This Handbook is for all students of Visual Culture, including those taking degrees with the Minor components in Visual Arts or International Film. It should be seen as a supplement to the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures Handbook (available on the School webpages), which provides all general information about the SMLLC and which should be read carefully at the start of the year.

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The Visual Cultures degree strands include Visual Arts Minor and International Film Minor, as well as the Combined Honours programme. They offer you the opportunity to combine your study of a Modern Language (French, German, Italian or Spanish) or Comparative Literature and Culture (CLC) with a detailed exploration of the visual media which give expression to the distinctive cultures of these areas, and it allows you to do so in different proportions, according to your own interests. Those predominantly interested in film take the International Film Minor; those inspired by painting, fashion and other visual media take the Visual Arts Minor, while enthusiasts for both areas choose the Joint Honours programme in Visual Cultures which combines both strands.

All students taking these combinations have a chance to acquire a sound grounding in the skills and knowledge needed to interpret and analyse visual media and to be taught by specialists with research expertise in particular fields which involve visual as well as literary creativity.

**Learning Outcomes of the Visual Cultures degree programmes:**

Teaching and learning in the programmes are closely informed by the active research of staff. The multi-disciplinary nature of the Visual Cultures programmes encourages the development of a wide range of skills, both discipline-specific and transferable. In addition to the learning outcomes described for the Major or other Joint Honours pathways in the relevant handbooks, the Joint Honours Visual Cultures programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- acquire a broad and comparative knowledge of the theories and practices of visual media across a range of cultures;
- develop their awareness of the expression of cultural diversity, exchange and cross fertilisation in cinematic activity in and beyond Europe;
- acquire an understanding of how films function, evaluating them in relation to other films and to the film industry, nationally and internationally;
- develop an understanding of the significance of film for the expression of contemporary social and cultural issues, politics and ideology;
- develop analytical skills and critical approaches to visual media;
- think critically and communicate clearly about a range of visual arts, analysing works in relation to one another as well as with reference to other modes of cultural production across contexts.

For students taking the Visual Arts Minor programme, the emphasis is on the opportunities to:

- acquire a broad and comparative knowledge of the theories and practices of visual media across a range of cultures;
- develop analytical skills and critical approaches to visual media;
- think critically and communicate clearly about a range of visual media, analysing works in relation to one another as well as with reference to other types of cultural production across contexts.
For students taking the International Film Minor programme the following learning outcomes are emphasised through opportunities to:

- develop their awareness of the expression of cultural diversity, exchange and cross fertilisation in cinematic activity in and beyond Europe;
- acquire an understanding of how films function, evaluating them in relation to other films and to the film industry, nationally and internationally;
- develop an understanding of the significance of film for the expression of contemporary social and cultural issues, politics and ideology.

**Degree Combinations:**
These are the various combinations currently available within these visual pathways:

BA Comparative Literature and Culture with International Film  
BA Comparative Literature and Culture with Visual Arts  
BA Comparative Literature and Culture and Visual Cultures  
BA French with International Film  
BA French with Visual Arts  
BA French and Visual Cultures  
BA German and Visual Cultures  
BA Italian and Visual Cultures  
BA Spanish with International Film  
BA Spanish with Visual Arts  
BA Spanish and Visual Cultures

**Structure of the Visual pathways degree programmes:**

**JOINT HONOURS degree programmes with Visual Cultures as an equal component:**
Students take the following courses in Visual Cultures:

**Stage One:**
Students must take:
ML1301: Visual Arts 1: Artists and their Materials (Mandatory; condonable)  
ML1101 International Film I: Contexts and Practices (Mandatory; condonable)*  
ML1102 Birth of Film (Mandatory; condonable)  
Plus one option from a list of Stage One courses offered by the School for students on this programme  
Plus specified courses in the other subject.  

* CLC students already taking ML1101 as part of their CLC programme choose other Visual Culture option courses instead.

**Stage Two**
Students must take:
ML2302: Visual Arts 2: Genre and Movements (Mandatory; condonable)  
ML2101 International Film 2: Readings and Representations (Mandatory; condonable)  
Plus two options from a list of Stage Two courses offered by the School for students on this programme
Plus specified courses in the other subject.

(The Year Abroad:
Students taking Visual Cultures jointly with a Modern Language undertake a compulsory Year Abroad (YA) during the third year, which is standard across all single, joint and major language degrees at Royal Holloway. Students are assessed on the Year Abroad through an oral examination and work placement or study abroad unit. These assessments constitute a 13th and 14th unit in calculating the degree classification.)

Stage Three
Students must take:
ML3207 Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalisation in Contemporary Film
(Mandatory; condonable)
ML3211: Visual Arts Dissertation (5,000 words) (Mandatory; condonable)
Plus two options from a list of Stage Three courses offered by the School for students on this programme

Plus specified courses in the other subject.
(Students are not able to write more than two SMLLC dissertations.)

Descriptions of courses:
Up-to-date details of the compulsory, core and optional courses are available on the School webpages where you can find
- descriptions of the coverage and content
- methods of assessment
- details of key texts, viewing and recommended reading.

A typical sample range of these courses could include (all courses are half units):

Year 1
ML1301: Visual Arts 1: Artists and their Materials
ML1101 International Film I: Contexts and Practices*
ML1102 The Birth of Film
ML1204: A Special Theme in European Culture: The City*
FR1105: The Visual Image in French Culture and Society
SN1102: Text and Image in the Hispanic World
SN1105: Culture and Identity in Latin America
ML1230: Italian Art: Giotto to Arte Povera
* CLC students already taking ML1101 and ML1204 as part of their CLC programme choose other Visual Culture option courses instead.

Year 2
ML2302: Visual Arts 2: Genre and Movements
ML2101 International Film 2: Readings and Representations
FR2106 Cinema in France: From Modernism to the Postmodern
FR2107: The Illustrated Text in France
IT2340 Post-war Italian Cinema
IT2400: Art and Culture in Renaissance Florence
IT2500: Renaissance Transgressions
GM2124: Representations of Childhood and Youth in Modern German Culture
SN2013 Constructing Identity in Contemporary Spanish Film
SN2113 Twentieth-Century Mexican Visual Arts and Film [NB: a post A-level standard of Spanish is required since some films lack subtitles]
ML2403: Gender and Clothing in Twentieth-Century Literature and Culture

Final Year
ML3207 Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalisation in Contemporary Film
ML3211: Visual Arts Dissertation (5,000 words)
ML3307 Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalisation in Contemporary Film: Dissertation (5,000 words)
(NB ML3307 must be taken in conjunction with ML 3207)
ML3202: From Aestheticism to the Avant-Garde
ML3302: From Aestheticism to the Avant-Garde Dissertation (5,000 words)
(NB ML3302 must be taken in conjunction with ML 3202)
FR3112 Image, Identity and Consumer Culture in Postwar Fiction and Film
FR3113: Text and Image in France: Cubism to the Present
FR3114: Ethics and Violence: Murder, Suicide and Genocide in Literature and Film
FR3120: Wanton Women: Artists and Writers of the French Avant-Garde
FR3124: Blindness and Vision in French Culture
IT3860: Shooting History: Dictatorship, Terror and Crime in Italian Film
IT3980: Italian Fashion and Design
GM3132: Dream Factories: Recent German Film

MAJOR / MINOR degree programmes with International Film as the Minor Component:
Students must take the following courses in International Film:

Stage One
ML1101 International Film I: Contexts and Practices (Mandatory; non-condonable)
ML1102 Birth of Film (Mandatory; condonable)

Plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage Two
ML2101 International Film 2: Readings and Representations (Mandatory; non-condonable)
Plus one option from a list of Stage Two courses offered by the School for students on this programme

Plus specified courses in the other subject.

(The Year Abroad:
Students taking a Modern Language as a Major component undertake a compulsory Year Abroad (YA) during the third year, which is standard across all single, joint and major language degrees at Royal Holloway. Students are assessed on the YA through an oral examination and work placement or study abroad unit. These assessments constitute a 13th and 14th unit in calculating the degree classification.)

Stage Three
Students must take:
ML3207 Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalisation in Contemporary Film
(Mandatory; non-condonable)
ML3307 Transnationalism, Diaspora and Globalisation in Contemporary Film:
Dissertation (5,000 words) (Mandatory; condonable)

Plus specified courses in the other subject.

MAJOR / MINOR degree programmes with Visual Arts as the Minor Component:
Students must take the following courses in Visual Arts:

Stage One
ML1301: Visual Arts 1: Artists and their Materials (Mandatory; non-condonable)
Plus one option from a list of Stage One courses offered by the School for students on
this programme

Plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage Two
ML2302: Visual Arts 2: Genre and Movements (Mandatory; non-condonable)
Plus one option from a list of Stage Two courses offered by the School for students on
this programme

Plus specified courses in the other subject.

(The Year Abroad:
Students taking a Modern Language as a Major component undertake a
compulsory Year Abroad (YA) during the third year, which is standard across
all single, joint and major language degrees at Royal Holloway. Students are
assessed on the YA through an oral examination and work placement or study
abroad unit. These assessments constitute a 13th and 14th unit in calculating the
degree classification.)

Stage Three
Two half-unit options (mandatory) from a list of Stage Three courses offered by the
School for students on this programme, one of which would normally be ML3211
Visual Arts Dissertation (5,000 words)

Plus specified courses in the other subject.
(Students are not permitted to write more than two SMLLC dissertations.)

Descriptions of courses:
Up-to-date details of the compulsory, core and optional courses are available on the
School webpages where you can find
- descriptions of the coverage and content
- methods of assessment
- details of key texts, viewing and recommended reading.
Teaching and learning methods

We use a wide variety of learning and teaching methods consistent with the nature and demands of exceptionally wide-ranging disciplines that include literary studies, film studies, history, philosophy, music and the visual arts. Learning and teaching methods include lectures, seminars, tutorials, guided independent reading and research, small group work, self-study on Moodle. The choice of method depends on the nature of the subject-matter and group size. The Course Specifications give further information on this, and students are encouraged to consult these both before choosing their course options and during their study. The different teaching methods also promote different transferable skills. Seminars, for example, are highly useful for the development of non-subject specific skills such as leadership, negotiation and presentation, in addition to a range of subject-specific skills.

The structure of assessment is designed to enable students to demonstrate achievement of the intended outcomes in knowledge, understanding and skills (including transferable skills). Assessment forms include written examinations, coursework essays, assessed class work, oral presentations in class, Moodle tests, wikis and forums and dissertations/long essays. All coursework is returned with comments by the markers to provide formative assistance. Assessment criteria are included in SMLLC Handbook.

Teaching will normally take the form of one hour per week for each course. Visual cultures classes are conducted in English. Students will be encouraged to participate in these classes, which will combine a formal lecturing element with seminar or tutorial groups. Where appropriate, recorded material (audio and video) will be used.

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all classes. Failure to attend without good cause will normally result in disciplinary action. Students may not miss more than a total of two classes in succession or one week of work without submitting written medical evidence.

Requirements for the award of specific degrees

In all cases, the normal College progression regulations apply. In addition all students must pass the designated ‘Mandatory (non-condonable)’ half-units each year. In order to qualify for an award in the field of study, certain courses must be passed in the final year of study. Please refer to the relevant programme specification for further details of these courses.

The SMLLC sub-board of examiners will be responsible for scrutinising the results of courses taken within these degree programmes.

Detailed marking criteria and advice on assessment can be found in the SMLLC Handbook, which should be consulted in the first instance for all matters regarding to teaching, learning and administration of these degrees.
Studying:

Galleries

London is a world centre for museums and art galleries and many exhibitions are directly relevant to your Visual Cultures courses. Recent examples include: Matisse ‘The Cut-outs’ at the Tate Modern; ‘The Fashion World of Jean-Paul Gautier’ at The Barbican; ‘Against Mussolini: art and the fall of a dictator’ at the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art; ‘Royal Manuscripts: the Genius of Illumination’ at the British Library. The permanent collections of many of the capital’s museums are also an unparalleled asset for our Visual Cultures students. Course tutors will always announce exhibitions and some courses include specially organised visits to view particular collections. Royal Holloway’s own collections – most obviously those in the Picture Gallery – represent a valuable resource more locally and staff in the School collaborate closely with the curator, Dr Laura MacCulloch, to make them available for teaching and student learning.

Here as a ‘taster’ are links to just a few of the more well-known and extensive London galleries which we highly recommend you visit:

Victoria and Albert Museum: http://www.vam.ac.uk/

The Barbican centre: http://www.barbican.org.uk/

British Library: http://www.bl.uk/whatson/

Royal Academy: https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/

Tate Modern: http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern

Tate Britain: http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-britain

National Gallery: http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/

William Morris Gallery: http://www.wmgallery.org.uk/visit

Courtauld Gallery (University of London): http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/GALLERY/

Internet Resources:

The Moodle pages for particular Visual Arts courses give links to and details of many recommended online resources you can exploit.

‘Intute’: A very useful online directory of film and film-related resources: http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/film/

Some older films are out of copyright and available in various formats through online resources such as Youtube and the Internet Archive. See Moodle for more details and recommendations.
Film Screenings

In your first year courses (and in some of film courses in subsequent years) weekly film screenings will be arranged on campus. Details of time and venue will be confirmed at the start of term. We highly recommend that you make the effort to attend these screenings, and create a bit of atmosphere! Films shown will be on DVD or VHS, and students unable to attend the screenings should make alternative arrangements to ensure that they have viewed the set films.

Library Facilities and Film

The University Library on campus has viewing facilities, an extensive (and growing) collection of DVDs and videos, and an extensive selection of film studies and other relevant texts and books. We recommend that you take the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the library as soon as possible, and to take advantage of the film collection. The majority of the films you will study are available to borrow from the library, in most cases in multiple copies.

Cinemas and Other Screenings

We hope you enjoy studying film, and will want to expand your knowledge of cinema and film history by taking advantage, occasionally, of the unrivalled film scene in London and the surrounding area. In addition to the many local cinemas, the following are excellent places to discover interesting and important international films:

BFI Southbank - http://www.bfi.org.uk/incinemas/nft/

The Barbican Centre - http://www.barbican.org.uk/film

London Film Festival - http://www.lff.org.uk/


The Goethe Institut - http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/kue/flm/enindex.htm

The Curzon + Renoir Cinemas - http://www.curzoncinemas.com/flash/#main

UK Italian Film Festival (usually November) http://www.italianfilmfestival.org.uk/

London German Film Festival (usually November) http://www.germanfilmfestival.co.uk/

London Spanish Film Festival (usually September) www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com

UK French Film Festival (usually November) http://www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/