

# **GOLDSMITHS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

## **MA in Media and Communications**

**a.** This Master's programme brings together studies in the analysis of modern societies and their cultures through interdisciplinary perspectives- an area in which Goldsmiths has an international reputation. The programme offers an intensive learning experience, which introduces you to the key strands of theoretical and empirical work in the field, and offers an unusual opportunity to combine intensive study and research in media theory with options from related disciplines, in Sociology, Anthropology and English. The taught programme is organised in two terms. The Autumn term runs from mid-September to mid-December and the Spring term from mid-January to mid-April. The two teaching terms are followed by a short assessment term, which runs from early May to mid-June, during which you will complete the bulk of your examined work, and prepare intensively for your Dissertation (which is submitted in early September). Currently most of the teaching within the Department of Media and Communications is organised on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (although options you take in other departments may be on other days). This has been planned to allow you to organise your reading and research as effectively as possible.

**b.** You should normally hold, or expect to hold, a first degree of at least upper second standard in an appropriate subject in the arts and humanities. Please note: a first degree in media and communications is not required: we welcome students from a wide range of disciplines. We welcome applications from Home and International students. If English is not your first language, please see page 4 for the English language requirement.

**c.** Application forms are available from, and should be returned to, either the Admissions Office, or the International Office; you can also download copies from the Goldsmiths' website. Contact details are given on page 47. We recommend that you apply early in the academic year, certainly by 1st May, or 14th February if you intend to apply for funding. Admission is normally by interview except for those students residing outside the UK.

**d.** The programme consists of two compulsory courses and a range of option courses. Each course is worth half a course-unit and lasts one term. You need eight half course-units to graduate from the programme: two from the compulsory courses, two from the Dissertation and four from the choice of option courses.

**e.** The aim of this one-term course is to introduce and explore critically the principal theoretical perspectives relevant to analysing contemporary media. The following major approaches are placed in their historical context and examined for their different strengths: critical theory, cultural studies, audience studies, feminist theory and political economy. This historical exploration of media theory is also placed in the wider context of the development of modernity and modern social theory, as well as more recent debates about the post-modern and the postcolonial. The course forms the basis for the more specific analytical skills and knowledge you will develop in your options and your Dissertation.

**f.** You choose between three and five options from those offered by the Media and Communications Department. These vary from year to year; the following have been offered recently, although only six or seven will normally be available in any one year: Political Economy of the Mass Media; Political Communications; Chinese Cinemas; Music as Communication, Contemporary Cultural Practice; Media Audiences and Media Geographies; Media, Ethnicity and Nation; Explorations in World Cinema; Embodiment and Experience; Cinema and Society; Music as Communication and Cultural Practice. You can choose up to two options offered by the Departments of English and Comparative Literature, Sociology or Anthropology. For details of these course options please visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk).

**g.** Assessment for each option is by a single 5-6,000- word coursework essay, except in the case of Introduction to Media and Communications Theory, which is assessed by two 14-day 2,500-word take home papers and a 12,000-word Dissertation.

**h.** For up-to-date information about fees, please see the Postgraduate Prospectus or visit the web at [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk). Please note: fees are quoted per year.

**i.** If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Dr Rachel Moore on 020 7919 7986 or e-mail [r.o.moore@gold.ac.uk](mailto:r.o.moore@gold.ac.uk).

**Match the following headings 1-10 to the correct paragraph a-i. One paragraph must have TWO headings.**

1. Options
2. Find out more
3. What do you study?
4. 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
5. Entrance requirements
6. Compulsory courses
7. Media Core Course – Introduction to Media and Communications Theory
8. Assessment
9. Application and admission
10. Fees

### **VOCABULARY**

**Match the following definitions to the words used in the text:**

1. any of the divisions of the academic year during which a school, college, etc., is in session
2. a written thesis, often based on original research, usually required for a higher degree
3. A short literary composition on a single subject, usually presenting the personal view of the author
4. A fixed sum charged, as by an institution for attending a course
5. the act of assessing, esp. (in Britain) the evaluation of a student's achievement on a course
6. written or oral work completed by a student within a given period, which is assessed as an integral part of an educational course

**Find words in the text that have the same meanings as the following:**

1. Features
2. Majority
3. Handed in
4. Financial support
5. Obligatory
6. Catalogue
7. Questions

### **READING COMPREHENSION**

**1. The programme is structured to give students:**

An economic knowledge of media and communications

An approach to media and communications which is strictly sociological

A knowledge of media and communications which draws from different fields of study

**2. Students attending the master's programme :**

have to attend classes in both semesters

don't have to attend classes in both semesters

can decide to attend all classes in one semesters

**3. Students are expected to :**

Do most of their work between may and June

Write their dissertation between may and June

Attend their final courses between May and June

**4. Students attending the programme**

Will have all their classes in the second half of the week

May have to attend classes all week through

Will not have classes on Mondays

**5. The programme is open to**

students who have already studied the same subject only

students who have already got a degree in any subject

students who already have, or will soon have, a degree with a very good mark

**6. International students:**

Cannot apply for this Master's programme

Can apply but must come from an English-speaking country

Will have to demonstrate their ability to speak and understand English at an academic level

**7. The deadline for applications is**

May for all applications

May if students do not require financial support

May if they need to apply for a scholarship

**8. In order to get their Master's degree students have to**

Attend 8 courses

Attend 6 courses

Attend 4 courses

**DECIDE WHETHER THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE CORRECT OR INCORRECT**

1. Students who do not live in the UK must have an interview to be admitted
2. The compulsory course is divided between the two terms
3. The course focuses on the current theories on media only
4. The module " Cinema and Society" may not be available next year
5. Students can decide to choose three modules offered by the Media and Communications department and only one from the other departments listed.
6. In addition to the dissertation, students will have to write 4 essays and two examination papers
7. Fees for the course change every year
8. Students shouldn't write to Dr Moore to ask about the kind of information which is contained in the prospectus