

**Kingston  
University**  
London

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CYNGOR GWYNEDD COUNCIL  
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# film making MA

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

[www.kingston.ac.uk/pgfilmmaking](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/pgfilmmaking)

## About the course

### Course overview

This course will provide you with the opportunity to develop film production skills with both digital and analogue equipment, as well as a knowledge of the theories of contemporary cinema. You will be able to use high-definition digital video cameras and Macs running Final Cut Pro to apply these principles with the technology of the present. 8mm, super 8 and 16mm film cameras are available for those who wish to explore analogue forms of filmmaking. The focus is placed firmly on developing clear and simple storytelling techniques that go beyond arbitrary formal categorisations of drama, documentary or genre.

This course takes its inspiration from forms of cultural production that have challenged conformity, including the work of artists, musicians, painters and performers, and the movements of Italian neo-realism and the new cinemas of Africa, Latin America and Iran.

**“It’s important to travel your own path. Conformity is a fool’s paradise.”**

Tom Waits

### What you will study

During the course, you will study the basic principles of filmmaking, develop an understanding of the nature and potential of visual storytelling, and discover the importance of sound, lighting and the screenplay in filmmaking. You will produce a portfolio of moving-image projects to illustrate your technical ability in cinematography, sound recording, editing and writing/direction. You will also gain a sound knowledge of theories and ideas that can help in the interpretation of your own work and that of other filmmakers.

### Careers

The course will equip you for lifelong filmmaking and lifelong learning. The core skills will enable you to produce films in an independent, pragmatic and accountable manner, which will enhance your employability and begin the process of making you a genuinely independent filmmaker in command of your own material. This course will prepare you for employment within the film industry, self-employment or further study.

**“Film will be an art when the materials required to produce it are as inexpensive as paper and pencils.”**

Jean Cocteau

## Special features

- This course will enable you to gain professional film production skills using a wide variety of filmmaking equipment, and encourages you to synthesise your personal experience, critical knowledge and craft skills to express yourself through moving pictures.
- Your practical skills will be supported by a sound knowledge of the history and culture of filmmaking.
- All the staff on this course are practising filmmakers and committed academic researchers.
- The course is informed by practice and research in Black music and cinema, neo-realist cinema, experimental filmmaking, performance and dance, storytelling, participative documentary and ghetto cinema.
- Your studies will be split broadly into 75 per cent practice and 25 per cent theory.

## Course content

### Modules

The course consists of eight taught modules in practical filmmaking, and one supervised final film project.

### Semester 1 – Core modules

**Making Films** covers the principles of filmmaking through the three phases of pre-production, production and post-production. It is aimed at students with limited filmmaking experience.

**The Sound System** is an audio skills module that enables you to understand the vital importance of sound and music. Recording pure, crystal-clear sound in making films is essential.

**Visions of Light** is a skills module in which you will study cinematography; in particular, the role of light in film and video production. You will produce a short film indicating your grasp of composition, art direction and lighting.

**Film Script** encourages you to grasp the importance and inevitable presence of writing in the filmmaking process. You will produce an individual screenplay or documentary script for a project that interests you.



### Semester 2 – Core modules

**Reflecting Reality** is devoted to the history and practice of documentary filmmaking. It enables you to engage with issues based around consent and ethics in making and assessing documentary film.

**Action, Camera, Light** looks at the production of drama films. The emphasis is placed, as the title suggests, on action. You will be expected to show us your stories through action to make a genuine dramatic impact on your audience.

**Street People** builds on the principles established in the Film Script module in semester 1. It is specifically focused on the affordable aesthetics within the various forms of neo-realist filmmaking. You will produce an individual screenplay or documentary script for a project that interests you.

**Light Readings** covers the principles of experimental filmmaking in the broadest possible sense. You will be encouraged to explore and challenge received wisdom and established conventions of filmmaking.

### Final Film Dissertation project

#### The Film (60 credits)

Following successful completion of the modules in both semesters, you will be required to produce a final substantial film project where you will apply all of the production skills acquired in the preceding two semesters to produce a broadcast-quality film. You will choose the topic in negotiation with your tutor. You will be expected to demonstrate your creativity, technical skills and collaborative ethics in completing the film.

### Teaching staff

All of the staff on this course are practising filmmakers and committed academic researchers with years of experience.

This MA draws upon the expertise of staff within the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Art, Design & Architecture, and is informed by practice and research in Black music and cinema, neo-realist cinema, experimental film, performance and dance, storytelling, participative documentary and ghetto cinema.



## film making MA

### Entry requirements

- A passion for filmmaking
- A distinct and individual voice
- A good honours degree in a humanities subject (film, media studies, languages, history, English, etc) or in any other subject felt to relate to the art and craft of filmmaking
- Consideration is given to entrants with relevant personal and work experience who can demonstrate the interest, commitment and ability required to make their own films.

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier 4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on the course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

The University warmly welcomes mature students.

### Duration

One year full time or two years part time

### Attendance/delivery

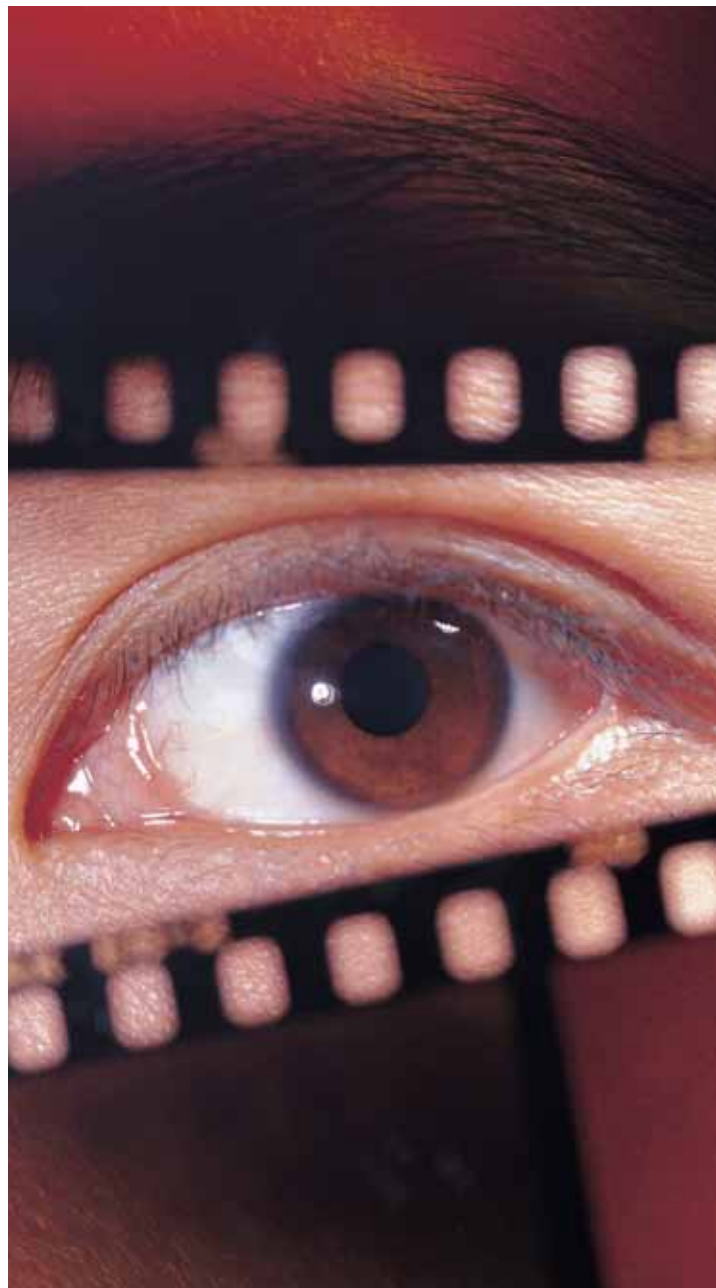
Some classes may require attendance during evenings and weekends. The Visions of Light module contains a residential element where you will spend one week on a group project. This is a modular programme based on credit accumulation. The full MA consists of eight taught modules and a supervised final film project.

### Assessment

The modules are assessed by a variety of methods, including film production projects, critical journal and essay writing and seminar presentations. The taught modules require regular weekly attendance, preparatory reading/viewing/drafting and production coursework. There are no formal examinations.

## Location

Located beside the River Thames, Kingston University is within the London travel-pass zone. Easily accessible from surrounding areas such as Surrey and Middlesex, its local train stations (Kingston; Surbiton) are also only 25 minutes from London Waterloo.



## Further information

### Contact details

Please contact the Faculty's Admissions Office with any further queries.

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