197H7	Shaping Contemporary Film Culture, A: The Essay Film and the Archive.	15	Compulsory	T2
7	ARMC198H7	Shaping Contemporary Film Culture B: Themes in Film Festivals	15	Compulsory	T3
7	ARVC159H7	Sharing Passions, Curating Film	15	Compulsory	T1
7	ARMC273S7	History, Theory, Methods: Perspectives on Audiences and Spaces of Film Exhibition	30	Core	T1
7	ARMC201D7	Final Project* (see note below)	60	Core	T2,T3, Summer & T1
		Part-time – 2 years, January start				
		Year 1				
7	ARMC273S7	History, Theory, Methods: Great Collections, and Practices in Curation	30	Core	T2
7	ARMC272S7	History, Theory, Methods: Perspectives on Audiences and Spaces of Film Exhibition	30	Core	T1
		Year 2				
7	ARMC199H7	Artists' Film: Museum, Gallery and Beyond	15	Compulsory	T2
7	ARMC197H7	Shaping Contemporary Film Culture, A: The Essay Film and the Archive.	15	Compulsory	T2
7	ARMC198H7	Shaping Contemporary Film Culture B: Themes in Film Festivals	15	Compulsory	T3
7	ARVC159H7	Sharing Passions, Curating Film	15	Compulsory	T1
7	ARMC201D7	Final Project	30	Core	T2, 3 ,Summer ,T1

*Note: the final project on the Jan start route sits across the Spring, Summer term, Summer break and Autumn (due early Jan)– with the research during Summer Term/Summer (c 45 credits) to ensure workload is not in Autumn Term, except for some final writing up.)

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching are organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work

you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below:

Lectures, seminars, screenings, field trips and site visits. Lectures and seminars will be conducted by academics at levels of intellectual generality appropriate for post-graduate study. Reading lists will be set with the appropriate level of study in mind.

Screenings will be integrated into the learning context, and students will be expected to respond critically with reference to core course texts and themes.

Field trips are to be undertaken in a critical and creative spirit, with expert guidance.

Expert practitioners will be engaged for guest lectures and seminars.

Assessment will be in line with Birkbeck post-graduate assessment standards and will clearly demonstrate progress toward learning outcomes through detailed feedback to students.

How we will assess you

Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

Eight essays and a final project (a practice-based written thesis). Assessment will be in line with Birkbeck post-graduate assessment standards and will clearly demonstrate progress toward learning outcomes through detailed feedback to students.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

On successful completion of the MA Film Programming and Curating a students will be expected to have:

1. A strong understanding of the moving image culture in exhibition
2. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of film programming and curating theory and practice
3. Have a strong understanding of relevant areas of cultural and film theory and media history
4. Understand the principal features of moving image distribution and exhibition
5. Have an appreciation of the changing technological conditions bearing on the exhibition of film and the moving image
6. Have a strong understanding of the history and status of the moving image in cultural spaces beyond the cinema.
7. Have a strong understanding of the diversity of moving image exhibition practice
8. Be able to demonstrate the ability to programme or curate a moving image event through independent, practice-ledresearch, through a diverse range of writings forms (e.g. essays, reports, programme notes, etc).
9. Have developed powers of critical reasoning
10. Be able to form and express individual arguments
11. Be able to think collectively through problems
12. Be able to apply theoretical concepts to particular issues
13. Have skills of written and oral communication
14. Have skills of information and time management

15. Understand different of forms of research source and method in the art and humanities and cultural studies

Careers and further study

Graduates can pursue career paths in the creative arts, academic, media and cultural institutions. Possible professions include:

- film programming
- cinema manager
- independent curator/programmer
- researcher/working in academia
- film distribution
- working in archive/exhibiting the archive
- working for a film festival.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website.](#)

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.