

Programme Specification

MA by Research Film, Theatre and Television (full-time)

PFTZFILMTTHS

MA by Research Film, Theatre and Television (part-time)

PPTZFILMTTHS

For students entering in 2027/28

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MA by Research Film, Theatre and Television (full-time) - 12 months MA by Research Film, Theatre and Television (part-time) - 24 months
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The MA by Research in Film, Theatre and Television will enable students to undertake substantial pieces of research at postgraduate level in the subjects of film, theatre and television. The programme is designed to equip students with the necessary research and critical skills in the three subjects, individually or through an interdisciplinary approach, while working in close collaboration with supervisors selected according to their specialisms. As well as preparing students for a range of professions and career paths (as artists, critics, producers, archivists and other jobs), the MA by Research will also provide a direct route towards Doctoral research in Film, Theatre and Television. The main output of each individual student will be a substantial dissertation or practical project, worth 140 credits, focusing on a research topic chosen by the student and finetuned through supervision by a dedicated supervisor. In addition, depending on their chosen subject, students will take two compulsory taught modules of 20 credits each currently offered at PG level in the Dept of Film, Theatre & Television, in order to collect the remaining 40 credits. In exceptional circumstances, students may be allowed to collect credits from modules the departmental remit, if both the relevant supervisor and the programme director agree on the advantages of this course of action.

Students will be required to attend research training sessions on offer at the Graduate School and CQSD (non-assessed), once their training need analysis has been carried out.

Students will be required to make public presentations of their work in progress to staff and colleagues, in order to receive constructive feedback. These will not be assessed.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MA by Research Film, Theatre and Television (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Command and contribute to the most recent developments in academic research in film, theatre and television.
2	Demonstrate the critical, technical and organisational expertise required to produce short films, television programmes and/or theatrical pieces.
3	Deploy academic and professional communication skills.
4	Demonstrate the ability to work to deadlines.
5	Demonstrate skills in self-devised research projects of a theoretical or practical nature.
6	Demonstrate analytical and interpretive skills relating to audiovisual and/or theatrical works of others.
7	Demonstrate independent thought and originality in research and practice.
8	Devise research projects for a Doctoral degree.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FTMDPP	Dissertation or Practical Project	140	M

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Film, Theatre & Television.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete one or two optional modules, totalling a maximum of 40 credits. In the second year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the compulsory module FTMDPP Dissertation or Practical Project, already introduced in year 1. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each semester, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the year in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching is organised in modules. The method of delivery varies among modules, especially in terms of the proportions of time allocated to supervision sessions, lectures, seminars, presentations, case studies and practical work. Teaching may also include engagement with professional practice through guest lectures and visits to collections, festivals, exhibitions, screenings, arthouse cinemas and other teaching methods as applicable to the relevant module.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of coursework (including class tests), practical work, and pre-recorded or in-class presentations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.
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Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits

(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits
- (ii) No credits with a mark below 40%

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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23 July 2026

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