Welcome

The Department of Media Arts is world-recognised as a leader in its field, having been ranked in the top 10 UK media departments for over a decade in successive research assessment and excellence frameworks. Our programmes offer a genuinely unique and equal focus on students’ creative and critical abilities, enabling our graduates to flourish in the competitive creative industries sector and beyond. Led by award-winning, world class experts in the field, our degrees provide a uniquely balanced opportunity to gain both the creative practice skills you need, as well as the rigorous critical understanding of the intellectual ideas behind them to become future industry leaders.

Studying media arts is exciting and provocative: You will be taught by leading scholars in film, television and digital media alongside BAFTA-award winning creative professionals. You will engage with current debates that affect the cultural experiences of billions around the globe and place these in historical context. You will have the opportunity to take part in award-winning work-placement schemes, meet a host of professional guest-speakers, join industry trips and learn from our extensive Alumni network on how to make it in a range of creative careers around the globe.

To find out more about our courses, please visit us on one of our Open Days or contact our Admissions Tutor for more information.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Creative, Critical Community at Royal Holloway.

Professor James Bennett
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
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MORE INFORMATION
This brochure is designed to complement Royal Holloway’s Undergraduate Prospectus and information on the department’s website at royalholloway.ac.uk/mediaarts
It is also available as a PDF at royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere
Why study Media Arts at Royal Holloway?

At Royal Holloway you will join a creative and critical community engaged in all aspects of audio-visual media, from production to criticism. Media Arts students enjoy 24/7 access to our production facilities, including edit-suites, television studio and dedicated location equipment store, alongside a range of opportunities on our campus’ own newspaper, radio, television station and work placement scheme. We offer a genuinely unique combination and equal balance of creative practice and critical theory, allowing students to completely immerse themselves in the subject. A degree in Media Arts offers the following benefits:

• compelling and flexible degree programme, enabling you to specialise in an area of creative practice and pursue your intellectual passions, ranging from directing to documentary, screenwriting to social media, animation to sound design, cinematography to creative digital media
• you will be taught by world leading academics in creative practice and critical research including current media professionals whose work is screened at nationwide cinemas, international film festivals, on major television broadcasters such as the BBC and Channel 4, and at galleries and leading websites
• an exciting and dynamic range of critical theory courses taught by international renowned scholars in a range of specialist fields from Hollywood cinema, to British and European film, television history, digital culture, celebrity and world cinema
• a 360° approach to our Film Studies courses: allowing you to explore and understand film from every angle
• excellent technical facilities, which include a purpose-built digital television studio, two multimedia labs, and an art direction/scene construction space
• support from a dedicated and approachable technical team, including a props and art department, television studio manager and media technicians
• close links to the creative industries, including an extensive Media Arts alumni network (see p. 17) as well as regular guest speakers from a range of professions
• access to a competitive work placement scheme, including selective placements on ITV’s Coronation Street
• exciting career options. Over 75% of our most recent graduates were employed or in further study immediately after completing their degree. (see p.16 for more information)
• a supportive and inspirational environment, with students assigned personal advisors who provide academic advice and support, helping students develop their potential and leave with an exciting portfolio.
Our programmes

There are approximately 300 students in the Department of Media Arts, making us small enough to retain an individual and focused relationship with students. Students can choose from our unique BA Film, Television & Digital Production, which combines theory and practice equally; one of our Film Studies programmes, with degrees in BA Film Studies, BA English & Film Studies and BA Film with Philosophy; or the innovative BA/BSc Digital Media Culture and Technology, jointly run with the Department of Computer Science (see p. 10), which enables students to understand storytelling in a digital context combining creative and critical skills with coding.

SINGLE HONOURS
- BA Film, Television and Digital Production
- BA Film Studies
- BA/BSc Digital Media Culture & Technology

JOINT HONOURS
- BA English & Film Studies
- BA Film Studies with Philosophy

STUDY ABROAD/STUDENT EXCHANGE
All students in the Department of Media Arts have the chance to study abroad as part of their degree or as an additional year, where students spend one year studying at a top university abroad. These tend to take place at universities located in ‘media cities’ around the globe, including New York, Los Angeles, Sydney and Amsterdam.

Royal Holloway currently has full exchange agreements with several institutions abroad. If you are a student at one of these institutions, you may be able to apply to come to us on an exchange programme. However, you will need to direct your application through the Student Exchange Co-ordinator at your own university.

The College also has Study Abroad agreements with a number of other institutions in the USA, Brazil, Japan and Korea, and students from universities other than these may also apply to come to Royal Holloway as a visiting student by applying through our International Office.

Find out more at: royalholloway.ac.uk/international

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Students are admitted to the department on the basis of attainment in A-level qualifications or equivalents. If we are considering making you an offer, you will be invited to interview. Our decisions are made on the basis of grades, personal statement, interview and portfolio. Our interview process allows us to get to know students in a friendly and fun environment, enabling applicants to meet staff, current students and potential future classmates. Further advice on the portfolio and interview process are available on our website: royalholloway.ac.uk/mediaarts/prospectivestudents/undergraduate

We welcome applications from candidates with alternative qualifications, and special consideration will be given to mature applicants. If you wish to take a year off between leaving school and entering university we’re very happy to take applications for deferred entry. If we offer you a place, and you meet the conditions of the offer, your entry into the department the following year is guaranteed.
Degree structure

BA FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL PRODUCTION

The BA Film, Television and Digital Production degree offers a unique and equal balance between creative practical work and critical theory unavailable elsewhere in the country. You’ll place your creative ideas within a critical context that situates your work in not only current industry trends and cutting edge research, but also a global and historical perspective.

The degree provides a foundational first year where you’ll develop key creative skills, including the opportunity to make your own documentary, TV programme, screenplay and fiction films, alongside gaining a comprehensive grounding in the critical contexts of film, television and digital media required for more advanced study in the second and third years.

The flexible course unit structure enables you to specialise in a particular area of creative practice and follow your intellectual interests on the theoretical side of the programme. You take a core course in the Creative Industries in Year 2 and a Dissertation or Media Research Project in final year, but otherwise have freedom to choose electives from a wide variety of courses. You will acquire a range of transferable skills, including analytical writing and advanced experience of time management, research skills and team working. It provides a professional preparation for a broad spread of media and related careers as students gain practical and analytical experience and skills in producing, directing, writing, digital storytelling, cinematography, sound design, creative digital arts, animation, social media and documentary.

The following is a selection of course units that are likely to be available. Please note that although the College will keep changes to a minimum, new units may be offered or existing units may be withdrawn, for example, in response to a change in staff.

### Year 1

**All courses are compulsory**

#### Theory
- Film, Television and Digital Histories
- Critical Theory & Textual Analysis

#### Practical
- Introduction to Media Practice 1
- Introduction to Media Practice 2

### Year 2

**One core half unit, three half unit theory options and two full unit practice options**

#### Core
- Creative Industries

#### Theory
- Women’s Cinema
- Beyond Bollywood: Indian Cinema
- Modernism and Avante Garde Film
- Television Histories
- Digital Aesthetics
- Exotic Films
- Television Aesthetics
- Modern European Cinema
- Postclassical Hollywood
- Contemporary Chinese Cinema
- Cultures of Celebrity
- Digital Cultures

#### Practical
- Moving Pictures
- Screenwriting
- Producing Film and TV
- Creative Digital Arts
- Interactive Storytelling
- Creative Sound Design
- Screen Documentary
- Creative Social Media
- Directing Screen Fiction
- Animation and Visual Effects

### Year 3

**Dissertation or Media Research Project plus two half unit theory courses and one double-weighted practical unit**

#### Theory
- Poetics of Contemporary Television
- 360˚ Cinema
- Cinophilia
- Melodrama
- Contemporary British Cinema 1&2
- Transnational Cinema 1&2
- Film Aesthetics 1&2
- Psychoanalysis and Cinema
- Political Cinema
- Media Authorship
- See this Sound – Audiovisuology

#### Practical
- Moving Pictures
- Screenwriting
- Producing Film and TV
- Creative Digital Arts
- Interactive Storytelling
- Creative Sound Design
- Screen Documentary
- Creative Social Media
- Directing Screen Fiction
- Animation and Visual Effects
BA AND BSc DIGITAL MEDIA CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

Your choice of BA or BSc degree

Instagram created new visual cultures, LinkedIn created new employment spheres, and Twitter has changed the way we discuss politics. The creative industries are the UK’s fastest-growing economic sector, worth £71.4 billion a year and making up 5.6% of the workforce (Department of Culture, Media & Sport, 2014), and within the creative industries, digital media looks set to grow the fastest over the next few years. Opportunities are everywhere.

A ground-breaking collaboration between the Department of Media Arts and Department of Computer Science, this three-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree will introduce you to all the key elements of digital media culture and technology, with a focus on the creative and cultural aspects in your course options for years 2 and 3. It will equip you for an exciting career in this ground-breaking field, giving you the critical and creative skills to excel in media production and an appreciation of the technologies that make it all work. The programme’s modular structure gives you the flexibility to tailor your studies to your own interests.

We don’t just teach surface readings of today’s digital and social media, we give you an understanding from the ground up. We will help you to harness the power of digital media cultures and work with the latest, emerging forms, from VR to 360° cameras to Snapchat, alongside developing a range of skills in coding, design and data analytics that form the technical basis of today’s digital communications. We put heavy emphasis on project-based learning and regular industry involvement. Our broad curriculum will also prepare you for more advanced study in either media arts of computer science, or related fields if you decide to progress within academia.

- Be a part of two exceptional departments. The Department of Computer Science ranks 11th in the UK and the Department of Media Arts is in the top 10 for research quality (Research Excellence Framework 2014).
- Thrive on our creative campus – we have regular industry visitors and close contact with other arts departments and student societies.
- Learn the story-telling and the science: you will study how social media works on an aesthetic and social level, as well as on a more data-grounded, technical level.
- Enjoy the flexibility to tailor your degree according to your interests and graduate with either a BA or BSc, depending on your choice of courses.
BA FILM STUDIES

Film and television don’t just shape culture: they create it. Our unique 360° approach to cinema allows you to understand film from every angle: from stars to directors, historical origins to contemporary economics, socio-political contexts, to aesthetic achievements and from the dynamics of screenplays to the global cultures that shape production, reception and film form itself. You’ll come away from the course speaking confidently about concepts and ideas, with the ability to deftly critique them, too – ideal skills for the communication industries, creative arts and beyond.

Taking this approach, you will study film and television from Hollywood and Europe, Bollywood, Asia and Latin America alongside a range of more experimental non-narrative film, television and digital media forms, including the opportunity to study television, digital culture and aesthetics. Taught in partnership with the film experts in Royal Holloway’s School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, there is particular emphasis on a diverse range of European cinema.

You’ll get a comprehensive grounding in the history and theory of moving image media, including the opportunity to undertake courses in screenwriting. After a grounding in the key theoretical and historical aspects of film in your first year, you can go on to explore those topics that intrigue you and capture your attention in film and television’s rich artistic, social and political traditions.

• Work with world-leading experts in European and World cinema, and award-winning practitioners from across the media industry.
• Join a creative, critical community that ranks in the top 10 for research quality in Media Arts (Research Excellence Framework 2014).
• Thrive on our creative campus – we have regular industry visitors and close contact with other arts departments and student societies.
BA ENGLISH & FILM STUDIES

This exciting programme provides students a distinctive blend of English and Film Studies. Students graduate with an outstanding English degree complemented and enhanced by an understanding of the links between literary and visual media through Film Studies. You will gain an appreciation of the relationships between English literature, poetry and dramatic writing and the forms they take on screen – especially through the fascinating process of adaptation. The programme offers:

• teaching by world leading professors and academic staff from both the English and Media Arts departments
• a highly flexible syllabus informed by cutting-edge research from two leading academic departments, with the opportunity to pursue your own individual intellectual interests and develop your own specialisms
• a vast array of course choices, enabling students to study everything from Shakespeare to The Sopranos, from contemporary novels to classic Hollywood, and from poetic practice to experimental film
• an understanding and appreciation of the complex relationship between visual media and English literature, poetry, drama and prose
• a comprehensive grounding in the history and theory of moving image media, and the opportunity to develop your own appreciation and understanding of film’s rich and diverse artistic, social and political traditions
• the opportunity to pursue your own creative writing and analyse the latest developments in English literature and film, including a chance to specialise in screenwriting
• a curriculum that provides students with a global outlook on film and English writing, exploring Shakespeare and Bollywood, European film and Victorian literature, from around the world.

BA FILM STUDIES WITH PHILOSOPHY

This course offers the opportunity to combine Film Studies with Philosophy, the latter comprising 25% of the course. You will receive a comprehensive grounding in the history and theory of moving image media, and have the opportunity to develop your own appreciation and understanding of film and television’s rich and diverse artistic, social and political traditions. The Philosophy course units will complement your studies by deepening your understanding of issues such as contemporary politics, literature and art. The programme offers:

• innovative teaching from internationally recognised professors in two leading academic departments
• an appreciation of how film and television interact with society, and the way in which they help to shape our realities
• a critical understanding, and ability to employ, philosophical argument in the analysis of film, such as ancient philosophy and reason, argument and persuasion
• an opportunity to study film in a variety of contexts, from Hollywood movies to European cinema, UK Television to non-Western films, and from global television to non-narrative audio-visual forms
• a foundational first year that introduces students to critical, historical and cultural approaches to the study of global film, television and other screen media, alongside an introduction to ancient philosophers such as Aristotle and Plato as well as specialist fields such as the philosophy of art and radical political theory
• a flexible degree structure that enables students to develop and follow their own intellectual interests, with teaching comprising everything from screenings, seminars, lectures, workshops and debates
• a wide range of transferable analytical and communication skills that are highly valued by employers.
Teaching, assessment and facilities

24/7 access to production facilities on campus and dedicated loans services for off campus equipment use helps brings your creative ambitions to reality with maximum flexibility.

Teaching in the Media Arts department is organised around a mixture of lectures, seminars, screenings, tutorials and practical classes, such as performance, editing, filming and screenwriting. Students experience a range of supportive learning environments, innovative and varied assessment instruments as well as a rigorous and demanding curriculum.

TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS INCLUDE:
• a low staff/student ratio, which ensures seminars for critical courses are no bigger than 16 and much smaller for practical courses
• a variety of written and oral assessment in critical courses, which expand and test students’ abilities in a range of communicative and analytical contexts, including essays, exams, blogging, film reviews and pitches
• a range of audio-visual assessment exercises, from control of your own film project to collaborative documentary, script writing, budget control, exercises in editing, sound design and the creation of your own exhibition installation
• all students write a final year dissertation or undertake an industry research project on a topic of their choice that allows them to explore an area of academic of interest in detail.

FANTASTIC FACILITIES
From year 1 you will gain practical experience using the department’s excellent technical facilities, which include a multi-purpose soundstage and digital television studio, two multimedia labs, and a production design/scene construction space. Our technical support team has an extensive range of industry and educational experience and provides operational training and advisory support for project work including camera operation, location sound recording/production sound, art department and post production.

You will have exclusive 24/7 access to 39 Apple computers linked to the department’s own media file server, which operate in the two labs, the sound recording studio and in 12 individual editing rooms, some of which are additionally equipped with 5.1 surround sound monitoring. Installed applications include Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro and Adobe Creative Suite. The location services store offers a stock of professional DVCAM/HDV video camcorders, NXCam Super 35mm sensor camcorders for the Directing Screen Fiction and Moving Pictures options, and an extensive range of location sound recording and lighting equipment, all of which can be used for coursework and students own personal projects. Students joining us from 2017 onwards will be part of our move to 4k Ultra HD as well as development of a range of innovative filmmaking technologies, including VR headsets and 360˚ cameras.
Your future career

We begin equipping students with the skills to build a successful career after graduation from their first year. Most importantly, because we place an equal weight on developing production expertise and creating content, with building critical and analytical skills, Royal Holloway’s Media Arts graduates are well equipped with highly transferable skills required to enter a wide variety of careers. Recent past graduates include BAFTA-winning actress Georgina Campbell, Glastonbury Headliner Example (Elliot Gleave), BAFTA-award winning documentary maker Sophie Jones and more.

As media skills expand into all walks of life, students find their degrees applicable to an ever increasing number of career pathways – some examples are listed below. Over 75% of our most recent graduates were in employment or further study six months after graduation. Recent employers include BBC, Sky, Sony Computers, Left Bank Pictures, Duke of York’s Theatre, Christian Dior, Apple, Momentum Pictures, ITV and Warner Brothers, and a number of graduates go on to form their own companies.

Media Arts alumnus Elliot Gleave (aka Example) returned to Royal Holloway to talk to students about his music career and working in film and television.

Employability skills are embedded across students’ degrees with further enabling and enhancement opportunities throughout their time at the University, including industry trips, professional guest speakers for individual courses and masterclasses, support for festival entry and our #getahead scheme for finalists and 2nd years that offers a chance to ‘speed date’ an employer, gain one-to-one feedback from an industry expert on CVs and career goals, learn about freelance employment rights and how to set up your own business. https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/mediaarts/yourfuturecareer/placement-employment-and-industry-links.aspx

All graduates leave with a highly-valued degree that provides a range of transferable skills:

- ability to work independently
- time management, planning and research skills
- ability to articulate knowledge and understanding of concepts and theories
- ability to lead and participate in discussions and have confidence in your own opinions
- skills in working with others when creating and presenting ideas
- ability to convey effectively arguments and opinions, and encourage independent and creative thought
- problem-solving using negotiation skills
- using judgement when weighing up different options and alternative perspectives
- skills in critical reasoning and analysis

MEDIA ARTS PLACEMENT SCHEME

We also run an award-winning work placement scheme, open to all second year students in the department. Successful students gain at least two weeks of work experience within a respected production company, this is a fantastic opportunity to find out how the skills you have learnt are applied in a real-life industry situations, network and make contacts. Students on the scheme are given support and the valuable chance to develop and practice the skills involved in applying for jobs, including CV and application writing, covering letters, interview technique and making a pitch. Unsuccessful applicants will be able to take advantage of one to one coaching and support in finding alternative schemes as well as industry networking events run at the Royal Television Society. The scheme has been running for a number of years and past students have worked with companies including Remedy Productions, Combined Mind, ITV, Dogwoof pictures and the Raindance Film Festival. In addition, we run a competition for a work placement scheme on ITV’s Coronation St.

CAREERS SUPPORT

The department works with the College’s dedicated Careers Service to help you to enhance your employability and prepare you for the choices ahead. Media Arts students can access a wide range of tailored opportunities on campus, for instance a part-time jobs fair which provides students with access to local employers, a wide variety of skills workshops, and a new series of themed careers weeks including ‘Creative Careers’, offering you the chance to explore the diverse range of occupations available to you. royalholloway.ac.uk/careers
Royal Holloway is widely recognised on the world stage as one of the UK’s leading teaching and research universities. One of the larger colleges of the University of London, we are strong across the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. We were ranked 19th in the UK (129th in the world) by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015, which described us as ‘truly world class’.

As a cosmopolitan community, with students from 130 countries, we focus on the support and development of the individual. Our friendly and safe campus, west of central London, provides a unique environment for university study. We have been voted as one of the 16 most beautiful universities in the world (Daily Telegraph).