

Programme Specification

Award and title: MA Film and Screen Studies

<i>School:</i>	Humanities
<i>Subject area:</i>	Film and Media
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2025-26
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	York St John University
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Film and Screen Studies Postgraduate Diploma in Film and Screen Studies
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Not applicable
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full time / part time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The MA Film and Screen Studies is specifically designed to help you become more independent, confident and digitally literate film and screen scholars, conversant in a range of theoretical, analytical, and practical approaches to this exciting and ever-evolving field of study. The MA Film and Screen Studies at York St John is part of a thriving postgraduate writing and creative industries community housed within the School of Humanities. The MA has been designed to support your development in research, analysis and digital versatility. On the MA, you will be given the opportunity to understand, analyse and engage with film and screen studies through modules which examine the history of the study of media and screens as it both engages with and informs the contemporary landscape. The knowledge, skills and contextual information gained will be put into practice as you work on a variety of research-led projects. Class sizes will normally be smaller than at undergraduate level in order to enable in-depth seminar discussions and collaboration. You will also have the opportunity to deepen your skills through a range of exciting enhancements in addition to receiving exposure to a broad range of researchers and practitioners as part of the course.

As the digital world moves forward, so do the skills which are needed in an ever developing and changing job market. Over your time on this course, you will be afforded the opportunity to engage practically with the Adobe Creative suite of applications, concentrating on the apps which are most relevant and carry the greatest weight within the commercial sector. Our experienced on-staff graphic designer who will be working closely with you will teach through and implement the use of the Adobe suite of software within the assessment of the modules. Adobe Photoshop CC is the industry standard for image manipulation and photo integration; InDesign is the leading application for creating page layouts and digital rich content which can be output in a variety of different media; and the course will approach web design via Adobe Dreamweaver CC.

Digital coding is currently used on a large scale within many businesses and enterprise, and Dreamweaver will give you a great starting point in learning HTML code whilst using CSS to give the code a unique look and feel. These core elements will give you a commercial edge, and when considering your next steps after completing this MA, tutors will help you to integrate these skills into your CV.

The City of York is a fantastic place to be if you enjoy the study of film and media. From being the campus home to the Yorkshire Film Archive to serving as a host institution for Aesthetica, a BAFTA-Qualifying annual short film festival, there are a range of city-based projects and venues to explore. In 2014 York was named the first (and so far, only) UK UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts. This designation was achieved through a competitive bid prepared by the private and public sector, highlighting the collaborative spirit within our vibrant and thriving media city.

In addition to classroom study, you will be given the opportunity to attend field trips, supported and subsidised by the University. York is extremely well positioned in terms of its access to venues of particular interest to screen scholars – field trips might include a visit to Leeds International Film Festival, the Science and Media Museum at Bradford, and more locally, the IMAX screen at Monks Cross or the Everyman Cinema in South Bank. You will have access to subsidised passes to the events and film screenings at the Aesthetica Short Film Festival, which takes place annually in York each November.

On the MA Film and Screen Studies you will have the flexibility to pursue projects that you are passionate about; you will be supported by the expertise of a research-active staff team; your assessment will be developed and tailored to your individual learning needs; and you will be offered a range of enhancements such as guest speakers, field trips, and access to the programme's digital magazine *Neutral*.

On this MA you will gain:

- Enhanced and developed research strategies for the understanding of and critical engagement with film and screen texts.
- An introduction to a range of multi-modal contemporary creative and critical texts to enhance knowledge of media and film history.
- Critical awareness of the contexts for the production and reception of screen texts.
- A sense of belonging to a community via our postgraduate research writing days and conferences.
- An opportunity to support the development and production of our digital magazine, *Neutral*.
- An opportunity to meet researchers, experts and practitioners in a variety of media fields.
- Normally, an opportunity to attend a UK-based writing retreat as well as module-based field trips.
- Opportunities to attend events in the School of Humanities around Black History Month, International Women's Day and LGBTQ+ History Month.

Special Features:

- Every staff member on the MA in Film and Screen Studies is an active researcher, with recent publications that address topics such as Nostalgia in the television sitcom, 'Hoodie Horror', Transnational Perspectives in Gothic and Horror film, the work of director Guillermo del Toro, and the relationship between film, media and mental health.
- We are a host-institution for the Aesthetica Short Film Festival, and our MA students are given full access to the texts premiered and shown at the festival in addition to over 400 films shown each year. Aesthetica provides an exciting platform for industry engagement through our institutional partnership, offering valuable insights via live masterclasses, panel discussions and spotlights with renowned and award-winning practitioners in addition to their publication, *Aesthetica: The Art and Culture Magazine*. This link offers access to employability-enhancing networking.
- Through partnerships such as our current partnership with the Yorkshire Film Archive, we are able to gain access to and engage with valuable archival materials. As a registered charity, the YFA works to collect, curate, and create access to our regions' screen heritage collections. Whether the focus is on our amazing landscapes, our rich industrial heritage, our cities, towns, villages, coast and country stretching from Sheffield to the Scottish borders, amateur and professional filmmakers alike have been capturing life in Yorkshire and the Northeast of England on film for over 130 years. This current partnership is plugged directly into a specific module but will prove useful throughout the programme. Our students are offered unique, up-close access to the knowledge and information held in regional archives and will have the opportunity to engage with local artefacts to enhance research and assessment.

Core Elements for MA Film and Screen Studies:

- a core teaching team of screen studies experts.
- the breadth of the programme of study.
- the study of a variety of screen contexts (television, digital platform distribution, social medias, smartphones/watches, app culture etc) in addition to film and television studies.
- the ability to study texts and industrial contexts.
- skills in collaborative working practice through workshop activity.
- skills in independent research through analytically focused modules.
- digital skills developed through practical sessions with a graphic designer.
- the opportunity to focus on independent research through the extended dissertation.
- engagement with media and screen practitioners through guest lectures and practical workshops.
- the opportunity to contribute work to a public audience through a publication/presentation.
- the opportunity to become involved with the editing and production of *Neutral* magazine.
- interdisciplinary contributions from screen studies researchers on a variety of programmes.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, the following applies:

- we normally require a BA degree at 2:2 grade or higher (or equivalent). We are open to considering previous degrees in the Humanities, Arts, Sciences and Social Sciences or other related subjects

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

- To engage students in theory and a variety of specialist approaches across the field of screen studies,
- To embed professional creative and digital practice in on-going practice
- To provide a supportive learning environment which meets the needs of a diverse set of learners,
- To inspire students to take part in the larger postgraduate community within the School of Humanities.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

- 7.1 Display in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends or enhances that typically associated with BA-level Screen Studies, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality
- 7.2 Apply comprehensive knowledge and critical understanding, and problem-solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to screens
- 7.3 Communicate conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- 7.4 Display an advanced understanding of social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of knowledge and judgements

7.5 Apply knowledge and research to aspects of locality, regionality and cultural industries

7.6 Independently design and carry out an extended piece of research that demonstrates an advanced knowledge of a specific area of Film and Screen Studies

Programme structure

Code	Level	Term	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
FIL7001M	7	1	History and Context: Yorkshire on Screen	30	C	X
FIL7002M	7	1	Screen Research: Process and Practice	30	C	X
FIL7003M	7	2	Sound and Vision	30	C	X
FIL7004M	7	3	Global Screen Cultures	30	C	X
FIL7005M	7	2 & 3	Screen Research Project / Dissertation	60	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50) in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will be taught via seminar/workshops aimed to support discussion and collaborative practice. The nature of the workshops will vary by module.

These modules have been structured specifically to provide a postgraduate programme with a distinct and attractive curriculum - one which is topically and theoretically current, and which allows you to explore the medium historically, culturally and politically. You will gain a sophisticated understanding of the history, nature and power of film and screen media by learning about the relationships between different forms of screen media, their place in the world and the variety of ways those forms create and shape ideas and identities. As well as critical analysis, you will creatively engage with films and with media in a variety of ways, from writing for different platforms to exploring digital media and communicative modes. The programme begins with our regionally focussed module *History and Context: Yorkshire on Screen* and will progress through to *Global Screen Cultures* specifically in order to facilitate a broadening journey of discovery. Our semester one module, *Screen Research: Process and Practice*, embeds the research proposal skill set into the assessment in order to facilitate a seamless move into the dissertation module in the following semester where you will be, at this point, well-practiced in research methods and methodologies, research skills and the production of a successful research proposal.

Embedded within the *Screen Research: Process and Practice* module will normally be the use of the British Library's Boston Spa Reading Room. This permits you to thoroughly engage with research methods and methodologies and to produce a successful research proposal within an authentic setting.

As part of the *Global Screen Cultures* module, you will be assessed via a 10-minute conference paper which will be delivered to the entire cohort, the staff and other postgraduate research students. Conferences are an essential part of academic life, and in simulating this environment we will give you the opportunity to increase networking skills, meet with industry experts, improve abilities in communication and presentation, and garner knowledge about the latest research in screen studies.

As well as the taught modules, you will carry out research and produce a final dissertation supported throughout your MA, culminating in the *Dissertation* module, enabling you to develop an independent project across a sustained and concentrated period of time.

The assessments built into the modules are designed to complement one another and constitute a key part of the narrative and progression of the MA programme. Skills that are taught and tested in the first term and through the second build towards the dissertation project which aims to be a culmination of student talent, dedication, and commitment. Along the way, when mid-point module assessments are present, they allow us to work with you on improving not only later assessments on the module, but also concurrent and upcoming assessments across the course. The modes of assessments are varied in order to challenge a range of attributes which enhance your previous learning and incorporate new knowledge and skills gained on the course. These assessment modes include essays, presentations, portfolios, and technology-enhanced pieces, with a creative element where appropriate. You will also be supported during these assessments by lecturers who offer tutorial and writing support as well as by our graphic designer, who will guide you through various software packages and processes, should this be a skill which you would like to enhance during your time on the programme.

The School's inclusive learning policy asks that all teaching materials are made available to you 48 hours in advance of class, and this approach is central to our teaching on the MA. Reading lists are usually available several months in advance and the programme team ensure that all assessment tasks are rendered in formats accessible to all students. The MA has a special induction event each year to welcome all new students and explain the general approach to inclusivity and diversity, and what this means in terms of contemporary film and screen cultures and your degree programme.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 10/02/2020

Programme originally approved: