

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Taught Postgraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MA
4	Programme Title	MA in Global Film
5	Programme Code	4039
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Last updated	May 2026

10 Programme Aims

- 1 To provide students with advanced knowledge and experience of film practices, including film exhibition, curation, production, criticism, political engagement, archiving and screenwriting.
- 2 To develop students' understanding of these practices in a variety of local contexts from around the world and in relation to film as a global art and industry.
- 3 To develop and widen students' knowledge of film as both a medium and an aspect of wider cultural production.
- 4 To provide students with advanced knowledge of the theoretical and historical aspects of film in a range of national and transnational contexts.
- 5 To enhance students' skills in the critical analysis of the underlying language of film.
- 6 To provide students with training in a range of research methodologies specific to the study of cultural objects and creative industries in general and film in particular, and a range of research skills including critical and selective data-gathering, archive work, textual analysis, synthesis of complex information, comparative analysis, bibliographical skills, and the application of information and communications technologies.
- 7 To comply with prevailing University policy and procedures, and QAA codes of practice
- 6 To meet the requirements of a Level 7 programme within the FHEQ.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Film.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should have knowledge and understanding of:

A1	Cinema as an art and an industry embedded in a nexus of creative, critical and commercial practices.
A2	The close analysis of films and critical discourses on film, in the light of cutting-edge research
A3	Aspects of cinemas, cinematic practices and their contextual cultures, from a range of countries, in depth and in detail
A4	Advanced accounts of the modes of visual and narrative representation in film, and their social, political, ethical, commercial, and creative implications
A5	How to demonstrate, in extended pieces of writing, in-depth knowledge of a self-chosen aspect of study, informed by advanced and recent scholarship
A6	The processes, requirements and demands of various film practices, including exhibition, curation, production, criticism, archiving, screenwriting and political engagement, informed by the expertise and experiences of highly-skilled professionals
A7	Daily running of an organization in the film exhibition and production sector; the issues of policy and market affecting the relevant sector
A8	How to curate and/or present a creative project on a specific theme, using a variety of digital tools.
Teaching and Learning Methods	
A1-8 are imparted via a combination of seminars based on required reading, lectures, workshops, student presentations, practical analyses of short sequences from films, and one-to-one tutorials on work in progress. A1, A4, and A6-8 will also be developed through workshops with visiting cultural practitioners. These primary means lead to guided self-study, through reading and the close viewing of films, as well as visits to archives and other cultural sites, and to the development of independent study programmes through selective identification of key areas of materials and ideas. A7 is also imparted through work-based learning in the context of a placement.	
Assessment Strategy	
A1-8 are assessed by a variety of assignments, including video essays, written exercises, a film script, an independent project, and where applicable, placement diary and interview. A6 and A8 are also assessed by short films and by a group creative project. The wide variety of assessment forms across the compulsory and optional modules has been designed to encourage the development of key competencies that will enhance students' employability in the cultural sector.	
Intellectual Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
B1	Gather, synthesise and evaluate information
B2	Undertake independent, critical analysis
B3	Organise and present ideas convincingly within the framework of a structured and reasoned argument, in oral or – more usually – written form
B4	Apply appropriate methodologies to specialist areas of study

B5	Plan and organise the production of complex images according to the principles of film narrative, and/or negotiate a range of conflicting commercial demands while working in a team to produce elements of a commercial cinema programme
B6	Design a research project, manipulate and present substantial amounts of data and/or analysis, and select and employ appropriate research methodologies
B7	(For those students who choose optional module of professional placement) Undertake tasks as required in a high-pressure professional environment
B8	Design and present a creative project either as part of a group or individually, using appropriate digital tools.
B9	Critically reflect on practice, competencies and experiences
Teaching and Learning Methods	
B1-5 are developed through the close analysis of films, seminar preparation, presentations to peers, group discussion, and the planning, drafting, and writing of assignments. B4 is also developed in the compulsory modules through instructional lectures and group analysis of sample films and texts, while the tutored use of digital cameras and editing suites and/or fieldwork will support the development of B5. . B6 is developed in preparatory modules and through specialist supervision during the planning and execution of either an independent project designed to showcase creative or professional skills, or a dissertation designed to study a specialised subject in depth. The compulsory modules and dissertation are also designed to give training for, and insights into, possible doctoral study. B7 is developed by taking a professional placement in a host organisation based in the screen industry.. B8 and 9 are developed and practiced through workshops where students will engage in group and individual set activities, including training in digital tools. B9 will be introduced in lectures and further practiced in individual tutorials.	
Assessment Strategy	
B1-5 are assessed by means of written assignments. B5 is additionally assessed by the making of a short film. B1-4 and B6 are additionally and to a higher level assessed in the dissertation or independent project. B6 is assessed through the dissertation/independent project, with particular emphasis being placed by assessors on skills of design, presentation, selection, and argument. B7 is also assessed by a placement dairy and an interview.	
Practical Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
C1	Engage with film through a variety of creative, critical and commercial practices.
C2	Deploy detailed knowledge of key tendencies, movements, styles, and trends in the film industries and environments of reception across a range of countries and analyse the ways in which such knowledge and its objects are constructed over time.
C3	Navigate a film archive in order to identify and deploy sources relevant for a specific project.
C4	Combine archive research skills, film criticism and understanding of audiences to curate and market a film or digital media event.
C5	Deploy detailed knowledge of key techniques in film construction and identify these techniques within and across films.
C6	Deploy a range of current theoretical approaches in analysing film practices as well as individual films and the contextual factors that have influenced their creation.

- C7 Work imaginatively with key issues in Film Studies, such as those of authorship, gender, performance, modes and circumstances of production and reception, power, ethics, nationality and race, in creative and/or academic contexts, in groups and/or individually.
- C8 Develop a narrative screenplay, and/or creative film project, and/or produce film criticism tailored to a specific audience.
- C9 Deploy a range of employability skills (CV preparation, interview techniques, professional presentation) drawing on experience working in a host organisation and/or workshops with practitioners.

Skills C1-8 are developed through guided reading and viewing, lectures, seminars incorporating detailed analysis of selected film sequences, presentations to peers, group discussion and the preparation and producing of assignments. C8 is additionally developed through tutoring in screenwriting and/or the use of digital cameras, editing suites, or other digital tools.

C1, C4 and C7-9 will additionally be developed through workshops with creative practitioners from a variety of cultural organisations, both local and from around the world and C9 will also be developed through a work placement. C3 and 4 will be developed and practiced through access to archives, including the Chinese Independent Film Archive (CIFA) based at Newcastle University.

Assessment Strategy

C1-9 are assessed through a variety of written, oral and digital media-based assignments and the dissertation/independent project. C8 is also assessed through the making of a short film, production of a screenplay or body of film criticism, alongside the writing of an essay reflecting on the creative process. C9 is assessed through a report on the host organisation, a reflective log and an interview, in order to encourage both understanding of the host organisation and its sector, and the development of essential skills and competencies for a cultural industry career. C1, C3-4 and C7-8 will also be assessed through a creative project combined with critical reflection, including a group project relevant for C7, and will be assessed at greater depth through an independent project. C1-7 will be assessed at greater depth through a dissertation.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1 Communicate and persuade
- D2 Use library and bibliographic research resources effectively
- D3 Interpret and make sense of visual data used representationally
- D4 Identify and solve complex intellectual problems
- D5 Use email, databases, and online environments as research and study tools
- D6 Use appropriate digital tools for creative, reflective and/or analytical purposes.
- D7 Manage time, make plans and set priorities in order to achieve an objective.
- D8 Work creatively and flexibly with others as part of a small team.

Teaching and Learning Methods

D1-4 are enhanced through seminar presentations and discussions, and through the planning, drafting, and writing of assignments and the dissertation/independent project. D5 is developed in the compulsory modules and put into practice across the whole range of

student intervention, most particularly in the presentation of formative or summative assessments. D6 is developed and practiced in workshops and creative or reflective assignments. D7 is developed in short-term mode across the whole range of student intervention, most particularly in the timely delivery of oral presentations and of assessed work; in medium-term mode it is developed notably in the preparation, staging, and completion of the dissertation. D8 is imparted, practiced, and enhanced in seminar interventions, group work, a group project and discussions formal and informal, in and beyond the classroom.

Assessment Strategy

D1-6 are assessed through a variety of assignment forms and the dissertation/independent project. D7 & D8 are not formally assessed but are deemed to contribute (negatively or positively) to the outcomes of all assignments and are monitored through seminars and tutorials.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

This is a one year programme (full time) or two years (part time). Students must complete 180 credits.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The key distinctive features of the MA programme in Global Film are:

- An integrated, global approach to the teaching of film theory and practices, provided through the core curriculum.
- The opportunity for students to explore a significant variety of film practices through the optional modules on offer. Our broad understanding of film practices, based on long-term collaborations with practitioners across a wide range of activities, is key here.
- A network of local and global practitioner partners, including filmmakers, screenwriters, distributors, film festival organisations, archivists, critics and activists, who will provide input through workshops and offer networking opportunities for students. This is one of the main distinctive aspects of the programme.
- A set of optional modules that allow students to experiment with a wide array of practices, including exhibition, curating, archiving, screenwriting, film criticism, political activism, digital filmmaking, among others.
- A wide variety of assessment forms, designed to enhance specific competencies including digital literacy, curation, audience engagement, critical analysis, screenwriting and film production as well as transferable employability skills such as communication and presentation skills, teamwork, critical reflection and time management.
- Students will also have the opportunity to gain industry experience through a work placement.

This is a relevant programme for students interested in building a career in the industry, that will also offer a solid grounding for students who may wish to pursue further study.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[26-27 Programme Regulations](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.