The Critical Studies pathway of the MA in Digital Media is for students who wish to investigate the significance, impact and interpretation of digital media and technologies. It explores the theory and practice of media in society, its history, its relationship to popular culture and its new possibilities in the digital age.

**Degree summary**

Students will explore contemporary digital media practices in relation to questions of culture, politics and representation. They will critically examine transformations in digital culture and society focusing on, for example, mobile communications and media, digital screens and the body, and digital games and player cultures.

- The Digital Media MA at the UCL Institute of Education is one of the longest-established Media MAs in the UK. It is based at the UCL Knowledge Lab, a leading interdisciplinary centre whose mission is to understand and develop digital technologies to support and transform education and beyond. Based on research evidence, the Knowledge Lab devises new pedagogies, designs and implements innovative digital media and smart technologies for teaching and learning, and informs policymakers and educational stakeholders.

- The programme team belongs to the DARE research centre, a research collaboration with the British Film Institute. With a track record of funded research in the digital media arts, we offer students a chance to learn from direct research experience.

- Students will have access to our Future Media studio with computer suites, performance space and sound recording facilities.

Teaching is delivered by face-to-face lectures and seminars, and practical workshops combined with online-learning support. Students are assessed by coursework assignments of up to 5,000 words, plus practical or portfolio work for some modules. Practical workshops will take place in the new Future Media studio at the UCL Knowledge Lab.

**Degree structure**

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: up to 5 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits including compulsory and optional modules and write a dissertation (20,000 words) or report (10,000 words). The degree includes two compulsory modules (30 credits each); two optional modules (30 credits each); a 20,000 word Dissertation (60 credits); or a 10,000 word Report (30 credits), allowing an additional 30 credit module.

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

**COMPULSORY MODULES**

- Theory and Critical Reflection, addressing theories of the media in society; and Critical Enquiry, providing training in research methodologies including textual analysis and ethnographic practice.

**OPTIONAL MODULES**

- Mobile Media and Place (locative media and digital geographies); Bodies and Digital Media (physical, virtual and technological embodiment); Digital Games, Play and Creativity (digital games, player cultures, basic game design). Or other modules in the MA Digital Media programme, subject to availability.

**DISSERTATION/REPORT**

- All students undertake a research project culminating in a 20,000 word Dissertation (60 credits) or a smaller study leading to a 10,000 word Report (30 credits). Both may be part-practice based, with practical media production replacing half the word-count.

Visit the UCL Institute of Education website for more information, including module descriptions, which can be seen by clicking on the module title.
Your career

This programme will equip students with skills, knowledge and experience related to the rapidly-changing worlds of digital media cultures. It will therefore support career development in a variety of media contexts, as well as further postgraduate study.

Employability

Graduates of this programme will gain critical insights into the media: into the nature of production, consumption and uses of the media in contemporary society. They will be experienced in the analysis of media texts across a range of media. They will acquire critical insights into the nature of modern digital media, such as mobile media and digital games. They will gain experience of qualitative media research techniques.
Entry requirements

A minimum of a second-class UK Bachelor's degree in a relevant subject (e.g. media studies, cultural studies, art, education, digital media, interactive media, English. Applicants with a minimum of a second-class UK Bachelor's degree in a non-relevant subject and at least one year's experience within the fields of education, media and/or the cultural industries will also be considered.

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: Good.

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

Your application

There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. Further information can be found at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

// UK: £10,440 (FT), £5,275 (PT)
// EU: £10,440 (FT), £5,275 (PT)
// Overseas: £21,790 (FT), £11,060 (PT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Students website.

Fees for flexible, modular study are charged pro-rata to the appropriate full-time Master's fee taken in an academic session.

The degree aims to encourage teachers and under-represented groups interested in this area. To this end, ten bursaries are offered to UK applicants across the three routes of the programme, to the value of £5,000 for full-time study, £2,500 per year for part-time study, and pro-rata for flexible study. They will be evaluated by the programme team on the same criteria as all other applications, with the added requirement that the applicant is eligible to pay UK fees.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 26 July 2019

Details on how to apply are available on the website at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Dr John Potter, Programme Leader

Email: ioe.ma.media@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7907 4625

EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit