

University of Sussex
School of Media, Film and Music

Postgraduate studies in Media Practice and Music

Further information about:

- MA in Digital Documentary
- MA in Digital Media
- MA in Music and Sonic Media
- MA in Creative Media Practice
- MA in Media Practice for International Development

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University of Sussex

Welcome to Media, Film and Music

As the Head of School for Media, Film and Music,
I am delighted to introduce our portfolio of Masters courses
involving critical and creative practice.



Alongside our suite of postgraduate courses in Journalism, Media, Culture and Film Studies, the degrees highlighted in this brochure offer students an opportunity to work across a range of media and musical forms. Blending critical, analytical and theoretical work in the relevant disciplines with practical workshops and masterclasses, these courses represent the cutting edge of contemporary practice-based scholarship.

Sussex's reputation as a leading institution for critical and creative practice comes in part from our faculty of award-winning documentary filmmakers and composers, internationally-renowned digital media scholars and critically-acclaimed professional photographers. Added to this are our professional grade production suites, which offer 24-hour access to a wide range of industry-standard software and equipment. Our team of production tutors and technicians are on hand to lend support and advice when needed and our professors, lecturers and tutors provide regular and on-going feedback on all aspects of your work.

For some, postgraduate study offers an opportunity to learn new skills, which will support them in their current or future career. For others, these degrees provide a means of exploring some of the most important issues affecting our world today from a range of different perspectives. Whatever your reason for choosing postgraduate study, the courses included in this brochure are sure to challenge you, both intellectually and in terms of your professional practice.

And remember, if you are looking for postgraduate pathways that do not involve a focus on practice and production, please do see our companion brochures for Media, Film and Journalism.

Details of how to contact us for further information can be found on the back page of this brochure.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Sue Thornham

Head of School, Media, Film and Music





why us

I graduated from my first degree in 2004 and decided to take a break from study until I knew what I would really like to do - I didn't want to just do an MA for the sake of it. I worked in community development and became increasingly interested in how the media represents different people. I chose to do the MA in Digital Documentary because of the split between theory and practice and the chance to learn and develop my skills on a practical as well as academic level.

I have really enjoyed meeting such a great mix of people on the course. The practical sessions and the opportunity to learn using industry standard equipment has been excellent. The biggest challenge has been making films but it has also been very rewarding too. You don't appreciate how difficult it is until you are actually doing it!

During the course I have learnt how to use cameras, microphones and editing software. I have developed analytical skills in terms of how I look at other films and I have been able to apply similar techniques to my own practice. I will also take away production management skills from the course including how to manage a budget for a documentary film production.

I feel that the course does lots to help you prepare for that environment. The masterclasses are also a great way to get to know what you are letting yourself in for, as well as introducing you to career ideas you may not have thought of before.

Georgia Rooney
MA Student
MA Digital Documentary

Digital Documentary (MA)

The MA in Digital Documentary offers you the chance to develop your film-making and critical skills in a supportive and stimulating environment. It is led by award-winning filmmakers and taught by highly experienced practitioners with wide expertise in creative moving images.

Through a series of projects and exercises you learn to develop, pitch, research, script, shoot and edit with 24 hour access to the School's broadcast standard equipment including HD cameras and a range of post production facilities.

You develop a portfolio of films and master all the different aspects of producing a good documentary – conceptual, organizational, technical and industrial. Your core courses in documentary explore key issues in contemporary and historical examples of the genre alongside your practical tuition. Your final 20-minute film allows you to develop your own voice by conceiving and realizing a personal project.

The course is unique in offering you not only the chance to learn to make films for the single screen but also gives you options to develop your ideas across other platforms and in other media such as the web, photography and mobile media according to your choice. Other options provide the possibility of contextualizing your core studies in documentary filmmaking through taking courses in film studies, media and cultural theory.

All options encourage an understanding of contemporary media practice through creative work and/or in depth critical analysis. The MA prepares you for professional work in the media industries as well as giving you a grounding in theories of the genre for those interested in pursuing a PhD. It gives you the tools to make, think and discuss your own and others' work and ideas in the context of learning about the uses and history of documentary and its place in contemporary media field.

The School benefits from strong connections with the local and national media companies, with whom students may obtain placements, and visiting specialists in key areas of production regularly provide input into the course. The course attracts a talented and diverse body of students from many different countries.

Lizzie Thynne

Convener – Digital Documentary (MA)

Digital Media (MA)

Welcome to the MA in Digital Media at Sussex. We offer one of most established and innovative courses in the UK. We believe that digital media is an exciting and crucial area of study because it is the language of our time.



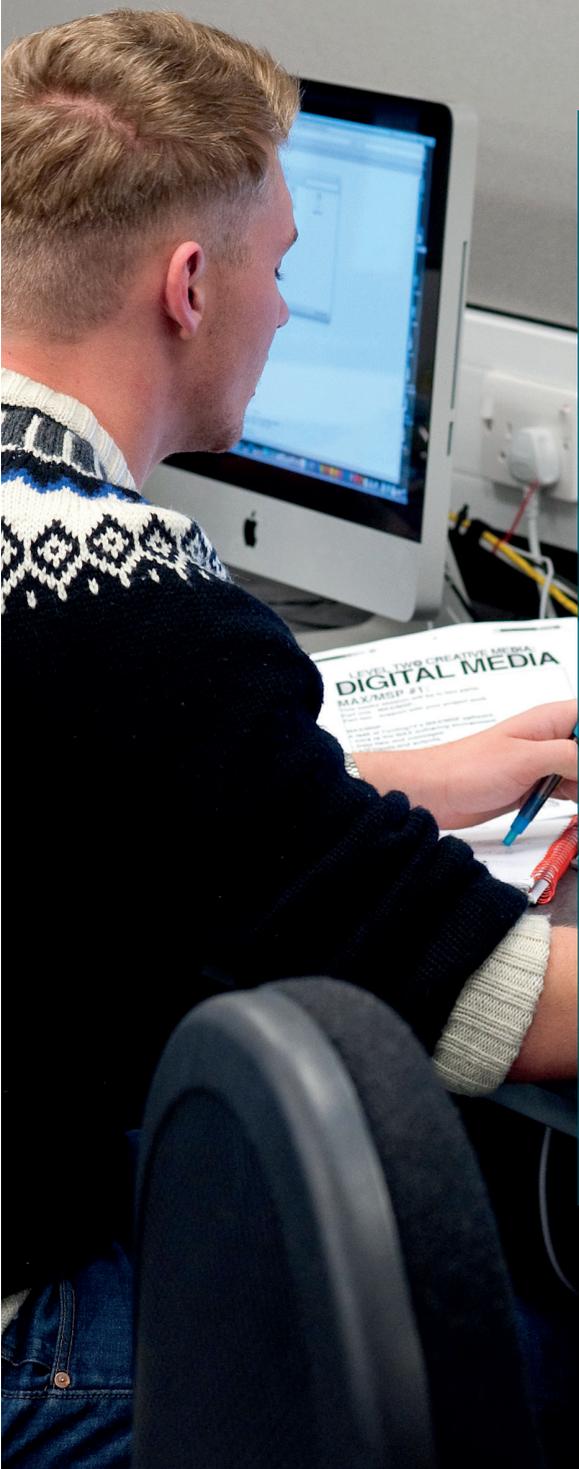
We aim to provide students with an advanced knowledge of the real-world challenges of digital media. At the same time the degree allows you to explore a wide variety of contemporary and theoretical debates, as well as the social and historical context of digital culture.

Our unique theory-practice mix is flexible and can be designed to suit your own pathway through the degree. You can decide whether to pursue a more theoretical research route, a practice route, or a work placement. Individual tutorials are offered in the first term to guide you through the combination that best meets your interests. The course aims to develop critical analysis, digital media practice, industry knowledge and advanced research methods. You can also broaden your field of study by selecting approved optional modules from other MAs within the School of Media, Film and Music as well as from other courses at Sussex. For example, you could focus on the politics of social media, or examine digital sound environments, or gender issues as guided routes. Workshops exploring digital media practice are offered as a space for experiment, informed by theory and guided by expert tutors but practice experience is not a requirement.

All students take the core module in Interactive Media Theory and Practice, which explores the context and history of contemporary debates. This is complemented by New Developments in Digital Media, which examines new and emerging forms. Alongside these modules we recommend Media, Theory and Research and one option such as New Moving Screens, Global Journalism or Activist Media Practice. You will also develop an independent research project of your own which allows you the freedom to use this material and all this support for your own interests.

We have a critical mass of faculty and postgraduate students researching and practicing in the Research Centre in Material Digital Culture, and the research theme of Digital and Social Media. These contribute to a vibrant and exciting research environment in this area, which is complemented by the digital culture of Brighton.

Kate O'Riordan
Convener - Digital Media (MA)



why us

I chose the Digital Media MA at Sussex because of its mixture of theoretical investigation and practical training. A little over half my course is spent in the classroom, talking about the ways people understand, use and experience the world of networked technology. The rest of my course is spent in Silverstone's excellent media labs, experimenting with Film, Design and Music software.

I've been particularly getting into Processing, a computer language specifically designed for artists, and have been getting specific help from the media tutors with this. I really enjoy my seminars and there's a lot of room for students to guide the curriculum towards case studies they are particularly interested in. Because people are approaching the field from different disciplines, with experience living in different areas of the world, we have some really great discussions about media environments both inside and outside of class.

I've also been going to a lot of lectures by visiting professors; the 'Digital Humanities' speaker series, for example, has really made me excited about the potential for using new technologies to support academic research.

Alexander Cline
MA Student
MA Digital Media (Practice)



Creative Media Practice (MA)

The MA in Creative Media Practice offers you the chance to develop your practical and critical skills in a supportive and stimulating environment. It is led by award-winning designers/artists and taught by highly experienced practitioners with wide expertise in a variety of media formats.



This course offers you the opportunity to explore critically informed creative practice across digital media, photography and a range of aural and visual forms. Relationships between media practices and theories are investigated through a combination of lectures, seminars and hands-on workshops. Your cross-disciplinary practice is supported by faculty and peers working in related media practices, as well as guest masterclasses taught by leading artists and industry professionals.

This MA begins with an overview of media forms and approaches. You work together with other students to explore uses of narrative in sound, image, and digital and physical spaces. You then have the chance to develop your own personal project through workshops aimed at helping you structure your work, identify your audience, budget, plan and finally create a professional completed piece in the media of your choice.

In addition to the core modules, the course provides the opportunity to contextualize your work through modules in film studies, media and cultural theory. All options encourage an understanding of contemporary media practice through creative work and/or in depth critical analysis.

The School of Media, Film and Music benefits from strong connections with the local and national media companies, with whom students may obtain placements, and visiting specialists in key areas of production regularly provide input into the course. The course attracts a talented and diverse body of students from many different countries.

Kirk Woolford

Convener - Creative Media Practice (MA)



why us

The MA in Creative Media Practice has been the necessary stepping-stone I needed to move from undergraduate level work to practicing and thinking in a more academic and more professional manner. With research and interdisciplinary thinking being at the heart of the University of Sussex, this approach to your work soon becomes second nature and leads to a more informed sense of practice.

The seminars inspire you to critically think outside the box, whilst the workshops allow you to experiment and push the boundaries of your creative practice. Creative Media Practice is one of those rare courses that can pull those amazingly creative thoughts from your head and, with the invaluable guidance from wonderful Practice Tutors and Lecturers, have your creativity actualised.

I can't recommend this course enough to anyone who either wants to gain an academic qualification in Media Practice or to simply challenge themselves creatively.

Peter Harte
MA Student
MA Creative Media Practice

Music and Sonic Media (MA)

The MA in Music and Sonic Media is a course for composers, musicians, sound artists, practitioners and theorists working in music and sound. You will compose, make sound art, devise music theatre, use music technologies and create film music.



Music and Sonic Media modules enable you to do this either through applied work (meaning composing and devising sonic art and music theatre, for example) or theory (meaning essays and dissertation), or a mix of the two. All modules involve original research so that you develop the skills to evaluate current musical and sonic practices as well as historical developments in musical languages and musical technologies.

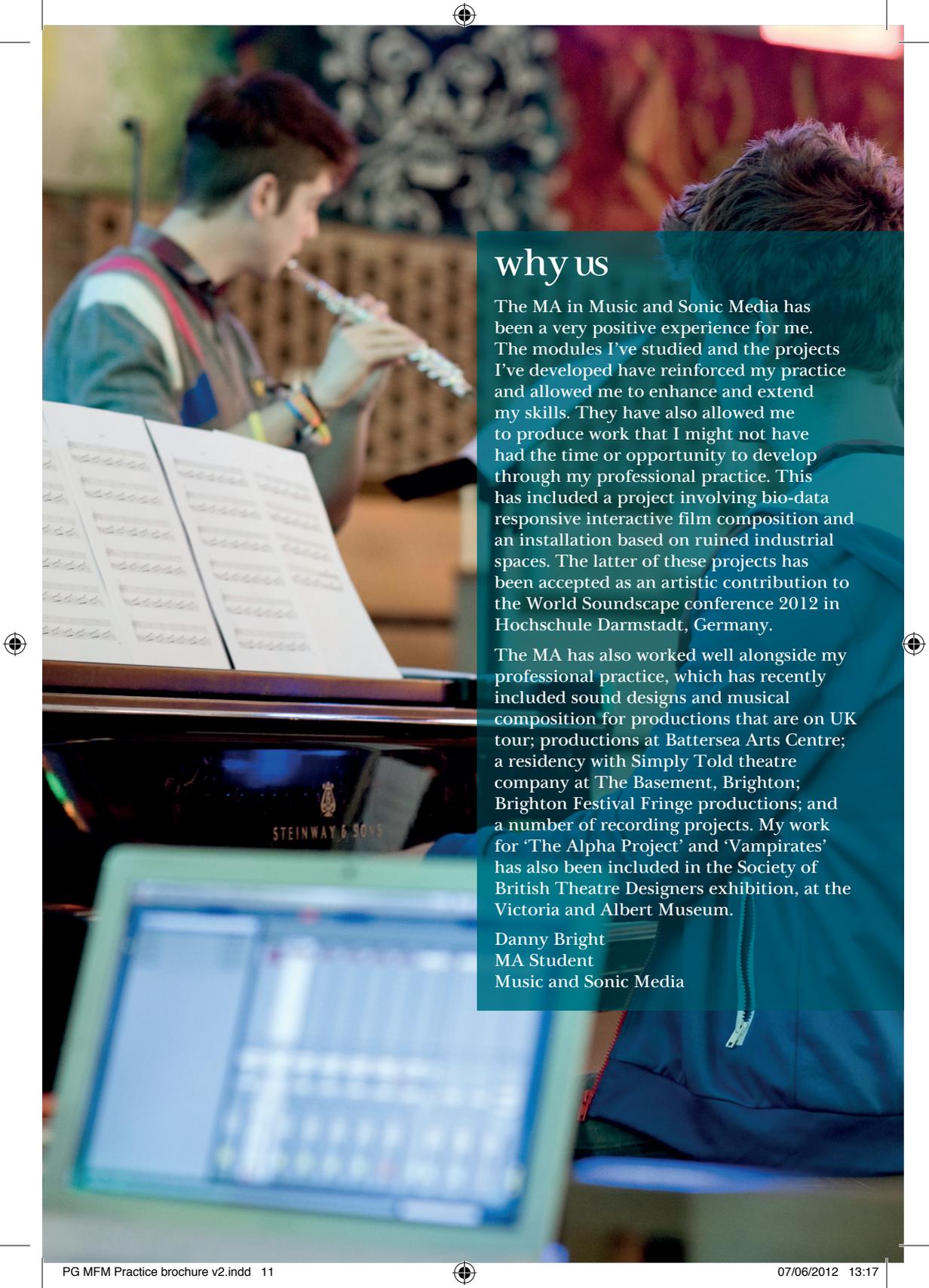
Music and Sonic Media embraces music and sound as it is made now both within and beyond the concert hall, and in mediated forms across many applications. As such all students are encouraged to participate in the various fora for presenting their work, which include concerts, installation opportunities in the studios and screening rooms of the School of Media, Film and Music, an annual public showcase of work, composition workshops with visiting professional musicians, research seminars, and other research events convened by the School. Students regularly present and record their work in music studios and the 'Creativity Zone' on campus, and at venues in Brighton and further afield.

The course is taught by faculty with international recognition in the practices and theories of composition, interdisciplinary sound creation, opera and music theatre, film music, performance, sonic art and computer music. Faculty include distinguished composers, theatre and opera directors and writers on issues in twentieth century and contemporary musical aesthetics and musicology.

You will have access to superb facilities that include, in addition to the university's outstanding libraries, the music department's professionally equipped Jonathan Harvey Electroacoustic Music Studio for recording, synthesis, high quality monitoring and experimentation with multi-channel sound diffusion.

Ed Hughes

Convener - Music and Sonic Media (MA)

A photograph of a young man with dark hair, wearing a green and white jacket, playing a silver flute. He is positioned in the upper left of the frame. In the foreground, there is a Steinway & Sons piano with sheet music open on it. The piano has the brand name 'STEINWAY & SONS' visible on its side. A computer monitor is also visible in the lower left, displaying some software interface. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a music studio or rehearsal space with colorful wall art.

why us

The MA in Music and Sonic Media has been a very positive experience for me. The modules I've studied and the projects I've developed have reinforced my practice and allowed me to enhance and extend my skills. They have also allowed me to produce work that I might not have had the time or opportunity to develop through my professional practice. This has included a project involving bio-data responsive interactive film composition and an installation based on ruined industrial spaces. The latter of these projects has been accepted as an artistic contribution to the World Soundscape conference 2012 in Hochschule Darmstadt, Germany.

The MA has also worked well alongside my professional practice, which has recently included sound designs and musical composition for productions that are on UK tour; productions at Battersea Arts Centre; a residency with Simply Told theatre company at The Basement, Brighton; Brighton Festival Fringe productions; and a number of recording projects. My work for 'The Alpha Project' and 'Vampirates' has also been included in the Society of British Theatre Designers exhibition, at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Danny Bright
MA Student
Music and Sonic Media

Media Practice for International Development (MA)

We are proud to launch this exciting new MA that uniquely combines a critical engagement with contemporary issues in media and international development with practical training in a range of digital media practices targeted to development and social change.



In the last few years there has been an explosion of interest worldwide in the use of communications technologies in international development, democratisation and social change. Media are increasingly important tools in advocacy, activism and research, and there is a growing need in various sectors for knowledgeable, skilled and creative people able to apply digital media technologies in ways that facilitate citizen participation and foster social development.

The course will enable you to engage with key critical debates in relation to contemporary media, democracy and international development and teach you the skills to research, develop and execute a variety of digital media outputs (such as photography, documentary video, radio, mobile and online media).

This innovative degree (unique in the UK) brings together the expertise of two of Sussex's leading areas of research and study – Media theory and practice and Development Studies, and you will also benefit from a series of guest lectures and workshops by practitioners in the field.

You will take core modules in the first term; one exploring critical perspectives in media, development and social change, and the other building on and enhancing that work as you learn the practical skills to produce a portfolio of short creative projects to a development-oriented brief. In the second term you will choose two modules from a range of options where you will explore aspects of development and media practice in greater depth. Throughout this period there will be workshops and tutorials to prepare you for the final supervised assignment which you can choose to be either a dissertation or an independent media project, with or without a work placement at home or abroad.

We aim to have our students graduate with a portfolio of critical and creative work which they can use to demonstrate advanced skills in criticism, analysis, evaluation and creativity in relation to media communications for international development and social change.

Wilma de Jong & Andrea Cornwall
Conveners
MA in Media Practice for International Development
(Beginning Autumn 2012)

Programme overviews

Digital Documentary (MA)

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3+ Vacation
<p>Core Documenting the Real</p>	<p>Core Research and Project Development for Documentary Practice</p>	<p>Core Digital Documentary Project or Dissertation</p>
<p>Choose from: Activist Media Practice; Cultural Identities: Social Practices; Expanded Media: Forms and Practices; Film Studies: Theories & Methods Media Theory and Research; Music and the Media of Performance; Sound Environments; Theory and Practice of Interactive Media</p>	<p>Choose one from: New Developments in Digital Media; New Moving Screens; Photography, Landscape, Politics</p>	
<p>Part-time route</p> <p>Year 1 students take the two core courses Year 2 students take two option courses plus Project or Dissertation</p>		

Digital Media Studies (MA)

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3+ Vacation
<p>Core Theory and Practice of Interactive Media</p>	<p>Core New Developments in Digital Media</p>	<p>Core Dissertation or Software Project or Placement</p>
<p>Choose either: Media Theory and Research or Expanded Media: Forms and Practices</p>	<p>Choose one from: New Moving Screens (new course); Media Technology and Everyday Life; or other options as available</p>	
<p>Part-time route</p> <p>Year 1 students take the term 1 core course plus option Year 2 students take an option in term 1 and core course in term 2 plus Dissertation or Software Project or Placement</p>		

Programme overviews

Music and Sonic Media (MA)

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3+ Vacation
<p>Core Choose either: Sound Environments - Practice or Sound Environments - Theory</p>	<p>Core Choose either: Composing for Media - Practice or Composing for Media - Theory</p>	<p>Core Choose either: Creative Project or Dissertation</p>
<p>Choose one from: Music and the Media of Performance - Practice; Music and the Media of Performance – Theory; Expanded Media: Forms and Practises; Theory and Practice of Interactive Media; Media Theory and Research</p>	<p>Choose one from: Composition - Practice; Composition – Theory; Critical Interventions in Media Research; New Developments in Digital Media</p>	
<p>Part-time route</p> <p>Students take one 30 credit course over 2 years, and then complete a creative project or dissertation by the end of the second year of study</p>		

NB We recommend that students take at least one Music module as an option - Music and the Media of Performance, or Composition

Creative Media Practice (MA)

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3+ Vacation
<p>Core Expanded Media: Forms and Practises</p>	<p>Core Research and Development for Creative Practice</p>	<p>Core Dissertation/Project</p>
<p>Choose either: Documenting the Real; Theory and Practice of Interactive Media; Activist Media Practice</p>	<p>Choose either: New Developments in Digital Media; Photography: Documentary, Landscape, Politics; New Moving Screens; Media, Technology and Everyday Life</p>	

Media Practice for International Development (MA)

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3+ Vacation
<p>Core Critical Approaches to Development and Social Change</p>	<p>Core Research and Development for Project</p>	<p>Core Project</p>
<p>Choose either: Interactive Media Theory and Practice or Documenting the Real</p>	<p>Choose one from: New Developments in Digital Media; Pocket Cinema; Photography: Documentary, Landscape, Politics; Latin American Cinema; Global Journalism plus Development options</p>	
<p>Part-time route</p>		
<p>Year 1 students take the core course in term 1 and an option in term 2 Year 2 students take an option course in term 1 and core course in term 2 plus Project</p>		

Faculty

For an up-to-date list of people in Media, Film & Music and their research interests, please see our School website.

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm/>

Find out more about by visiting us online:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm/index>

Learn about our Faculty research interests:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/mediaandfilm/research>

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/mediaandfilm/showcase/publications>

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/music/research>

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/music/showcase/publications>

Find out about how to apply to the degree programme at: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg/applying/>

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