Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**BA Theatre, Film and Media Studies** **BA Theatre, Film and Media Studies with Foundation Year**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	UUBATSFM_C (full-time 3 years) UBATSFIM_C (part-time 4 years) UUBFTSFM_C (full-time with FY 4 years) UBFTSFIM_C (part-time with FY 6 years
5	**UCAS code (if applicable)**	NP25, NP26 (with FY)
6	**Home Department**	English, Theatre & Creative Writing
7	**Exit Award(s)**	Dip HE, Cert HE
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	3 years FT, 4 years PT 4 years FT with FY, 6 years PT with FY
9	**Mode of Study**	FT	X	PT	X	DL	
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	6
11	**Other teaching depts or institution**	Film, Media & Cultural Studies
12	**Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**	N/A
13	**QAA Benchmark Statement**	Dance, Drama and Performance (2019) Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2019)

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**
	BA Theatre, Film and Media Studies enables students to engage with the intersections between theatre, performance and film. The programme is highly distinctive as the only provider of evening part-time and full-time study in theatre and film studies at undergraduate level in central London, putting the creative, historical and conceptual investigation of theatre and film in dialogue with one another as complementary areas of study. Students will encounter key disciplinary aspects of theatre and performance studies, theatre histories, theatre theory, and in-depth study of drama, theatre and performance as text and in performance. Elements of individual practice-based work in theatre and film are complemented by the option to make theatre collaboratively should students wish to do so. In tandem with these investigations, they will study film form, history and theory, engage in in-depth exploration of the history of the cinema industry from the late nineteenth century on, and encounter critical movements in film theory and international cinema. Each year, students will be invited to select an option module or modules to immerse themselves a particular area of interest, ranging across theatre, film and cultural studies. Themes of representation and the role of theatre and film in society are continuously addressed via an inclusive teaching practice that places student voice at the centre. The programme makes

use of the rich context of Birkbeck's position in Bloomsbury, in London's West End, by giving the analysis of live performance and cinema screenings a central place in the curriculum, and by engaging with guest speakers and practitioners. Students completing this programme will garner a well-rounded knowledge of theatre and film practices and histories, providing a strong foundation for work in the creative industries, or further study at postgraduate level.

Aims:

- Enable students to develop knowledge and skills relating to theatre and film as specific domains of practice
- Offer a balanced programme of study that mixes compulsory modules and flexible option choice to enable students to engage with theatre and film studies in a range of contexts
- Develop students' understanding of the histories, conventions, and industries that pertain to theatre and film
- Extend students' awareness of the key elements of practice and production in theatre and filmmaking
- Develop students' skills of critical reflection upon individual practice and in group contexts
- Provide students with a broad understanding of processes of research, interpretation and analysis in practice-based and non-practice-based modes
- Offer students the intellectual tools to analyse and think critically about theatre and media culture and products and their histories, and to develop independent critical judgement
- Offer students the opportunity to undertake and complete an independent study project based in theatre, with an option to originate a creative piece

(For Foundation Year aims, see school of Arts Foundation Year programme specification)

15	**Entry Criteria**

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 96-128 points, A-levels: CCC-ABB

If English is not your first language or you have not previously studied in English, our usual requirement is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 6.5, with not less than 6.0 in each of the sub-tests. (For Foundation Year entry criteria, see school of Arts Foundation Year programme specification)

16	**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to demonstrate:

1. knowledge and understanding of the key traditions, conventions, contexts, histories, concepts, cultures and institutions that comprise theatre and film studies;

2. awareness of the range and variety of key critical and theoretical debates at the forefront of the fields of theatre and film studies;
3. knowledge and understanding of how the key elements and processes of theatrical performance and screen media are created and realised;
4. knowledge and understanding of the interplay between practice and theory;
5. ability to describe, theorise, interpret, analyse, historicise and evaluate cinematic and/or televisual texts, performance texts and performance events from a range of critical perspectives;
6. research skills, including the ability to gather, sift and organise material independently and critically and to present it in the form of an essay, report, presentation or creative piece
7. ability to discuss and evaluate the work of fellow students and established theatremakers and filmmakers in relation to elements of the craft of theatremaking and of film;
8. the ability to work efficiently and constructively within a group and on an individual basis to realise an appropriate practice piece or presentation of a specified length;
9. the ability to present and sustain arguments and engage in debate;
10. the ability to act as a reflective, self-directed learner, recognizing and employing a range of strategies to support independent learning, including an awareness of strengths/weaknesses.
11. the ability to communicate in public and in working groups with expressive clarity and sophistication;
12. the ability to apply the expressive, critical and evaluative skills acquired during the programme to varied kinds of work;
13. the ability to communicate ideas and arguments clearly in a variety of oral, written, visual and performance media;
14. some IT skills; the use of libraries and electronic sources of information, online discussion groups, web-based research, e-learning, word-processing;
15. bibliographical skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work.

(For Foundation Year learning outcomes, see School of Arts Foundation Year programme specification)

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	Learning and teaching on BA Theatre, Film & Media Studies makes use of a mix of techniques and strategies, including: ▪ Lectures ▪ Seminars ▪ Practice-based workshops ▪ One-to-one tutorials by arrangement ▪ Tutorial support and theory and practice-based supervision for the final year project ▪ Independent visits to theatrical performances ▪ Independent study and research ▪ Group-based study and research ▪ Access to public events hosted by the Birkbeck Centre for Contemporary Theatre and Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image.

On theatre studies modules, students will be taught primarily through the three key pedagogical practices central to the subject at BA level: lectures, seminar discussions and group workshops. Workshops will function to enable students to explore the concepts they are introduced to in seminars and lectures through practice. This enables students to take a 'laboratory' approach, where they hypothesise on an aspect of theatre, and test this hypothesis through practice. They are then assessed, not on their practical skills, but rather on their reflective and analytical engagement with the concepts they have explored. This process of learning will be supplemented by independent research, independent group work and theatre visits.

On film and media studies modules, students will experience teaching styles which deliver a lecture and seminar together, a combination of presentation with student participation. Lectures take up a part of the class and then interactive discussion reinforces students' understanding of the subject of the lecture. This is achieved often through student analysis of film extracts and television programmes. Small group work is used and is designed to allow students to undertake focused tasks in a supportive environment so that they can develop their creative, analytical, communication and interpersonal skills. Discussion group work is designed to develop students' critical and analytical, presentation and communication skills. One-to-one tutorials develop student skills in presenting and discussing ideas verbally, and to engage in the construction of arguments through interaction with the tutor. Creative workshops are designed to combine the generation of creative ideas, alongside critical and interpersonal skills.
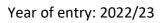
Assessment methods include:
- Research essays
- Research exercises
- Creative practice projects and exercises
- Creative practice portfolios
- Group presentations
- Performance presentations
- Group vivas
- Individual vivas
- Written portfolios
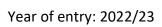
18	**Programme Description**

BA Theatre, Film and Media Studies builds students' skills and knowledges in theatre and screen media incrementally through a programme which offers training in key skills of interpretation, critical analysis, and creative practice. At level 4, students engage in theatre history, performance analysis, an introduction to cinema, and take an option module from a selection on offer in the School of Arts, including creative practice modules in theatre or screenwriting. At level 5, students develop more advanced knowledge in theatre and film theory, film history, and take an option module in theatre. At level 6, students develop their own dissertation or creative projects, self-led critical projects engaging with live performance, and two option modules from a selection on offer in the School of Arts.

(For Foundation Year description, see School of Arts Foundation Year programme specification)
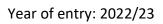
19	**Programme Structure**

Full Time programme

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Compulsory
4		Option Module: School of Arts	30	Option

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory
5	N/A	Option Module: Theatre Studies	30	Option
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Compulsory
5	ARMC269S5	Television: From Small Screen to Smart Screen	30	Compulsory

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option

Part Time programme

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Compulsory

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4		Option Module: Theatre Studies or Film Studies	30	Option
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ARMC269S5	Television: From Small Screen to Smart Screen	30	Compulsory
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option
5	N/A	Level 5 option module: Theatre Studies	30	Option

Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option

Full-Time with Foundation Year programme - 4 years				
Foundation year (0)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	ARAR008S3	The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities	30	Core
		One Option from:		
3	ARAR09S3	The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World	30	Option
4	AREL062S4	French 1	30	Option
4	AREL067S4	French 2	30	Option
4	ARCL105S4	French 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL106S4	French 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	AREL065S4	German 1	30	Option
4	AREL074S4	German 2	30	Option
4	ARCL107S4	German 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL108S4	German 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL039S4	Italian 1	30	Option
4	ARCL040S4	Italian 2	30	Option
4	ARCL103S4	Italian 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL104S4	Italian 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARMC161S4	Japanese 1	30	Option
4	ARMC164S4	Japanese 2	30	Option
4	ARCL101S4	Japanese 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL102S4	Japanese 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARIB106S4	Spanish 1	30	Option
4	ARIB115S4	Spanish 2	30	Option
4	ARCL112S4	Spanish 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL113S4	Spanish 4 (Level 4)	30	Option

Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Compulsory
4		Option Module: School of Arts	30	Option

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory
5	N/A	Option Module: Theatre Studies	30	Option
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Compulsory
5	ARMC269S5	Television: From Small Screen to Smart Screen	30	Compulsory

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option

Part-Time with Foundation Year programme - 6 years

Foundation year (year 0A)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core

Foundation year (year 0B)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
3	ARAR008S3	The Arts: Perspectives and Possibilities	30	Core
		One Option from:		
3	ARAR09S3	The Arts: Questioning the Contemporary World	30	Option
4	AREL062S4	French 1	30	Option
4	AREL067S4	French 2	30	Option
4	ARCL105S4	French 3 (Level 4)	30	
4	ARCL106S4	French 4 (Level 4)		
4	AREL065S4	German 1	30	Option
4	AREL074S4	German 2	30	Option
4	ARCL107S4	German 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL108S4	German 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL039S4	Italian 1	30	Option
4	ARCL040S4	Italian 2	30	Option
4	ARCL103S4	Italian 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL104S4	Italian 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARMC161S4	Japanese 1	30	Option
4	ARMC164S4	Japanese 2	30	Option
4	ARCL101S4	Japanese 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL102S4	Japanese 4 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARIB106S4	Spanish 1	30	Option
4	ARIB115S4	Spanish 2	30	Option
4	ARCL112S4	Spanish 3 (Level 4)	30	Option
4	ARCL113S4	Spanish 4 (Level 4)	30	Option

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Compulsory
4	ENHU001S4	Theatre in London Now: Histories	30	Compulsory
4	ARMC231S4	Cinema Today	30	Compulsory

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4		Option Module: Theatre Studies or Film Studies	30	Option
5	ENHU001S5	Theories of Theatricality and Performance	30	Compulsory
5	FFME020S5	Approaches to Cinema History	30	Compulsory
5	ENHU001Z5	Theatre in London Now: Theories	0	Compulsory

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ARMC269S5	Television: From Small Screen to Smart Screen	30	Compulsory
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option
5	N/A	Level 5 option module: Theatre Studies	30	Option

Year 4

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ENHU103S6	Independent Research Project in Theatre and Performance	30	Core
6	ENHU001S6	Theatre in London Now: Student-Led Project	30	Core
6	N/A	Level 6 option module: School of Arts	30	Option

Indicative list of options

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN096S4	Performing Theatre Histories (Critical Practice I)	30	Optional
4	FFME025S4	Screenwriting	30	Optional
4	ARCL126S4	Reading Transnational Cultures (Level 4)	30	Optional
4	AREN257S4	Production of the Human: Decolonising the Canon	30	Optional
4	ARCL039S4	Italian 1	30	Optional
4	AREL065S4	German 1	30	Optional
4	ARMC164S4	Japanese 1,	30	Optional
4	AREL062S4	French 1	30	Optional
4	ARIB106S4	Spanish 1	30	Optional
5	AREN199S5	Adaptations: Theories and Practices in Contemporary Performance	30	Optional
6	AREN291S6	Performing Spaces	30	Optional
5	AREN247S5	European Drama and Theatre: Gods, Ideas and Adaptations	30	Optional

5	AREN157S5	Tragedy	30	Optional
6	AREN245S6	Finding a Leg to Stand On: clinical, critical and creative approaches to the human body	30	Optional
6	AREN221S6	The Creative Critical Seam	30	Optional
6	ARMC230S6 -	Memory, Media and Digital Culture	30	Optional
6	FFME019s6	Gender and Sexuality in Cinema	30	Optional
6	AREN205S6	Scriptwriting Workshop 4: The Television Drama	30	Optional
6	ARMC036S6	Understanding Cultural Audiences: Engagement, Education and Communications	30	Optional

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student

COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board

OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	**Programme Director**	Louise Owen
21	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	Autumn 2022
22	**Date approved by Education Committee**	Autumn 2021
23	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Autumn 2021
24	**Date(s) updated/amended**	11 May 2023