

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION INTEGRATED PHD

1	Teaching Institution(s)	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
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2	Strand Title	FILM STUDIES
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3	Strand Aims:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. to gain an advanced knowledge and understanding of film studiesii. to undertake a general training in research methods and management within film studiesiii. to undertake a specific training in research methods and techniques relating to an approved research projectiv. to undertake a research project which will make an original contribution to knowledge and understanding in the subject area.v. to gain a range of professional and key skills which will enable students to engage in research at an advanced level in higher education or in a senior professional capacity in other fields of employment.vi. to gain a range of professional and key skills which will enable students, depending on module choice, to engage in teaching at an advanced level in higher educationvii. The programme conforms to the Higher Education Qualifications Framework.

4	Strand Learning Outcomes:
A	Subject Knowledge and understanding
	Knowledge and understanding of:
A1	One or more national cinemas
A2	The major modern film theories
B	Research skills, techniques and issues
	A detailed understanding of and ability to apply techniques for research and advanced academic study including:
B1	The critical appraisal of the views of others
B2	Detailed analysis of 'film language'
B3	Shot-by-shot breakdown of sequences of film
C	Research project management
	The ability to:
C1	Establish a suitable research project
C2	Produce a research proposal and plan
C3	Manage the project
C4	Write up the project
D	Personal Research Project

The completion of a PhD thesis in the field of Film Studies which constitutes an original contribution to knowledge and understanding and which contains material worthy of publication.
(*PhD*)

E Professional and key skills

The acquisition of a range of professional and key skills including:

- E1 Communication
- E2 Presentations
- E3 Library skills and IT
- E4 Referencing to a professional standard
- E5 Teaching small groups (optional)
- E6 Preparation of teaching materials (optional)

5 Strand Learning Outcomes, Teaching and Learning Strategies and Methods

A Subject knowledge and understanding

Acquisition of the basic knowledge (fundamental concepts, principles and practice) is achieved through a combination of lectures, seminars, practical classes. Students must be able to identify visual and aural material, and be familiar both with the history of at least one national cinema, and with the basic theories underpinning critical debates in Film Studies. As the formal teaching is in essence small group teaching this facilitates discussion of key issues rather than a didactic approach. The students practice the application of concepts both orally and in writing and gain experience in the analysis and interpretation of laboratory data and published work. Students are expected to undertake independent reading to supplement and consolidate the material provided in lectures, seminars etc and to broaden their individual knowledge. They are given extensive support and guidance on reading materials and how to use them.

B Research skills, techniques and issues

Research techniques are formally taught in lectures, supported by syndicate practicals to test acquisition of techniques of film analysis. They are in addition developed through independent reading and seminar discussion (B1 and B2). B3 is developed through individual and syndicate work on dedicated machines. Small group teaching allows critical appraisal skills to be taught, discussed informally and assessed through case studies.

C Research project management

Research project management is taught by lectures and seminars given on the research training programme (ART800, FMS843), and through individual and group supervision sessions. Students are encouraged to learn by reading successful theses, and evaluating research proposals and plans. Through their research project students gain first hand understanding of how to formulate and test hypotheses. They also gain an understanding of how research programmes are designed, implemented, adjusted and managed.

D Personal Research Project

The main vehicle for the learning outcome of the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research is the personal research project. This is supported through individual and group supervision. Students are expected to undertake independent reading in order to understand the relationship of their work and its themes to a wider field of knowledge.

E Professional and key skills

The rationale is to provide opportunities for 'hands-on' development of the skills within an explicit conceptual framework, underpinned by formative feedback. Communication skills are developed in seminars and workshops (E1, E2, E4) throughout the programme. Library and IT skills are taught in the initial research training (ART800, SML800) and reinforced throughout the remaining modules. Teaching skills are taught on the optional Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice, although students who do not take this option within the programme may well be offered teaching for which they will be monitored (although not assessed). This element of the programme is intended to enable individual students to select and tailor learning experiences in accordance with their own professional/personal needs and may therefore vary from student to student. Teaching/learning methods include: workshops; formal training sessions; videoed exercises; groupwork; simulations; presentations; practical exercises; case studies; interactive seminars/tutorials and role-play.

6 Strand Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies and Methods

A Subject knowledge and understanding

Assessment of the knowledge base is achieved through a combination of assessed coursework eg essays, practical write-ups, reports and oral presentations.

B Research skills, techniques and issues

The main strategy is to test acquisition of the necessary practical techniques/skills and conceptual understanding that underpins effective project design etc. This is achieved through a variety of methods including assignments, case studies, presentations, and practicals. A group element may be present to test the ability to work collaboratively. The final viva assesses the contribution of the research work to the field of study and also assesses the level of competence and mastery in relation to specific techniques, procedures and methodologies.

C Research project management

The Film Project module, whose focus is a 'literature review', functions as the first attempt to delineate the thesis topic. Ultimately this learning outcome is assessed through the timely submission of the thesis.

D Personal Research Project

The Graduate School has a commitment to the delivery of Postgraduate Training of the highest possible quality which includes the aim of monitoring the progress of each research student. This is achieved through a standard set of guidelines for the assessment of student's progress. Candidates will be assigned a supervisor by the Programme Director to provide guidance and advice throughout their studies.

The Film Project essay (FMS843) is submitted at the end of semester 1 year 2 (full-time; year 3 part-time). It is reviewed by the School of Modern Languages Postgraduate Board of Studies as part of the School's monitoring procedures for postgraduate students by research. The essay, accompanied by a statement of progress by the student forms the basis of an assessment including interview. The assessors will provide a written assessment of the project report and the performance at interview, together with a recommendation as to whether or not the postgraduate should continue his/her studies.

Students are also required to submit a specimen chapter from the thesis and progress report in a similar July monitoring meeting, and thereafter annually in January and July. These documents will form the basis of a further independent assessment to ensure that the student's progress continues to be satisfactory.

The learning outcome is assessed by the examination and defence of the thesis in a viva voce examination conducted by an internal and external examiner.

E Professional and key skills

The assessment strategy is to provide formative feedback to the student as the skills develop rather than summative assessments, although where students elect to take QSU801-3, teaching skills (including oral presentation skills, preparation of materials, classroom management) are assessed summatively as part of the Institute of Learning and Teaching's accreditation.

7 Strand Framework

The Integrated PhD will provide broad-based research training in contemporary Film Studies, available both in full-time and part-time mode. It will contain a significant, specifically tailored, taught component, annual assessment and original research culminating in a thesis. The Integrated PhD comprises 540 credits of which 200 are taught modules covering subject knowledge; research techniques; and professional/key skills.

The rationale for having both full-time and part-time mode is to allow students who wish to develop a vocationally-oriented PhD the time to develop training and expertise in Film Studies while in full-time employment.

The programme begins with a combination of compulsory research training and taught modules selected from a list of options. The research training modules comprise generic skills (IT and library skills, thesis management), general theoretical discourses in the humanities, and discipline-specific skills. In the case of the discipline-specific skills, some flexibility is offered depending on prior learning with a choice between a more theoretical module for candidates who have had less training in this area, and a more historical module for those candidates whose experience of cinema does not extend to consideration of a wide variety of national cinemas. The taught modules are normally taken over years 1 and 2 of the full-time programme, and years 1 to 3 of the part-time programme.

The aim of this structure is to establish a progress-based programme with a firm foundation in both research skills and broad knowledge of film studies which will form the basis for extended research beginning in year 2 of the full-time programme, and year 3 of the part-time programme. The fully research-focused part of the programme is introduced by a Film Project whose topic will normally be that of the thesis.

It is recognised that a doctoral thesis should be a piece of work which a capable, well-qualified and diligent student, who is properly supported and supervised, can produce within four years of commencing the Integrated PhD programme. The thesis should constitute an original contribution to knowledge and understanding and contain material worthy of publication. The thesis will normally be 40,000-60,000 words in length.

In years 2-4 (full-time) and years 2-6 (part-time) of the Integrated PhD programme candidates will be subject to School of Modern Languages assessment procedures, ie two annual monitoring panels comprising written work and an interview with two independent assessors. The final award of the degree will be dependent on submitting a satisfactory thesis and undergoing an oral examination with two examiners (one internal and one external).

Students who decide not to proceed to year 2 full-time or year 3 part-time, or whose progress is deemed to be unsatisfactory, may enter for the degree of Masters in Film Studies.

The taught element of the programme shall consist of taught modules to a value of 200 credits selected with the agreement of the Degree Programme Director and taken over years 1 and 2 (full-time) or years 1 to 3 (part-time) of the programme.

a) *Full-time candidates*

i) In Year 1 candidates will take the following compulsory modules to the value of 40 credits:

ART800 Research Methods (10)

SML800 Research Methods in Cultural Studies, Film Studies, and Linguistics (10)

And, by agreement with the Degree Programme Director,

EITHER

FMS842 Hollywood and beyond (20)

OR

FMS838 Introduction to the Theory of Film (20)

They shall select additional modules from the list of options below to the value of no less than 60 and no more than 80 credits so as to bring the value of taught credits in the first year either to 100 or 120.

ii) In Year 2 candidates will take the following compulsory research module:

FMS843 Film Project (40)

b) *Part-time candidates*

i) In Year 1 Semester 1 candidates will take the following compulsory modules to the value of 40 credits:

ART800 Research Methods (10)

SML800 Research Methods in Cultural Studies, Film Studies, and Linguistics (10)

And, by agreement with the Degree Programme Director,

EITHER

FMS842 Hollywood and beyond (20)

OR

FMS838 Introduction to the Theory of Film (20)

ii) In Year 1 Semester 2 and Year 2 they shall select additional modules from the list of options below to the value of no less than 60 and no more than 80 credits so as to bring the value of taught credits in Years 1 and 2 either to 100 or 120.

iii) In Year 3 candidates will take the following compulsory research module:

FMS843 Film Project (40)

c) All candidates shall select additional modules to the value of either 80 or 100 credits from the list of options below so as to bring the total value of taught credits to 200.

d) Candidates may choose from the following list of options. Modules offered by any Faculty in the University may also be selected, up to a maximum of 20 credits, subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director.

FMS820 Westerns: The Evolution of the Hero (20)

FMS821 The Biblical Epic (20)

FMS822 British Cinema 1: 1930-1950 (20)

FMS823 British Cinema 2: 1960s-present (20)

FMS824 Class & Sex in the British Cinema (20)

FMS826 French New Wave (20)

FMS827 Hollywood Cinema 1: Film noir (20)

FMS828 Hollywood Cinema 2: Romantic Comedy (20)

FMS829 Lubitsch (20)

FMS840 Introduction to the Hollywood Musical (20)

FMS841 New Zealand Cinema (20)

FMS844 Gender Theory and Film (20)

FMS845 Chinese Cinema, Culture and Society (20)

FRE820 Contemporary French Cinema (20)

QSU801-803 Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (60)

RST835 Religion and Film (20)

SPA822 Recent Spanish Cinema (20)

SPA823 Almodóvar (20)

8 Strand Learning Outcomes and Curricular

A Subject Knowledge and Understanding

One or more national cinemas (A1) are taught in FMS838, FMS842, FMS843; optionally in FMS822, FMS823, FMS824, FMS826, FMS827, FMS828, FMS840, FMS841, FMS845, FRE820, SPA822. The major modern film theories (A2) are taught principally in FMS838, FMS844, and passively in many options.

B Research Skills, Techniques and Issues

All skills will be taught in the majority of the modules, with a specific emphasis on B3 (shot-by-shot breakdown of film sequences) in FMS838 and FMS842.

C Research Project Management

Students learn research project management skills through the preliminary Film Project in year 2 full-time (year 3 part-time) (FMS843) and by undertaking their personal research project in years 2-4 (full-time; years 3-6 part-time) of the programme. This covers how to produce a research proposal and plan; managing the project; and writing up the project. The learning outcomes of the ability to produce a research proposal and plan and how to manage the project are also taught in the Faculty Induction module on managing a PhD.

D Personal Research Project

The learning outcome of the completion of a thesis in the field of Film Studies is achieved through the personal research project undertaken in years 2-4 (full-time; years 3-6 part-time) of the programme.

E Professional and key Skills

Communication (E1) and Presentations (E2) will be taught in SML800 and reinforced passively in the majority of the modules. Library skills and IT (E3) and referencing to a professional standard (E4) will be taught in ART800, SML800 and FMS843, and reinforced passively in the majority of the modules. Teaching small groups (E5) and Preparation of teaching materials (E6) will be taught in QSU801-3 as an option.

9 Support for Students and their Learning

All students are registered in the Graduate School which has excellent infrastructure to support postgraduate students and their learning.

A Induction Programmes for New Research Students

The Graduate School organises an induction event for all new research students which includes introductions to key figures and services in the Faculty and University, such as the Careers Service. This is followed by a reception which provides an early opportunity for students to interact socially. In addition, students on the Integrated PhD programme will have their own specifically tailored induction event when the programme content will be explained in detail. Candidates are provided

with a Degree Programme Handbook detailing curricular assessment methods, degree regulations, and sources of help and support.

B Study Skills Support

Training in professional and key skills are an integral part of the programme. Students with weaker profiles in English language are also directed to attend in-session English classes at the Language Centre.

C English Language Support

For students whose native language is not English, there is a specifically designed English language course for students working in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

D Academic Support

Candidates benefit from a strong team of academic support. The Graduate School is headed by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies and there is a Degree Programme Director who oversees all stages of the Integrated PhD. Module leaders and individual teachers provide academic support for the taught elements of the programme. From year two onwards candidates are appointed a lead research supervisor and, in many cases, a secondary supervisor, depending on the nature of the project and research expertise required. As candidates are placed in research groups in areas of research strength in the Faculty, they benefit from the support of other research workers in the team.

E Pastoral Support

Students will be entitled to the full range of pastoral and personal support offered to postgraduate students which includes the University's Student Counselling Service, the Student Advice Centre and the Graduate School Office in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. On an almost daily basis students can consult their research supervisors. The School of Modern Languages has a postgraduate tutor to whom students can turn in confidence if they feel unable to discuss issues/problems with their supervisor, mentor or Head of School. At a Faculty level, pastoral support is provided by the Faculty Graduate School Administrative Assistant and Degree Programme Director. Administrative and welfare support is provided by the Faculty Graduate School Office.

F Support for Special Needs

The University has a Disability Unit to which the attention of all students is drawn. The University is also developing its service to mature students and to students who have childcare responsibilities. Hardship funds are available for both UK and international students.

G Learning resources

The University Library provides an excellent centrally-funded service for supporting student learning. It was the first university library to receive a Charter Mark for Excellence (1995, reviewed 1998). It has an extensive Film Studies collection, as well as a specialist film database and some specialist periodicals; and we have a reciprocal agreement with the Library at the University of Northumbria, which has an extensive collection in Film Studies, including specialist periodicals.

Students will be able to use a variety of facilities, at present mainly located in the Old Library Building in the School of Modern Languages: the film archive in the Merz Room, which contains dedicated hardware and software for the manipulation of images, whether on magnetic tape or digitally; the Open Access Centre, which has many films available for viewing as well as a variety of hardware (PCs, monitors), and recent issues of *Sight and Sound*; the Old Library Computer Cluster; the School of Modern Languages Postgraduate Room.

The University Computing Service provides comprehensive computing facilities for all students at many open-access sites on campus, including provision for disabled access, with regular upgrades of equipment and software and management of student web accounts. There is remote access both on site and in halls of residence to the Library catalogue and other services. The School of Modern Languages has a dedicated Postgraduate Study Room with networked PCs.

The University Careers Service advisers contribute to induction meetings, highlight the support and guidance available and help students to monitor the development of key skills. The Faculty has a dedicated careers officer who is always available for consultation and contributes to teaching on the programme.

There is also a Language Centre which provides pre-sessional and in-sessional programmes for students who need support with English for academic purposes.

10 Methods for Evaluating and Improving Quality and Standards

Module reviews: Every two years through the School of Modern Languages Postgraduate Board of Study.

Programme reviews: Annually through the School of Modern Languages Postgraduate Board of Study and through the School of Modern Languages Postgraduate Board of Examiners.

External examiner reports: Considered routinely by the School of Modern Languages Postgraduate Board of Study for taught elements; evaluated at Graduate School level for individual thesis reports.

Accreditation reports: Not applicable.

Student evaluations: conducted routinely for taught elements; modified form for thesis element contains more evaluative comment which is considered by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies.

Feedback Mechanisms: Boards of Study; Staff/Student committees.

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms: Taught Programme Review and Subject Review for taught elements.

	ART800	SML800	FMS838	FMS842	FMS843	FMS820	FMS821	FMS822	FMS823	FMS824	FMS826	FMS827	FMS828	FMS829	FMS840	FMS841	FMS844	FMS845	FRE820	QSU801	RST835	SPA822	SPA823	Thesis
A1 One or more national cinemas			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
A2 The major modern film theories			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
B1 The critical appraisal of the views of others			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B2 Detailed analysis of 'film language'			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
B3 Shot-by-shot breakdown of sequences of film			X	X																				
C1 Establish a suitable research project					X																			
C2 Produce a research proposal and plan					X																			
C3 Manage the project	X																							X
C4 Write up the project					X																			X
D Thesis																								X
E1 Communication		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
E2 Presentations				X	X														X	X				
E3 Library skills and IT	X																							X
E4 Referencing to a professional standard	X	X	X																					X
E5 Teaching small groups																				X				
E6 Preparation of teaching materials																				X				