



The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester

Faculty of Humanities

School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

**MA Handbook 2025-2026**

**Drama and Film**

**(MA Film Studies)**

**Please Note:**

Information relevant to all postgraduate taught programmes in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (SALC) can be found in the School Postgraduate Taught Handbook, which should be read and used as a reference in conjunction with this handbook. The School Handbook is available online here:

<http://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/studentintranet/postgraduatetaught>

## **Welcome message from the MA Film Studies Programme Director**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all MA students to our Film Studies programme, which sits within Drama and Film in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures. Postgraduate study at Manchester is well supported by a vibrant community of internationally engaged and research-active staff and a lively postgraduate student community. We hope you will find your time with us intellectually stimulating as well as socially and professionally rewarding.

Within Drama, staff specialisms cross three main strands that comprise our particular profile: theatre and performance studies, applied theatre, and film and screen studies. These areas interlink, with both staff and students keen to cross the boundaries from one area of research to another. The notion of 'dialogue' – with ideas, practices, and communities – is at the heart of all our practical and intellectual explorations. More information of our research activities may be found [here](#). We also have close links to the [Institute for Cultural Practices](#) (ICP), which provides a platform for engaged research and professional development in dialogue with cultural producers and organisations in Greater Manchester and beyond.

The MA Film Studies programme is situated within this interdisciplinary environment and seeks to bring together the theoretical study of film with aspects of applied practice, in ways that allow you to apply your exploration of film to 'real world' contexts and scenarios.

This handbook offers subject-specific information intended to help you navigate your studies with us. Do take the time to read it carefully, and do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions at all.

**Dr Victoria (Vicky) Lowe**

**Senior Lecturer in Drama and Film Studies**

**Postgraduate Taught Programmes Subject Area Director**

**Programme Director for MA Film Studies**

**SL04 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Martin Harris Centre**

**Victoria.s.lowe@manchester.ac.uk**

## **Aims and Objectives**

### **The programme aims to:**

1. Enhance students' capacity to systematically engage in advanced research and practice in film studies, both on an independent basis and in collaboration with their peers, and thereby to prepare students for further academic study and/or employment in the field.
2. Facilitate the study of a comprehensive range of specialist areas within film studies, taking in both theory and aspects of applied practice
3. Foster students' skills in critically evaluating current and advanced scholarship in film studies, to develop critiques of that scholarship, as well as developing the ability to interrogate their own and their peers' professional practises.
4. Build links between the University of Manchester and diverse professional contexts and communities in Greater Manchester and beyond.
5. Encourage the research and practice of film studies that engages with creative methods, non-traditional and/or community sites, and with issues relating to social transformation, critique and responsibility.

## **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)**

On successful completion of the programme a typical student will be able to:

### **A. Knowledge & Understanding**

- 1) Demonstrate a critical and conceptual grasp of contemporary, theoretical and historical approaches to interpreting films and film cultures
- 2) Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of specialised areas of film studies
- 3) Demonstrate a critical awareness of contemporary social and political contexts of films and film cultures
- 4) Display advanced knowledge and understanding of the creative processes and techniques in film studies through close analysis, systematic research and/or practical engagement in areas such as film criticism, documentary filmmaking, and participatory practice

### **B. Intellectual Skills**

- 1) Analyse and evaluate current problems and critical debates in the field of film studies
- 2) Synthesise information from a range of sources
- 3) Present a coherent and compelling academic argument, showing evidence of independent and critical judgement
- 4) Solve research problems with a high degree of imagination and critical insight
- 5) Undertake sustained and independent research for their dissertation

### **C. Practical Skills**

- 1) Plan, coordinate and execute film studies and practical projects, including projects for arts-related and/or community contexts and settings, and dissertations
- 2) Search, retrieve and analyse information from a range of specialist, academic and professional sources
- 3) Communicate project objectives and plans in written and verbal form, for specialist and non-specialist audiences, and demonstrating critical insight into the process
- 4) Understand and employ appropriate academic conventions for presentation of written work

#### **D. Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities**

- 1) Communicate effectively in academic writing exercises and seminars
- 2) Search, retrieve and analyse information from a variety of sources
- 3) Apply creative and practical film analysis and research skills to diverse professional and/or community settings
- 4) Manage time and work to deadlines
- 5) Exercise initiative and personal responsibility
- 6) Use the appropriate IT technologies
- 7) Work effectively as a member of a team

## Programme structure

**Full time (12 months) (codes ending in 1 taught in Semester 1, codes ending in 2 are taught in Semester 2).**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Core (compulsory) modules (60 credits)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |
| DRAM71331 Film Theories Debates and Approaches                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 30 |
| DRAM71442 Film Cultures: Research, Industries and Practice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 30 |
| <b>Optional modules (30 credits each)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |    |
| <i>Students select from a range of study or practice-based options for up to 60 credits across the year (30 in Sem1 and 30 in Sem 2). Some study options also have optional practice-based components. Availability varies yearly. Some options may have a cap on numbers because of its specialised mode of delivery; please consult the Course Unit Director or your Programme Director prior to registration</i> |    |
| DRAM 60151 Approaches to National Cinemas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 30 |
| DRAM 60171 Independent Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 30 |
| DRAM 60182 Approaches to Audiences and Fandom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 30 |
| SALC68812 Creative Producing and Managing Projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 30 |
| ENGL60152 Queer Cinema and Beyond                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 30 |
| HIST61132 Introduction to Documentary Filmmaking in the Arts & Humanities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 30 |
| SALC70300 Placement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 30 |
| <i>Students may choose from other free choice options (maximum 30 credits) from another programme in the humanities or social sciences, subject to the approval of their programme director.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| <b>Summer</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |
| Core module                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |    |
| DRAM70990 Dissertation or DRAM 70980 Dissertation by Practice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 60 |

**Part-time (24 months)**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Year 1: core modules (60 credits)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |
| DRAM71331 Film Theories Debates and Approaches                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 30 |
| DRAM71442 Film Cultures: Research, Industries and Practice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 30 |
| <b>Year 2: optional modules (60 credits)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |    |
| <i>Students select from a range of study or practice-based options for up to 60 credits across the year (30 in Sem1 and 30 in Sem 2). Some study options also have optional practice-based components. Availability varies yearly. Some options may have a cap on numbers because of its specialised mode of delivery; please consult the Course Unit Director or your Programme Director prior to registration</i> |    |
| DRAM 60151 Approaches to National Cinemas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 30 |
| DRAM 60171 Independent Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 30 |
| DRAM 60182 Approaches to Audiences and Fandom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 30 |
| SALC68812 Creative Producing and Managing Projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 30 |
| ENGL60152 Queer Cinema and Beyond                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 30 |
| HIST61132 Introduction to Documentary Filmmaking in the Arts & Humanities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 30 |
| SALC70300 Placement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 30 |
| <i>Students may choose from other free choice options (maximum 30 credits) from another programme in the humanities or social sciences, subject to the approval of their programme director.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| <b>Year 2, Summer</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |
| DRAM70990 Dissertation or DRAM70980 Dissertation by Practice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 60 |

## **Teaching and learning methods**

Teaching and learning methods will vary according to the specificities of each taught module, and may include:

- Seminars, including discussions, and individual and group exercises exploring key concepts and problems in set readings
- Individual and small-group tutorials and/or supervision
- Practical workshops, involving live and engaged exploration of creative methods and issues arising in research and practice in professional and community settings, including the use of real-world scenarios and case studies
- Screenings and discussions of case study films and examples of relevant film practice
- Supervised placements and projects supporting work-based learning

## **Assessment methods**

Assessment methods will vary according to the specificities of each taught module, and may include

- Written and audio-visual essay assignments
- Reflective and evaluative reports on projects and placements
- Film analysis and practice (including documentary filmmaking, participatory video, fieldwork and workshop exercises and projects and/or both), accompanied by appropriate documentation and written reflection and analysis
- Dissertation, including Dissertation by Practice

*For full details on how to format and submit coursework, word limits and penalties, assessment criteria, and other details, please consult the assessment section of the School PGT Handbook.*

## **Style guidance for academic writing**

All written coursework must be submitted in typewritten form, using 1.5 line spacing or double spacing, and the complete word count (including footnotes, but not bibliography) must be listed at the end of the document. The title/question should be clearly written at the top of the first page and the pages must be numbered throughout. Your student ID number (not your name) should be placed in a header at the top of every page.

Written coursework in Drama — including footnotes and bibliographies — should be formatted according to any standard academic style sheet (Harvard, Chicago, etc). Whichever further guidance may be found on the [Library's pages](#). The Library also conducts training workshops and surgeries should you require further assistance.

## **Dissertation and Dissertation by Practice**

*This provides an overview to the module. More detailed information can be found in the module handbook. Please speak to your Programme Director if you have questions.*

You may write a dissertation on any topic of your choosing, subject to finding an academic who will agree to supervise it, and subject to the approval of your MA Programme Director. When choosing a subject to research you should remember the length of the dissertation (12,000 words), and that the academic genre this most closely corresponds to is a long article in an academic journal. You should have already familiarised yourself with the standard journals in your subject area, and be familiar with the scope and ambition of the articles that appear in them. Dissertations, like articles (depending on the journal), may be strongly based on original primary source research, they might aim to re-interpret an already well-trawled area of the subject, or they might take up an approach somewhere between these two extremes. In all cases, however, the authors will have chosen and elaborated a body of relevant material (an ‘archive’) which they bring to bear on a clearly defined issue. One of your first tasks after you have settled on a dissertation topic should be to establish the scope of this archive with your supervisor. Topics that are too ambitious in their coverage run the risk of spreading themselves too thinly. As an MA student, you will be expected to demonstrate a critical knowledge of the relevant existing literature, but also to distinguish clearly the contribution that you are making to the subject. It is, of course, important to construct an argument within your dissertation and justify the relevance, and expound the significance of your findings.

Though work on the research outline and the dissertation begins earlier in the year, progression to the Dissertation is officially confirmed at the examination boards in Summer and is dependent upon successful completion of the taught stage of the Master’s, either at first attempt or by resit/resubmission in August.

## **Research Outline**

You are required to successfully complete a written Research Outline (key dates to be provided) and present your proposal in a small group presentation before you will be allowed to proceed on to the Dissertation.

We strongly recommend that you contact one or more members of academic staff with appropriate experience in their chosen field for advice and feedback on the proposed research before submitting the written proposal. Contact details and research interests for members of staff in Drama are provided in the final pages of this handbook. There are also academic staff members across SALC working in film, screen and media-related areas, such as in English and American Studies, Languages and Intercultural Studies, and so on.

The Research Outline and presentation is marked on a pass/refer basis. It is not given a numerical mark and in that sense does not contribute towards your overall degree result. A successful Research Outline/presentation will contain all the elements specified in the handbook, and will demonstrate satisfactorily that this is a viable project capable of being brought to completion in the time available.

Successful completion of the Research Outline results in an agreement in principle to proceed to the dissertation. Students who do not achieve the agreement in principle will be allowed to resubmit the Research Outline up until the final submission date for Semester 2 coursework. Re-submissions can be made at any time before that date and students can re-submit as many times as might be required before the final deadline. All submissions and re-submissions should primarily be made online via

Turnitin. Instructions will be received from the PG Taught Programmes office.

### **Research Ethics**

Any Masters students conducting research that involves contact with people are required to complete an online decision tool. Its purpose is to enable you to decide, in conjunction with your tutor/supervisor, whether your project raises ethical issues that require an application for ethical approval to the School Ethics Committee and/or the University Research Ethics Committee. For more information, see the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures research ethics pages:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/environment/governance/ethics/>

### **Supervision of Dissertations**

You are entitled to up to 4 x 30 minute supervisions. Two of these should have occurred before the end of May and the subsequent two before the end of June. In most cases supervisors will not be available in July and August, so you should plan your research accordingly.

Your supervisor is permitted to read and comment on draft versions of your dissertation. Your supervisor will read short extracts from your dissertation as part of the normal supervision process, provided such extracts are submitted at least 3 working days before the date of the supervision. Please remember, in the case of longer pieces of work, that your supervisor will need sufficient time (at least a week) in order to be able to read and comment on your work.

It is your responsibility to contact your supervisor to arrange a supervision meeting.

*Two workshops on Dissertation preparation, research and writing will be conducted at the end of Semester 1 and at the start of Semester 2. This will be timetabled and attendance at the workshops is compulsory.*

### **Dissertation Presentation Guidance**

For full guidelines please refer to the guidance document '[Presentation of Taught Masters Dissertations](#)'.

### **Additional information for Dissertation by Practice**

The Dissertation by Practice consists of a written dissertation (5,000-8,000 words) and a practical component. The expectation is that the practical component will consist of a piece of audiovisual practice (15-30 minutes), or an applied film studies project, the scope of which must be discussed with the supervisor.

The practical project should be an integral part of the dissertation research. The practical component should be completed by the end of Semester 2. This is to allow students adequate time for writing up.

Where the practical research involves direct interventions with human beings, the dissertation proposal must be submitted for ethical approval prior to the commencement of the practice (see guidance on 'research ethics' above).

For practice taking place outside of the University, a risk assessment *MUST* be completed and lodged

with the Course Unit Director *BEFORE* the student begins work in that setting.

Note: *The dissertation will receive one mark based on an assessment of the practical and written components together.*

### **Research Outline for Dissertation by Practice**

The following information must be included in the Research Outline for practice-based dissertations:

- Title
- Description of project
- Evidence of student having sufficient skill and experience in the practice proposed
- Evidence that the practical component is manageable within the time constraints of the period of study
- Research aims of project and relationship of practice to written component
- Where collaboration is involved (e.g. production, film making) the responsibilities of the student and element of the practice to be assessed should be clearly explained and agreed
- Details of how a 'permanent' record of the practice will be created (see assessment details below)
- A list of resources required (please note – resources must be agreed with Head of Drama.  
Requirements will be carefully assessed and offered subject to availability and equitable treatment for all students)
- Details of other organisations involved and a record of their agreement to take part (actors, venue, technicians etc.)
- A schedule for project

## **Self-Directed Learning, Research Activities and Skills Training**

In addition to attending taught modules, all postgraduate students are expected to undertake their own programme of self-directed learning and skills acquisition. This may involve self-directed reading, language acquisition, computer training, attendance at research seminars in Drama and other departments, visits and voluntary work in cultural sector organisations, and many other activities.

MA students are also expected to participate in the broader research culture of the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures. MA Film Studies students are strongly encouraged to attend Drama's research seminar series, known as *Cultivating Research*. These include talks, performances, demonstrations and works-in-progress by staff, external speakers and PhD students. Further details will be disseminated by the Programme Director.

Other research activities include seminars in other disciplines, CIDRAL events, postgraduate colloquia, public lectures, conferences, workshops, and reading groups. Complete details of all university events can be found on the University's [events page](#). You will also receive email reminders about upcoming events from the PGT Director or through the department's postgraduate newsletter.

The Graduate School runs a comprehensive skills training programme with workshops on research skills, academic writing, planning for your dissertation, the ethical approval process, applying for jobs, and many other topics. Training resources and further details can be found on the Blackboard pages for SALC60000 Research Skills for Graduate Education. You can also find out information about skills training, personal development, study support, internships and career events in the School PGT Handbook.

## **Academic Advising and Personalised Learning Plans**

Your Academic Advisor is your point of contact for any issues you may be facing regarding your intellectual, personal and professional development. Your Advisor, like all academic staff, will have advertised office hours, outside of which appointments will need to be made.

## **University Support Services**

If you feel that you would like to contact University Support Services directly, and not via the School, or you want to talk to somebody outside the School, please see details below and here:

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/>

### **University Counselling Service**

The Counselling Service is available to all students at the University of Manchester. The service provides confidential counselling by a team of professional counsellors for students who want help with personal problems affecting their studies or well-being. It is a free service. You can contact the Counselling Service via their website to make an appointment.

Website: <http://www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/counselling/>

### **University Disability Advisory and Support Service**

The University has a Disability Advisory and Support Service (DASS), whose aim is to assist students, both prospective and current, who are affected by substantial and long-term conditions. If you

register with DASS the team can assess and identify your needs whilst studying at the University. DASS offer a wide range of support to students and they will meet with you to discuss the support that suits you as an individual.

The Disability Advisory and Support Service will inform the academic School of your condition (with your consent) and suggest ways in which the School and academic staff can support you throughout your duration of your studies. When discussing your support, DASS will ask whether you would prefer not to disclose details of your disability/support needs to the School. Please note that if you choose to limit disclosure in this way, it will affect the support that the School is able to provide. Further information can be found here: <http://www.dso.manchester.ac.uk/what-support-can-i-get/>

In addition to this the DASS also:

- a) Deal with enquiries from prospective students with regard to all aspects of their disability-related support whilst at the university
- b) Assist students with applications to their funding body (e.g. LEA, NHS, GSCC) for Disabled Students' Allowance and undertake assessments of their support needs
- c) Liaise with other members of staff in the university to ensure that they can facilitate the needs of disabled students
- d) Operate an Equipment Loan scheme for students
- e) Assist students to organise personal helpers and support workers, if appropriate
- f) Undertake dyslexia screenings for students who think they may have dyslexia
- g) Advise on external sources of financial support and assistance and help with application to these funds

For further information visit the Disability Advisory and Support Service website at:  
<http://www.dass.manchester.ac.uk/>

If you register with DASS, you may receive automatic extensions for written work as part of your University Support Plan. More information about these is available here:  
<http://www.dso.manchester.ac.uk/autoext/>

Examinations support may be put in place, if it is identified as appropriate during your assessment with DASS. In order to be considered for exam support you will need to be fully registered and have your University Support Plan in place. If you are not already fully registered with DASS and you wish to be considered for Examinations Support, or you feel that your existing support recommendations should be reviewed, please note that there is a deadline before each of the main examination periods in January, May and August. In order to be considered, you will need to ensure that you meet with an adviser before the deadline. Deadline dates for 2025-26 will be circulated by email and available on the DASS website: <http://www.dass.manchester.ac.uk/what-support-can-i-get/exams/>

The School has a Disability Support Coordinator who is based within the Student Support and Guidance Office. The Disability Coordinator acts as a central contact point for students within the School who have queries about their support and as a liaison between the DASS and the School. For further information please refer to our website:

<http://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/studentintranet/support/disability/>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY HELD A DASS SUPPORT PLAN AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT THE UNIVERSITY YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY AGAIN.**

## **Students Union Advice Centre**

The Students Union has advisers who can help with all kinds of matters ranging from finances to housing and welfare issues. The Advice Centre is on the first floor in the Student Union Building, and is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, term time and vacation. Appointments can be made via the Student Union Reception. Further information is available here:

<https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/top-navigation/advice-service/contact-an-advisor>

## **Student Support and Advice at the Atrium**

Based in the University Place building, The Atrium is a University service where you can access information, guidance and advice. There are specialist advisers who can provide advice on careers, volunteering, managing money, international programmes, and support and well-being. The service at the Atrium will provide general advice and guidance, but we would strongly recommend that you contact the School Student Support and Guidance Office for detailed advice and guidance on matters such as mitigating circumstances; interruptions to study and appeals/complaints. Further information is available here: <http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/>

## **Study Skills websites**

The University Library has an award winning study skills programme called My Learning Essentials. Full details are available on the Library's website:

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/academicsupport/mylearningessentials/>

## **University support for mature students**

The Burlington Society is the University society for mature students and postgraduate students. For further information please see:

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/burlington.society>

For further information on support for mature students, please see:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/mature-students/>

## **University Support for international students**

The International Society is a busy centre for international students based in the Greater Manchester area. Its office is located on the ground floor of the University of Manchester's Students' Union (see map of campus). Manchester has more students from abroad than anywhere else in Britain, other than London, and International Society members come from all over the world.

Website: <http://www.internationalsociety.org.uk/>

## **Facilities for Students**

Academic staff in Drama are largely based in the **Martin Harris Centre**, which offers dedicated spaces for postgraduate students.

### **Postgraduate Common Room and Computer Cluster**

Postgraduate Common Room (Room F33, keypad code: C6729Z) and the Postgraduate Computer Cluster (Room F32, keypad code: C0812Y). Both are available for students to work 24/7. Admission to the building after hours is by swipe-card. Lockers may also be available for use on a first-come-first-served basis. Please speak to the Programme Director or the Martin Harris Centre reception if you have queries.

### **Lenagan Library**

The DVD Library is now housed at Muriel Stott in the Main Library. It houses a collection of over 1,000 films on video and DVD, which may be viewed at the library's private viewing suites.

### **John Thaw Studio Theatre**

The John Thaw Studio Theatre is the main theatrical 'laboratory' of the Drama department and is used for many different kinds of performances, rehearsals, and lecture/workshops. It is particularly valuable as an experimental arena for new and innovative work.

### **Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall**

The Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall seats 350 spectators, and is the primary venue for the concerts and recitals of our fellow staff and students in Music. It also hosts occasional interdisciplinary events, such as previous stagings of Brecht/Eisler's *The Mother*, Monteverdi's *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*, and Harrison Birtwistle and Tony Harrison's *Bow Down*.

### **Equipment**

Camera and sound kits, including for Virtual Reality production, and the use of editing suites either in the Martin Harris Centre, the Media Centre or the Film Lab in Humanities Bridgeford Street will be available for postgraduate work. Please consult your course tutors.

### **Social media**

Drama runs a [blog](#) and [Twitter feed](#) to which staff and students can contribute articles of interest and connect to the wider community. To contribute to the blog, contact your Programme Director.

## **Graduate School**

The Graduate School is located in the Ellen Wilkinson Building and offers work spaces and lockers for postgraduate students. The Graduate School also runs a [blog](#), providing information on training, workshops, conferences, funding schemes and other topics of interest to postgraduate students. They also have a [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#).

## **Libraries and other research resources in Manchester**

The University of Manchester Library on campus is one of the largest academic libraries in the country, and offers a truly extraordinary range of books, periodicals, playtexts and electronic resources. Its annexe, the historical John Rylands Library on Deansgate normally houses rare books and special collections.

Manchester as a city is also extremely well-provisioned with other libraries and archival resources, including one of the best municipal libraries in Britain: Manchester's Central Library (also containing [North West England's BFI archive](#), and the Henry Watson music library) in St Peter's Square. Other important resources are the Whitworth Art Gallery, the Manchester Art Gallery, Cheetham's Library, the Portico Library, the library of the Royal Northern College of Music, and various library resources at the Manchester Metropolitan University. Further information about these can be obtained from leaflets available in the University of Manchester Library, or by direct enquiry at the particular institution.

## **Libraries beyond Manchester**

Most postgraduates may expect at some time to use the resources of the British Library in London. An application form for a Library reader's card should be obtained well before any intended visit. Advice on visiting other major libraries beyond Manchester, like those at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh, as well as specialist libraries such as the library of the British Film Institute in the Southbank can be obtained from your supervisor or from the University Library helpdesk.

## **Theatres and Cinemas**

Manchester and the north-west area have the richest conglomeration of theatres and cinemas in Britain outside London. HOME, on First Street, is Greater Manchester's flagship mixed arts centre for international contemporary art, theatre and film, with many exclusive screenings annually. Besides HOME and the commercial multiplexes, there is also the Everyman Cinema in Manchester's city centre (on Quay Street) as well as in Altrincham. Contact Theatre, an innovative company specialising in theatre for young audiences, is based on campus in a purpose-built theatre. Large-scale touring works can be seen at the Lowry in Salford Quays, or at the Palace Theatre and the Opera House in the city centre. Aviva Studios, the home base for Manchester International Festival, is located in the St John's Quarter. There are a number of fringe theatre pub venues and community cinemas, such as the Savoy in Heaton Moor and Small Cinema in Moston. Only slightly further afield are the Bolton Octagon, and various cinemas and theatres in Liverpool, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent, Mold, Lancaster, Leeds, York, Harrogate and Scarborough.

## **Key Dates for Full Time Students**

### **Semester One Coursework**

Please refer to the coursework deadlines as stated in your individual course unit outlines/handbooks

#### **Submission of Written Research Outline**

To be confirmed.

### **Semester Two Coursework**

Please refer to the coursework deadlines as stated in your individual course unit outlines/handbooks

#### **Resubmitted Coursework**

To be confirmed.

#### **MA Dissertation Submission**

To be confirmed.

## **Key Dates for Part Time Students**

### **Semester One Coursework**

Please refer to the coursework deadlines as stated in your individual course unit outlines/handbooks

#### **Submission of Written Research Outline (for year part-time year 2 students only)**

To be confirmed.

### **Semester Two Coursework**

Please refer to the coursework deadlines as stated in your individual course unit outlines/handbooks

#### **Resubmitted Coursework**

To be confirmed.

#### **MA Dissertation Submission (for part-time year 2 students only)**

To be confirmed.

**Please note that all work should be submitted by 14:00 (GMT/BST) on the deadlines listed above\* - otherwise late submission penalties are enforced**

**\*Please also note that some course units may have alternative coursework deadlines to those listed above. Please see the individual course unit handbooks for confirmation.**

#### **Late Submission**

Please see the School's late submission penalty information in the School PGT Handbook here:  
Page 51: <https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=14089>

If you are registered on units outside of the School, you should ensure that you are aware of the penalties that will be imposed for late course work submission for that School. Schools may operate different penalty schemes for late submission.

## Staff in Drama

Overall responsibility for Drama rests with the **Head of Drama, Dr Felicia Chan**. All academic staff have advertised office hours posted outside their offices. Students should feel free to consult individual tutors and instructors during teaching weeks. The following offers a snapshot of academic research areas of interest across the Subject Area. For more up to date projects and publications, please refer to [individual profiles online](#).

Please note that other academic staff members teaching in film-related courses within the School are not listed here. Your Programme Director will be able to direct you to the relevant member of staff should you have a query.

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| <b>Dr Cara Berger</b><br><a href="mailto:cara.berger@manchester.ac.uk">cara.berger@manchester.ac.uk</a>        | <b>Senior Lecturer in Theatre and Performance</b><br><br>Ecology and ecocriticism; feminist and queer theatre; dramaturgy and performance curation; devising practices; European theatre; live art.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Dr David Butler</b><br><br>david.g.butler@manchester.ac.uk                                                  | <b>Senior Lecturer in Screen Studies (on research leave Semester 1 25/26)</b><br><br>Film music (particularly in relation to race and gender), audio-visual style and the fantastic on screen as well as aspects of film history (especially the development of film noir and fantasy cinema), the process of adaptation and the use of sound. Co-founder and director of the Insight Film Festival and Delia Derbyshire Day.            |
| <b>Dr David Calder</b><br><br><a href="mailto:david.calder@manchester.ac.uk">david.calder@manchester.ac.uk</a> | <b>Senior Lecturer in Drama</b><br><br>Questions of creative work and labour, theatrical space and time, and historical transmission and cultural intelligibility; contemporary street theatre and industrial heritage and urban redevelopment; history and historiography of modern and contemporary theatre (particularly French theatre), street and site-specific performance, theatre and performance theory, and research methods. |
| <b>Dr Felicia Chan</b><br><br><a href="mailto:felicia.chan@manchester.ac.uk">felicia.chan@manchester.ac.uk</a> | <b>Professor in Screen Studies (on research leave 25/26)</b><br><br>Construction of national, cultural and cosmopolitan imaginaries in cross-cultural, diasporic and multilingual cinemas (primarily East and Southeast Asian cinemas, as well as British Chinese filmmaking); influence of institutional and industrial practices on the production, distribution and reception of film;                                                |

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|                                                                                                                       | film festival economies. Co-founder of Chinese Film Forum UK.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Dr Rachel Clements</b><br><br>rachel.clements@manchester.ac.uk                                                     | <b>Lecturer in Drama</b><br><br>Contemporary theatre practice, and in particular, British playwriting; dramaturgy; documentary theatre; feminist practice; and the relationships between performance and politics, and performance and philosophy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Dr MaoHui Deng</b><br><br><a href="mailto:maohui.deng@manchester.ac.uk">maohui.deng@manchester.ac.uk</a>           | <b>Lecturer in Film Studies</b><br><br>Cinema and time/temporality; cultural narratives of ageing, care and dementia; modernity and decoloniality; film distribution, exhibition and reception.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Dr Kate Dorney</b><br><br><a href="mailto:kate.dorney@manchester.ac.uk">kate.dorney@manchester.ac.uk</a>           | <b>Senior Lecturer in Theatre &amp; Performance</b><br><br>Gender, sexuality and identity in twentieth and twenty-first century theatre and performance practice; directing and design for performance; theatre history and historiography; Shakespeare; arts funding; performance documentation and curation and museum and heritage practice.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Dr Sophie Everest</b><br><br>sophie.everest@manchester.ac.uk                                                       | <b>Senior Lecturer in Film Practice</b><br><br>Worked extensively in TV production for BBC, ITV and Channel 4, and currently co-runs Belle Vue, a film production and creative research company; teaches film practice (particularly documentary forms) and her practice-based research uses film to capture and initiate relationships between people and objects within museums, archives and heritage spaces; particularly interested in film as a socially engaged practice that invites collaboration and co-creation. |
| <b>Professor Maggie B. Gale</b><br><br><a href="mailto:maggie.gale@manchester.ac.uk">maggie.gale@manchester.ac.uk</a> | <b>Chair in Drama</b><br><br>Gender and performance, identity and representation in twentieth-century theatre, solo women performers, theatre historiography, and twentieth century British theatre.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Professor Cathy Gelbin</b>                                                                                         | <b>Professor of Film and German Studies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| cathy.gelbin@manchester.ac.uk                                      | Modern German-Jewish culture, with a particular focus on issues of gender and sexuality. Special interests in Holocaust representations and contemporary German-Jewish culture in the European and global contexts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Professor Jenny Hughes</b><br><br>jenny.hughes@manchester.ac.uk | <b>Professor in Drama</b><br><br>Contemporary and historical practice of socially and politically engaged theatre; activist theatres, theatre in the Middle East, and applied theatre. Has published on theatre and the war on terror, applied theatre, theatre in places of conflict, applied theatre research methodologies and activist and protest theatres.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Dr Alison Jeffers</b><br><br>alison.jeffers@manchester.ac.uk    | <b>Senior Lecturer in Applied Theatre and Contemporary Performance (on research leave Sem 1 25/26)</b><br><br>Had several years' experience as a community artist, director and trainer before moving into higher education. Teaching interests include aspects of contemporary performance, particularly the use of actuality and verbatim accounts, personal narrative and autobiography in performance; adaptation for live performance and new writing; storytelling in performance. Research interests focus on theatre with diasporic and displaced communities, particularly with refugees, as well as performances of citizenship and cosmopolitanism. |
| <b>Dr Vicky Lowe</b><br><br>victoria.s.lowe@manchester.ac.uk       | <b>Senior Lecturer in Drama and Screen Studies</b><br><br>Stage to screen adaptation, intermediality, screen acting and stardom, the voice on film and contemporary British cinema and theatre.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Dr Simon Parry</b><br><br>simon.parry@manchester.ac.uk          | <b>Senior Lecturer in Drama and Arts Management</b><br><br>Contemporary arts practices with a particular interest in performance practices that engage with scientific research, activist performance, arts in education and arts management practices.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| <b>Professor Stephen Scott-Bottoms</b><br><br>stephen.bottoms@manchester.ac.uk | <b>Professor of Contemporary Theatre and Performance</b><br><br>Alternative and experimental performance practices in the US and UK from the 1960s to the present. Recent practice-based research has explored the use of site-specific performance as a vehicle for dramatising environmental change.                                                                                      |
| <b>Dr Johannes Sjöberg</b><br><br>johannes.sjoberg@manchester.ac.uk            | <b>Lecturer in Screen Studies</b><br><br>Development of the documentary film genre and its challenges; screen practice as research; authenticity and subjectivity in documentary films; ethnographic film and visual anthropology; crossovers between applied theatre and participatory video; film genres; and the use of fiction and projective improvisation in ethnographic filmmaking. |
| <b>Dr Andy Smith</b>                                                           | <b>Lecturer in Theatre Practice</b><br><br>Practitioner and researcher of contemporary performance; works mainly through practice, researching questions of form and resource in the theatre-making process, with a particular focus on principles of simplicity and accessibility.                                                                                                         |
| <b>Professor James Thompson</b><br><br>james.thompson@manchester.ac.uk         | <b>Professor of Applied and Social Theatre</b><br><br>All aspects of applied theatre, particularly in places of war and conflict; Founder and co-director of AHRC and Leverhulme funded research project, <a href="#">In Place of War</a> .                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Dr Darren Waldron</b><br><br>darren.waldron@manchester.ac.uk                | <b>Senior Lecturer in French and European Screen Studies</b><br><br>Representations of gender, sexuality, and ethnicity in French and Spanish cinema and their reception.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |