

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2017-18

MSt in Film Aesthetics

About the course

The MSt in Film Aesthetics equips you with the skills and knowledge necessary for analysing film as an art form. It concentrates on film criticism, detailed film analysis, film theory and film-philosophy and teaches the history and the contemporary developments in the scholarly literature relating to these aspects. It encourages thoughtful and imaginative engagement with film as a medium and with individual films.

The MSt in Film Aesthetics is degree in the humanities run jointly by the faculties of Modern Languages, English, and Philosophy.

The course concentrates on film from the point of view of aesthetics, including:

- the detailed study of film style and form, and the articulation of it in writing - for example, narrative structure, use of camera, colour, performance, sound, music, editing and composition;
- matters of philosophical aesthetics, and their particular application to film such as value and evaluation, appreciation, ontology, medium, intention, expression, meaning/interpretation, creativity, beauty, metaphor, symbolism, fiction, storytelling, convention, stylistic groupings and histories, emotion, imagination, and the relation between ethics, morality and aesthetics; and
- classic and contemporary film theory and film-philosophy as they relate to film aesthetics: film specificity, spectatorship, modernism, phenomenology, affect, and the work of film philosophers such as Hugo Munsterberg, Rudolph Arnheim, Gilles Deleuze and Stanley Cavell.

Many master's programmes concentrate on historical, cultural, geographical, or political approaches to film and may only contain an aesthetic component. This programme is dedicated to the specialist study of film aesthetics.

The course runs from late September to June, from two weeks before the first term to the end of the last term.

Two weeks before term officially begins, you will attend a practical film workshop for one week. Although the degree itself is not practical, this week acts as an introduction to film techniques and allows the group to work with each other before the degree begins. This part of the course is not assessed.

In the first two terms the course is taught by seminar only, although there will be individual meetings with tutors to discuss essay preparation and feedback. In the third term the course is taught by individual supervision.

The first term of the course will look at the analysis of film style and film form, train techniques of film analysis and look at key concepts in film form, film criticism, film theory and film-philosophy.

The second term consists of four short segments, each covering a particular aesthetic topic. This part of the course provides you with the opportunity to engage with four different areas of specialisation.



The topics for the second term change from year to year but may include:

- film and phenomenology
- aesthetics of Italian cinema
- spaces of American cinema (eg the invaded home)
- film and modernism
- contemporary theories of spectatorship - embodiment, ethics and politics
- cinema of the non-human
- the film-philosophy of Stanley Cavell
- contemporary Chinese cinema

In both the first two terms there will be four different modules each lasting four seminars (eight modules in total across the terms). In both these terms there will be two seminars per week. Seminars vary in length depending on the module (90 minutes to three hours). In the third term there will be individual tutorial supervision of the dissertation. You will be expected to read quite extensively for seminars and supervisions, and also view films. All the staff involved in delivering the course have doctoral degrees (most are at professorial or associate professorial level), in many cases are leaders in their fields and have extensive experience of teaching their area of film studies.

Assessment is by two 6,000-word essays, one 3,000-word essay and a 10,000-word dissertation. The dissertation, written in the final term, provides an opportunity to work with a tutor in your chosen area of specialisation.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Expected length of course

9 months

Annual fees for entry in 2017-2018

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£6,745	£3,021	£9,766
Overseas	£18,080	£3,021	£21,101

The fees shown above are the annual tuition and college fees for this course for entry in the stated academic year; for courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Tuition and college fees are payable each year for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay tuition and college fees).

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2017-18 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

	Likely living costs for 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£250	£350	£2,250	£3,150	£3,000	£4,000
Accommodation	£538	£619	£4,844	£5,569	£6,459	£7,425
Personal items	£115	£255	£1,035	£2,295	£1,380	£3,060
Social activities	£40	£119	£358	£1,073	£477	£1,431
Study costs	£38	£83	£338	£743	£451	£991
Other	£22	£45	£196	£407	£261	£543
Total	£1,002	£1,471	£9,021	£13,237	£12,028	£17,649

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2017-18, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs.

20 October 2016