

MA Film

Programme Specification 2020/21

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	London College of Communication
School	Screen
Programme	Film and Television (L043)
Course Credits	180
Mode	Full Time
Duration of Course	1 year
Valid From	September 1st 2020
Course Entry Requirements	<p>The course team welcomes applicants from a broad range of backgrounds, from all over the world. MA Film attracts students who apply direct from an Honours degree course or other equivalent qualifications, or those with relevant prior industry experience.</p> <p>Educational level may be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honours degree (of at least lower second class (2:2) is desirable but not essential); • Possession of equivalent qualifications; • Prior experiential learning, the outcome of which can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required; • Or a combination of formal qualifications and experiential learning which, taken together, can be demonstrated to be equivalent to formal qualifications otherwise required. <p>APEL (Accreditation of Prior Learning)</p> <p>Applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered in exceptional cases. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but we cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related academic or work experience • The quality of the personal statement • A strong academic or other professional reference • OR a combination of these factors <p>Language requirements</p>

	<p>All classes are conducted in English. If English is not your first language, we strongly recommend you let us know your English language test score in your application. If you have booked a test or are awaiting your results, please indicate this in your application. When asked to upload a CV as part of your application, please include any information about your English test score.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent) is required, with a minimum of 5.5 in each of the four skills. • If your first language is not English, you can check you have achieved the correct IELTS level in English on the Language Requirements page. <p>For further details regarding international admissions and advice please visit the International Applications page.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>Offers will be made based on the following selection criteria, which applicants are expected to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of expertise and experience in one of the six specialisms taught on the course • An understanding of the need for a critical and analytical approach to the area of study • An approach suited to the demands of the course and the projected career futures
Scheduled Learning and Teaching	<p>During your course you will engage with learning and teaching that includes both online and face-to-face modes. The advertised scheduled activity for the course will be delivered through a combination of live, synchronous and asynchronous on-line learning. This is often described as blended learning.</p> <p>Definitions of our learning and teaching modes can be found here.</p>

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Percentage of Scheduled Learning	13
Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60
Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)	120

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Facilitate and guide you towards a systematic understanding of the practical, commercial, creative, theoretical, contextual and technical aspects of fiction film-making and to offer a place for accomplished filmmakers to further develop their work alongside like-minded creatives.
Aim	Engage you in advanced evaluation of, and debates about, the actual and relative merits of narrative norms, while enhancing your abilities.
Aim	Embrace cultural diversity, and develop a cross-cultural understanding of diverse ideas, approaches and methodologies.
Aim	Offer an environment for the interrogation of the relationship between theory and practice, and effectively communicate ideas to peer groups and others.
Aim	Develop your competences as self-managed, self-motivated and self-sufficient filmmakers through collaboration and a sense of shared endeavour in the production of original works of fiction.
Aim	Empower filmmakers to make their mark on the world by equipping them with a comprehensive understanding of the relevant techniques and practices of their discipline and to effectively position themselves and locate their work within the wider industry.
Aim	Expand your professional networks, and employability by developing graduates capable of stepping into the industry at the forefront of your discipline, with systematic, research-based knowledge of the artistic and economic realities of your chosen field.
Outcome	Demonstrate your specialist role, within the field of film production to a professional standard; (Realisation, Knowledge)
Outcome	Work confidently, professionally and with ethical responsibility with diverse crews from the UK and overseas; (Process, Communication.)
Outcome	Develop and apply advanced analytical skills relevant to your field of practice and deliver coherent written and verbal presentations based in research and argument, engaging constructive and informed debate about film practice and criticism; (Enquiry, Knowledge, Communication.)
Outcome	Demonstrate a range of advanced, specialist creative and technical skills, producing informed, systematic and considered solutions to specific problems in film production in ways which generate critical awareness of current issues and formulate new insights; (Realisation, Knowledge and Enquiry)
Outcome	Produce work that conforms to the norms and expectations of the medium whilst also offering original approaches and content; (Enquiry, Knowledge, Realisation)

Outcome	Evaluate your practice, and that of others, in critical, contextual, economic, ethical, technological, commercial and aesthetic frameworks, and generate and systematically test conceptual models of effective practice; (Enquiry, and Knowledge)
Outcome	Deduce, demonstrate and critically evaluate the disciplines and project-management skills required to produce work under constraints in group projects, with diverse crews; (Realisation, Knowledge, Process)

	Distinctive Features
1	High level of experience. MA Film welcomes applicants who have significant experience either professionally or at undergraduate level in a specific specialism that they want to further develop at post-graduate level.
2	The course offers high level of industry engagement, with all practice teaching delivered by working practitioners.
3	An integrated programme of study that determines no unit of study exists in isolation from another, but rather that all five units are in dialogue.
4	A tailored contextual studies programme, prioritising a 'theory for practice' approach, is characterized by the statement of intent in the first term, which maps out individual intentions for both dissertation and major project.
5	A collaborative unit that offers the chance to engage in a specific collaboration with either parallel courses within the UAL or collaboration with an external partner for example on a campaign film, site specific piece of work, or work placement. It is also an opportunity to either explore the specialism beyond the confines of structured narrative fiction or, to experiment with a parallel specialism.
6	Screen Community: The course will be delivered in LCC's Sreen School. You will work alongside, and on occasions with, students studying MA Documentary Film, MA Television, MA Screenwriting, and the undergraduate courses. You will also have opportunities to work with other students in the two other programmes in the Screen School, Moving Image and Digital Arts and Sound and Music.
7	Location: LCC is located in the heart of central London, with the highest concentration of national and international Film Production companies in the UK. We are on the doorstep of the NFT, BFI and wider Southbank Centre and house the internationally renowned Kubrick Archive on site.
8	UAL works with cutting edge researchers, academics and industry professionals to develop a programme that truly reflect the inspiring international creative community at LCC.
9	Throughout the year, a programme of talks, workshops, masterclasses and screenings take place, offering opportunities to develop new skills, share experiences and make the most of your time here. This programme will encourage you to make new connections, exchange ideas and expand your understanding of the creative landscape beyond your own field of study.

Course Detail

MA Film is a practical course in the production of film drama; from development and finance to distribution and exhibition. It is designed for students who want a hands-on, industry-orientated course in the creative, technical and practical aspects of digital film production.

Taught through a combination of tutorials, lectures, technical workshops, mentoring, masterclasses and work placements, the course allows you to focus on one key specialism and develop it at postgraduate level while encouraging you to engage creatively with related disciplines and wider filmic processes.

Within the Collaborative Unit, you have a choice of pathways where you can collaborate with external partners as well as with other courses within University of the Arts London.

These pathways could be realised through work placements, cross-disciplinary collaboration, initiatives towards the Major Project or a combination of activities.

The theoretical programme underscores all of the practical elements of the course and offers a shared process for students to explore both their own and each other's work.

What can you expect?

The course aims to produce graduates who are self-reliant, highly motivated and able to successfully navigate this increasingly competitive industry.

Applicants must demonstrate developed skills and an understanding of their chosen specialism at application, with major and minor roles allocated accordingly.

Mode of Study

MA Film is in Full Time mode which runs for 45 weeks over 15 months. You will be expected to commit 40 hours per week to study.

Course Units

Each course is divided into units, which are credit-rated. The minimum unit size is 20 credits. The MA course structure involves six units, totalling 180 credits.

Autumn, Term 1

Statement of Intent (20 credits)

Major Project (60 credits)

Term 1 begins with the Statement of Intent, which is designed to prepare you for both the Dissertation and the Major Project. This will help you to position your work within the wider filmic environment.

This unit combines guest lectures and student-led seminars on your specific discipline or field of practice. You'll be encouraged to develop a strong dialogue within your groups and contribute shared and individual creative visions ahead of the Major Project.

Once the term is underway, you will begin the Major Project and undertake a Head of Department role, with a chosen specialism, on a fiction film of a prescribed length (max 30 minutes).

The Major Project provides an opportunity to sharpen your skills in one of six chosen specialisms (identified at application) on an ambitious production that spans the four terms of the course.

The specialism roles are:

- Producer
- Production Designer
- Director
- Director of Photography
- Editor/VFX
- Sound Mixer/ Designer

As a Head of Department, you will further develop team leadership skills, and balance individual and shared creative visions.

Spring, Term 2

Major Project (continued)

Dissertation (40 credits)

Collaborative Unit (20 credits)

In Term 2, the Collaborative Unit offers students the opportunity to engage in a specific collaboration with a related course at University of the Arts London or external partner, or in the form of a work placement.

UAL collaborations could provide opportunities to:

- Work with London College of Communication courses MA Documentary Film or MA Television in technical roles on documentary or television formats.
OR
- Develop a funding and promotional strategy for the Major Project.

External collaborations could include:

- Site-specific experimental work, developed in conjunction with a gallery or public body.
- An agreed commission or campaign film for a charitable or commercial organisation.
- A work placement in the relevant discipline.

Summer, Term 3

Major Project (pre-production proper and production)

Secondary Roles (40 credits)

Dissertation (40 credits)

In Term 3, you will also undertake two Secondary Roles on course productions. These roles will enable you to explore associated aspects of your specialism, enhance your skillset and learn what it takes to effectively support a Head of Department.

The Secondary Roles are:

- Production Manager
- Locations Manager
- Casting Director
- Assistant Director
- Set Dresser/Props
- Camera Assistant
- Gaffer
- Script Supervisor
- Sound Recordist/Boom Operator

Autumn, Term 4

Major Project (post)

Dissertation (40 credits)

The Dissertation is a significant piece of research-based academic writing, designed to help students locate their work within the wider filmic environment.

Running throughout Terms 2 and 3 with a submission in Term 4, the 10,000 word Dissertation encourages you to reflect on your current practice/s, identify trends in the professional sphere and explore the production process.

Learning and Teaching Methods

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Technical workshops
- Individual and group tutorials
- Reflections on practice

- Self-directed learning
- Presentations
- Mentorships with industry professionals

Assessment Methods

- Practice work in film production
- Reflective and analytical commentaries associated with film making
- Contextual Studies related to the practical components of the course
- Presentation

Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the course:

Research into Competitor Courses (see appendix)
Discussions with Industry Practitioners / Potential Mentors
Student Focus Group (see appendix)
Meeting with Ainoa Acosta - Student Employability
Meeting with Matt Guy – Enterprise
Informal Discussions with potential Collaborator Course:

- Dr Pratap Rughani (MA Doc)
- Dr Ciu Su (MA Advertising)
- Kelly Marshall (MA Screenwriting)

Course Diagram

Level 7																																																																				
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35			36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45																					
Unit	Statement of Intent (20 credits)										S											Secondary Roles (40 credits)																		Major project Cont'd				S																								
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The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable

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