Ethnographic and Documentary Film (Practical) MA /

This unique MA programme is based in a university but run by leading film practitioners, ensuring that you not only receive the highest-quality practice-based learning, but you do so in a university research environment where you learn to understand the world we live in. You have your own camera equipment throughout and two dedicated Mac Editing suites for this course.

Degree summary

Students will learn to devise a visual research project; to apply anthropological and social science approaches to documentary film work; to think critically about the relationship between form and content in ethnographic/documentary practice; using our professional level equipment, to master the technical skills needed to produce different kinds of films of different lengths for varied audiences; and to critically view and review film material.

This MA will allow you to benefit from UCL’s unique position in the heart of London, and from the many activities in film within the Department of Anthropology. The programme is unique in using professional film-makers to teach within a truly pan-disciplinary university research environment. It provides outstanding access to camera and editing facilities.

UCL now houses London’s Global Documentary Film Festival, Open City Docs Fest, created by Professor Michael Stewart. You can participate in the curation and delivery of this festival; gain experience in the delivery of a major public arts event; and benefit from established partnerships with world-famous institutions such as the Science Museum and the British Film Institute.

This degree will from 2017 provide three strands: the existing non-fiction cinema and reportage based documentary will be joined by a ‘Mixed Realities strand (including VR, Augmented and interactive documentary production).

The programme is delivered through a combination of practical tutorials, seminars and masterclasses and assessed by camera and editing exercises and a written piece.

We facilitate two types of placements. Firstly, we will enable short-term internships at the film companies with whom we already have relationships through Open City Docs. Secondly, as opportunities arise students can work on collaborative or other film-making projects, such as the Doc in a Day workshops or UCL film productions.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of 1 core module (60 credits), 2 optional/elective modules (30 credits) and a project/diary (90 credits).

CORE MODULES
- Practical Ethnographic and Documentary Filming and Editing
- Students without a social science background at either undergraduate or Master’s level also take Social Anthropology or another social science foundational module in Term One as agreed with the tutor.

OPTIONAL MODULES
- Students choose two of the following
  - Anthropology and Photography
  - Documentary Film and the Ethnographic Eye
  - The Story and I - Finding the Form and/or Time and the Staged Index
  - One of the practical film-related options offered as part of Film Studies MA according to provision.
  - One of the film history modules taught in the School of Slavonic & East European Studies (SSEES), or Departments of History or English, (for example, Russian Cinema in SSEES), details to be confirmed.
  - An Anthropology or other social science module from the Faculties of Social & Historical Sciences, or Arts & Humanities.
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DISSERTATION/REPORT
- A major practical film project and diary allowing the students to demonstrate their mastery of the skills of documentary film-making in a film of 20-35 minutes.
Your career

The programme equips students for careers in:
- mass media including broadcast, cinematic and web-based moving image
- film and TV industry as camera operators, producers, directors, editors, researchers
- academia – ethnographic research, visual media and culture
- marketing and research
- communication and other media
- archives, as well as cultural heritage organisations.

Employability

The increasing demand for social and scientifically trained moving image specialists in the years ahead will continue, if not accelerate. Many of the graduates of our existing programmes now work in organisations such as Ipsos Mori film unit, Independent production companies, BBC World Service and BBC Education.
**Entry requirements**

Normally an upper second-class Bachelor's degree in a social science, arts, humanities or science discipline from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Academically weaker applications will also be considered provided that they are supported by experience in visual arts or film making. Applicants with prior technical knowledge of film making are asked to send a video portfolio of up to 20’ duration (Vimeo link recommended). Applicants without a video portfolio are asked to complete a photo essay. Please see our guidelines on how to make a visual essay. You can submit either by post - a maximum of twenty 20cm x 25cm (8’x10”) stills – or by link to an external site.

All shortlisted applicants will be asked to submit a proposal for a film or video project - a maximum of four sides of A4, typed and double-spaced - to include: an outline of what the film is about; the characters and other elements crucial to the narrative and the film structure/narrative. (You are not committed to the proposal for the final project.)

**English language proficiency level**

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Standard.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

**Your application**

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When we assess your application we would like to learn:

- why you want to study Ethnographic and Documentary Film (Practice Based) at graduate level
- why you want to study Documentary Film (Practice Based) at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to this programme
- how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of a challenging programme
- where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

Successful applicants to this programme will be required to pay a tuition fee deposit dependent on their mode of study and fee status as given below:

- UK/EU full-time: £2,000
- UK/EU part-time: £1,000
- Overseas full-time: £2,000
- Overseas part-time: £1,000

Further details can be found on the Fees and funding page.