



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Faculty of Humanities

FILMSTUDIES

MA Film Studies

Info Session 2024

Dr Jacob Engelberg, Film MA Programme Director
Lucy Liang, recent Film MA graduate



FILMSTUDIES

The MA Film Studies trains students to critically and creatively engage with film and cinema culture by offering in-depth knowledge in various research fields, ranging from film theory, philosophy, aesthetics, and politics; media archeology and cultural memory; to issues of intermedial, transnational, and global audiovisual practices.



Programme Overview

Semester 1			Semester 2		
Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Film Theories (6 EC)	Cinema Histories & Cultures (6 EC)	Research Project (6 EC)	Thesis (18 EC)		
Research Seminar I (6 EC)	Research Seminar II (6 EC)		Free Elective to be chosen from the Graduate School for Humanities. Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is Film! Film Heritage in Practice • Media and Sexuality • Documentary Imagination • Going Global: Globalisation and Cultural Imaginary • The Futures of Culture: Art and Media in/outside Changing Institutions • Visual Subcultures Online (12 EC)		



Structure of the programme:		
1. First Semester MA Film Studies		
<i>Film Theories</i> (6 EC)	<i>Cinema Histories & Cultures</i> (6 EC)	<i>Research Project</i> (6 EC)
<i>Film Studies Research Seminar 1</i> (6 EC)	<i>Film Studies Research Seminar 2</i> (6 EC)	



Recent Film Research Seminar Topics

A Cognitive Approach to Pictorial and Multimodal Metaphor in Moving Images

(Dr. Charles Forceville)

Anomalous AI: AI as a Speculative Conduit of Posthumanism

(Dr. Amir Vudka)

Cinema and the Animal

(Dr. Jacob Engelberg)

Global Disability Media

(Dr. Slava Greenberg)

How To Save the World: or, Ecology and Cinema

(Dr. Catherine Lord)

Political Cinemas

(Dr. Floris Paalman)

Queer +/- Decolonial Approaches to Film Analysis

(Dr. Rhys Jones)

Replay and Resist: Settler Colonial (His)stories in Film

(Dr. Tjalling Valdés Olmos)

Week One

What Is Cinema? I: Image

- André Bazin, “The Ontology of the Photographic Image” (1945)
- Gilles Deleuze, “Theses on movement” from *Cinema 1* (1983)



Screening: *Still Life* (Jia Zhangke, 2006)

Week Two What Is Cinema? II: Language

- Sergei Eisenstein, “The Dramaturgy of Film Form” (1929)
- Maya Deren, “Cinematography: The Creative Use of Reality” (1960)
- Peter Wollen, “The Semiology of Cinema” (1969)



Screening: *Strike* (Sergei Eisenstein, 1925)

Week Three

Where Is Cinema? Apparatus, Ideology, Presence

- Jean-Louis Baudry, “Ideological Effects of the Basic Cinematographic Apparatus” (1970)
- Francesco Casetti, “Back to the Motherland: the film theatre in the postmedia age” (2011)
- Nicole Brenez, “Projections. Provisionals. Provisions.” (2022)



Screening: *Nope* (Jordan Peele, 2022)

Week Four Hermeneutics, Analysis, Close- Reading: 3 Views of *Vertigo*

- Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” (1975)
- Chris Marker, “A free replay (notes on *Vertigo*)” (1994)
- Slavoj Žižek, “Hitchcock as Anti-Plato” (2004)



Screening: *Vertigo* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958)

Week Five Race, Cinema, (Post)coloniality

- Fatimah Tobing Rony, “Those Who Squat and Those Who Sit: The Iconography of Race in the 1895 Films of Félix-Louis Regnault” (1992)
- Stuart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Cinematic Representation” (1990)
- William Brown, “The Colour of Film-Philosophy” (2023)



Screening: *Soleil Ô* (Med Hondo, 1967)

Week Six

Gender, Spectacle, Reveal

- Rosalind Galt, “The Double-Bind of the Image in Feminist Film Theory” (2011)
- Eliza Steinbock, “Disjunction and Conjunction: Thinking Trans through the Cinematic” (2019)



Screening: *Stripped to Kill* (Katt Shea, 1987)



Structure of the program:

Second Semester MA Film Studies

MA-Thesis (18 EC)

Elective (12 EC)

Such as:

- This is Film! Film Heritage in Practice
- Media and Sexuality
- Documentary Imagination
- Going Global: Globalisation and Cultural Imaginary
- The Futures of Culture: Art and Media in/outside Changing Institutions
- Visual Subcultures Online



Recent Film MA Thesis Titles (a selection)

Critical Media Industry Studies and the Catalan New Wave:
Transnational Affirmation for Independent Film in Catalonia's
Stateless National Cinema Network

Sonic Structures in Poetic Cinema: Soundscapes in the Work of
Sergei Parajanov

Echoes in the Landscape: Ecocinema at the Intersection of
Environmental and Social Struggles in the Contemporary
Cinema of Turkey

The Fabric of Surrealism: A Sartorial Analysis of *Hausu* and *La Belle et la Bête*

Expanding the Alpine Heimatfilm through the Tempo-spatial
Corporealization of Internal and External Landscapes

The Last Queer Cinema: A Critical Remapping of American
LGBTQ+ Cinema from the 1990s Onwards

Hegemony in a Monolithic Ideological System: Villains,
Enemies and Negative Common Sense in DPRK Occupation
Period Pieces

The Magical Musical Moment: Utopian Aesthetics in the
Contemporary American Musical

One of the Girls: Representations of Femininity in
Contemporary Shakespeare Rom-Com Adaptations

The Role of Soundscape in Sergei Loznitsa's Found Footage
Documentaries

Reimagining Romance: Anti-romantic Comedies and the
Reconceptualisation of the Happily Ever After

Touching the Beast: Interrogating Phallogentricity and
Hegemonic Masculinity via Man-Animal Proximities on Film



Careers beyond academia

Festival Curator (e.g. IDFA)

Film Criticism, Journalism

Funding Advisor

Producer/Director

Project Coordinator (e.g. cultural institutions)

Research and Production

Documentary Editor

PR and Communication (e.g. EYE Institute)

Film distribution, publishing, cultural institutions, museums, new media, television, archives, education etc.



Entry Requirements

The Master's in Film Studies is open for application to all students with a Bachelor's degree in Media and Culture or Media and Information from the UvA **or** another accredited university in:

- Film Studies
- Any discipline, of which at least 60 research-oriented ECTS relate specifically to Media and Culture as taught from a humanities perspective.

The level of the Bachelor's degree from a foreign higher education institution must be equal to three years of Dutch university education (to be judged by the Examinations Board).



Entry Requirements

Pre-Master's

If you do not meet the entry requirements — for example if you have a degree from a Dutch University of Applied Sciences (*HBO*) or an equivalent thereof or have a degree not related to film and media studies — you may be eligible for admission after completing the pre-Master's programme in Media Studies.



Language Requirements

Automatic exemptions

You automatically meet the English language requirements if you possess one of the following diplomas before the start of the programme on 1 September:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited Dutch academic university;
- English-taught Bachelor's degree from an accredited Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo).
- Dutch-taught Bachelor's degree from an accredited Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo) combined with either a havo diploma with at least a grade of 8 for *Engels*, or a vwo diploma;
- International Baccalaureate diploma taught in English;
- Bachelor's degree from a university located in the USA, Canada (with the exception of Québec), the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, or New Zealand.
- Bachelor's degree taught fully in English, provided this is proven by providing an official statement from your home institution that the entire Bachelor's programme was taught in English, and that the Bachelor's degree was at least 3+ years in duration.

If you are not exempted...

You need to submit a copy of an English language proficiency certificate as part of your application.

The test needs to have taken place within 2 years of submitting your application.

The following are the minimum scores we accept:

IELTS Academic (in-person only) 7 overall, minimum 6.5 on each sub-score.

TOEFL iBT 100 overall with a minimum of reading: 24, listening: 22, speaking: 25, and writing: 24.

Cambridge International Examinations C1 Advanced with a minimum score of 190.

If you believe you should be exempted but do not meet the automatic exemptions, you must make a formal exemption request at least 1 month before the official deadline.



The Application Process

1. Register for the Master's in Media Studies in Studielink
<http://www.uva.studielink.nl/>.
2. Pay the application fee (international prior education only).
3. Submit your application form in MyInfo.



MA Film Application Deadlines

Admissions are on a rolling basis. You don't have to wait for the deadline. The sooner you apply, the sooner you will be notified about admission.

Applicants with a non-EU/EEA nationality and applicants with an EU/EEA nationality who wish to apply for housing

- 23 February 2025, 23:59 CET
- 1 March 2025, 23:59 CET

Applicants with an EU/EEA nationality who do not wish to apply for housing and applicants with Dutch nationality

- 8 May 2025, 23:59 CET
- 15 May 2025, 23:59 CET

If you are interested in a scholarship, you need to apply for both the Master's programme and the scholarship before 15 January.



Contacts

- For **admission** (eligibility, documents to submit, etc.), **practical and financial matters: Graduate School Admissions Office:**
<https://gsh.uva.nl/contact/contact.html>
- Questions about **academic content** of the programme: Jacob Engelberg:
j.f.engelberg@uva.nl.
- In addition to the UvA program web page, check out also our **Film Studies website:** <https://filmstudies.nl>
- Further information on application and admission: <https://www.uva.nl/shared-content/programmas/en/masters/film-studies-media-studies/application-and-admission/application-and-admission.html>.

