Guide to Graduate Studies 2018-2019
Program in Film Studies:
Guide to Graduate Studies
2017-18

This Guide to Graduate Studies contains essential information regarding your M.A. program. Please study it carefully, as it can help you to be proactive about making good choices to keep you on track in the program, and knowing the right questions to ask the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), M.A. Thesis Advisor, or other professors, in order to make the most of coursework and other opportunities, and to locate some relevant resources at OSU.

It is also students’ responsibility to read and be familiar with the policies detailed in the Graduate School Handbook issued by the Graduate School (copies may be downloaded on the Grad School web page at: https://gradsch.osu.edu/handbook, referred to as GSH, below.) The Graduate School Handbook and this Guide to Graduate Studies complement one another, so students should have both handy and refer to them often.

If you have ANY questions regarding the material in this guide, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies or the Program Coordinator.

Table of Contents

Important Contacts 3
Application Information 7
Curriculum and Degree Requirements 8
  Professional Standards 8
  Requirements, Master of Arts in Film Studies 8
    Core Courses 8
    Electives 8
  Language Proficiency 9
  Master’s Thesis 10
    M.A. Thesis Credits: FS 7999 10
    Logistical guidelines for the thesis 11
    Assessment of the M.A. Thesis 12
COMPLETING YOUR DEGREE 13
Additional information regarding Advising and Curriculum 13
  Advising 13
  Independent Study 14
  Study Abroad/Away, Archival Research 14
  Summer credit options 15
  About (non-film) Courses in Other Departments 15
  Course Load 15
  Dual Degrees 16
  Transfers 16
Professional Development 16
  Internship credit: FS 7191 16
  Teaching Assistantships (or, “GTAship”) 16
  Teaching Apprenticeships 17

Life in Columbus 18
  Work-Life Balance 18
  Practical Basics 18
  Arts, Recreation and Entertainment 21

Appendix: Forms
  Program requirement checklist 27
  Internship agreement form 28
Important contacts:

Film Studies Program
https://film-studies.osu.edu

Program Director
Prof. Ryan Friedman, friedman.193@osu.edu
(614) 292-6044
150 Hagerty Hall

Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)
Prof. Maggie Flinn, flinn.62@osu.edu
(614) 292-6044 (messages only)
224 Hagerty Hall

Program Coordinator
Matt Swift, swift.23@osu.edu
(614) 292-6044
150 Hagerty Hall

Office Assistant (front desk in Film Studies Office)
Ali Milo
(614) 292-6044
150 Hagerty Hall

Graduate Studies Committee:
Prof. Margaret Flinn, chair
Prof. Ryan Friedman
Prof. Linda Mizejewski (on sabbatical, SP 2018)
Prof. Sean O’Sullivan
Prof. Laura Podalsky

Graduate Interdisciplinary Film Studies Group (student organization)
President: Carl Laamanen, laamanen.1@osu.edu
Selected University Services, links and phone numbers
This is not a comprehensive list, but should give you a start in navigating the university’s myriad websites and provide some short cuts to locating services. Please note that many people on campus often use the acronyms (in parentheses) to refer to these offices and services.

If you find yourself in any kind of difficult or delicate situation and do not know where to turn, you can always contact the DGS or any other film studies faculty and staff for help in identifying the appropriate support services.

The Graduate School
https://gradsch.osu.edu
Coordinates all academic records, gradforms, graduation, etc. for graduate students.

Grants (e.g. AGGRS, Ray, Global Gateway, OIA)
https://gradsch.osu.edu/funding/grants

Counseling and Consultation Services
https://ccs.osu.edu
(614) 292-5766 (Main Office)

Council of Graduate Students (Funding Opportunities)
https://cgs.osu.edu/funding-opportunities/

Disability Services (ODS) (Under Office of Student Life)
http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu
(614) 292-3307
Has walk-in hours.
Provides support for students with disabilities.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI)
https://odi.osu.edu
(614) 292-0964
Runs/coordinates an extremely wide range of programs and services. For specific programs, opportunities and services for graduate and professional services, see:
https://odi.osu.edu/for-students/graduate-professional/

Office of International Affairs (OIA)
https://oia.osu.edu
(614) 292-6101
Offers support services for international students, but also coordinates grants and scholarships for research and study abroad.

**International Students**
https://oia.osu.edu/international-students.html

**OIA Grants and Scholarships**
https://oia.osu.edu/grants-and-scholarships.html

**The Ohio Union** (Under Office of Student Life)
https://ohiounion.osu.edu
(614) 688-4636
Both a location and coordination center for extracurricular student groups via the Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB) https://activities.osu.edu.

Many official student organizations and events are specifically oriented to Graduate and Professional students.
See https://activities.osu.edu/involvement/graduate_and_professional and http://ouab.osu.edu/grad_prof

**Recreational Sports**
https://recsports.osu.edu
Fitness and wellness programs. Many facilities on campus, including the “RPAC.”

**Student Financial Aid**
https://sfa.osu.edu
(Be sure to select “Graduate and Professional” in “student type” menu)
(614) 292-0300
Website includes listings of student jobs, on- and off-campus (not GTAships), both Federal Work Study and not.

**University Housing** (Under Office of Student Life)
Grad, Professional, & Non-Traditional
https://housing.osu.edu/living-on-campus/graduate-professional-and-non-traditional-housing/

Off Campus Housing Search site
https://offcampus.osu.edu/search-housing.aspx

**The Women’s Place**
http://womensplace.osu.edu
Various programs and support services for women.
Critical Difference for Women grant/scholarship programs
http://criticaldifference.osu.edu

Younkin Success Center (Younkin Center) [Under Office of Student Life]
http://younkinsuccess.osu.edu
Provides a very wide range of academic, career, and counseling (wellness/mental health) services.

  Wellness services in particular can provide excellent support in adapting to graduate studies, and include both individual counseling as well as workshops and group services.
  http://younkinsuccess.osu.edu/wellness-services/

University Library
https://library.osu.edu
Take a library tour when you first arrive!
Research librarians in Thompson Library can give you one-on-one help carrying out research for individual projects.

Wilce Student Health Center
https://shs.osu.edu
1875 Millikin Rd. Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 292-4321

Appointments (including same-day) for all aspects of mental and physical health, routine/preventative and otherwise.
**Application Deadlines**

Students are normally admitted to our M.A. program beginning in the fall semester. The deadlines for applications are as follows:

For International Applicants wishing full funding consideration (fellowship, graduate teaching assistantship):

November 15

For U.S. applicants wishing full funding consideration (fellowship, graduate teaching assistantship):

December 15

All students whose applications are complete by the above dates will be considered eligible for fellowships or graduate teaching assistantships, both of which come with a tuition waiver. AFTER those dates, late applications will be considered on a rolling basis. However, to late applicants, no fellowships can be awarded and GTAships may only become available if previous awardees choose not to matriculate. Late applications will be considered until:

May 1 (International)
June 30 (U.S.)

Applications are evaluated once all required components are received. Some components, such as transcripts and letters of recommendation, may take some time to be sent out after being requested, so applicants should plan well ahead of deadlines.

For detailed further information about applying see: [https://film-studies.osu.edu/programs/graduate/MA/requirements](https://film-studies.osu.edu/programs/graduate/MA/requirements).
Curriculum and Degree Requirements

Students pursuing the MA in Film Studies will take four core courses in film history, film theory, and film language, and at least six elective courses concentrating on specific traditions, critical schools, directors, genres, and production contexts. These electives, one of which must be a course in film production (not including screenwriting), come from the Departments of Art, Comparative Studies, East Asian Languages and Literatures, Dance, French and Italian, Germanic Language and Literatures, History of Art, Slavic and Eastern European Languages, Spanish and Portuguese, Theatre, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, as well as the Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design.

The degree consists of thirty-six credit hours in total, thirty of which must come from coursework. Students will be required to show proficiency in one foreign language and will complete a thesis before graduation.

Professional Standards

M.A. students in Film Studies are expected to observe professional ethical standards in all coursework and independent research. Instances of Academic Misconduct or Research and Scholarly Misconduct will be handled in accordance with policies detailed in the GSH 5.9.1-4. Informational links are also included in this section of the GSH. If you have any doubts about what might constitute plagiarism or academic misconduct in any given course, you should discuss the situation with your professor.

Requirements, Master of Arts in Film Studies

-Core Courses | Four courses, 12 hours

- English 6778.01 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Film (3 CH)
- English 7878.01 Seminar in Film & Media (3 CH)
- Film Studies 7000 Graduate Studies in Film History (3 CH)
- Film Studies 7001 Advanced Theory Seminar: Methods and Applications (3 CH)

English 6778.01 and Film Studies 7000 are typically offered in the Fall semester (and only once/year). These are foundational courses that provide important preparation for other coursework and we expect that unless there is a compelling reason not to, they will be taken during a student’s FIRST semester (or as soon thereafter as possible).

Film Studies 7001 is typically offered in Spring semester.

-Electives

- One course from the production-course list (see Film Studies website: https://film-studies.osu.edu/programs/graduate/MA/courses)
- At least 6 hours at the 7000-level or higher
- No more than 6 hours below the 5000-level
- No more than 6 hours of non-graded coursework (S/U or PA/NP)

Please note that for our purposes “production” courses are only courses that involve the creation of sounds and images. Thus, screenwriting classes DO NOT fulfill the production course requirement. You are welcome to take screenwriting, but it can only be used for other elective credit.

“Professional Development” courses such as Internship Credit (FS 7193) or Teaching Apprenticeships (NOT Teaching Assistantships) may also be used for elective credit, but since they are taken for variable (1-3) credit hours and as S/U, you must be attentive to the fact that only 6 S/U hours can be counted towards the degree. Depending upon your professional ambitions and time commitments, it may be strategically useful to do more than 6 such credit hours, but they will not count towards your degree requirements.

Courses scheduled to be offered in a given semester are listed on the Film Studies program website here: https://film-studies.osu.edu/courses.

Occasionally film courses are offered in other departments that have not been approved for Film Studies’ student credit. Alternately, they may not have been brought to our attention. Consult with the DGS to decide whether courses not appearing on Film Studies lists are appropriate for you.

-LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

There are a number of possible ways to satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement:

- Passing a language department’s 6571 & 6572 or 1103 with a grade of B or better.
- Showing reading competence in a second language by arranging a competency examination. (These are administered by the departments that teach the languages in question.)
- Entering the program as an international student with English as your second language.
- Passing, with a grade of B or better, a 5000-8000 level film course taught in the target language. Note that language of instruction is not always clearly indicated in the OSU Course Catalog description and language of instruction may vary for the same rubric from semester to semester, so be sure to verify this with the instructor at the time of registration.

If your ambitions include doing a Ph.D. where you might study a particular, non-English language cinema as a part of eventual dissertation research, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the time during your M.A. to develop your language skills above and beyond those needed to meet the foreign language requirement. Not only are extremely good language skills and cultural competency necessary to comfortably and effectively undertake doctoral/post-doctoral research in a given language, but employment in the academic job market as a specialist
of a foreign language cinema often entails positions that are joint or full appointments in foreign language, literature and culture departments. These departments will normally expect job candidates to have near native language skills and be able to teach in the target language.

-Satisfactory completion of a Master’s Thesis (6 thesis hours)

The M.A. in Film Studies is a “thesis option” degree, as described in the GSH. The writing of an M.A. Thesis in Film Studies is a process by which you will learn and put into practice the analytical and research skills necessary to conceive, create, and eventually publish scholarly research in a given subfield of Film Studies. There are many acceptable thesis topics and the topic will determine appropriate methodology. Research undertaken for seminar papers in your coursework will give you some preliminary experience in these processes, but you will focus your interests and develop and refine an appropriate and feasible topic under the guidance of your M.A. Thesis Advisor.

A typical M.A. Thesis will be a 30-page document of scholarly analysis. (30 pages may easily and acceptably be exceeded depending upon the nature of the material and methodology.)

M.A. Thesis credits (FS 7999):

Typically, in the Fall and Spring of your second (of two) full-time years of study, you will register for three credit hours each semester (6 credits total) with your M.A. Thesis Advisor under the rubric FS 7999. After making arrangements with your M.A. Thesis Advisor, with approval of the DGS, you should make an appointment with the Program Coordinator so the course can be created and your enrollment processed (registration can also be handled by email—contact swift.23@osu.edu and cc flinn.62@osu.edu).

In some exceptional cases, the M.A. Thesis may be undertaken as a Spring-Fall project. Please be aware that OSU faculty are not contractually “on duty” during summer months, and many undertake research travel during this time that would interfere with their availability to supervise your work (even if they were willing). So, while summer term registration for thesis credits is possible (as in thesis credits taken Summer-Fall or Spring-Summer), it will rarely be a viable option, and if you were to do a Spring-Fall thesis, you need to be prepared to be fully independent during the intervening summer.

In all cases, the M.A. Thesis should span the student’s final two semesters of enrollment prior to anticipated graduation.

You will meet with your Thesis Advisor weekly or bi-weekly throughout two semesters—the frequency will vary depending upon the phase of the project and is at the discretion of the M.A. Thesis Advisor.
Logistical guidelines for the thesis (presuming the standard Autumn-Spring project, 2 year program): (individual advisors may impose more frequent or earlier deadlines for sections of the paper, bibliography, intermediate or pre-writing exercises, etc.)
Target dates are approximate and will be posted/distributed to all students and advisors each year.

All appropriate citation and bibliographic practices should be followed as detailed in the latest edition of the MLA Handbook or the Chicago Manual of Style, as agreed upon with the M.A. Advisor. These manuals provide specific style guidelines. Additionally, theses must be formatted in accordance with “Graduate School Guidelines for Formatting Theses, Dissertations, and D.M.A. Documents” available on the Graduate School website: https://gradsch.osu.edu/completing-your-degree/dissertations-theses/document-preparation.

Autumn Semester (2nd/Thesis year):
Commitment to your choice of topic, development of bibliography, plan for research and writing, begin writing.

Week 10, 4th week of October: M.A. Thesis students declare a provisional topic and title to M.A. Thesis Advisor and Director of Graduate Studies.

End of semester (2nd Week of December):
Complete and polished proposal and bibliography (annotated to the degree determined by the advisor) due to Thesis Advisor and DGS. [Please note—individual advisors should require a much earlier deadline for the initial production of the proposal and bibliography. By the 2nd week of December, it is expected that the proposal will have already been revised as per the advisor’s feedback, and the revised proposal has been approved.]

Spring Semester (2nd/Thesis year):
Week 2, 3rd Friday of the semester: Deadline for students to apply to Graduate School for M.A. Degree to be awarded in May of that year.

Week 8, 1st week of March: Full and complete draft of thesis due to advisors. Advisors will return revisions and comments to advisees within 7 days. (Sections of the paper should already have been read and commented on by advisors following interim deadlines established between student and advisor.)

At this point, the Director of Graduate Studies will consult with M.A. Thesis Advisors to assign Film Studies faculty members as Second Readers, and Defenses will be scheduled.

Week 11, 4th week of March: Final version of papers due to M.A. Thesis Advisors and to Director of Graduate Studies.

1st-2nd weeks of April: Oral Defenses of M.A. Theses take place. One-hour oral defense (rooms should be reserved for 90 minutes to allow one full hour of discussion). Present must be: Student,
M.A. Thesis Advisor, Second Film Studies Faculty Reader. Any videoconference participation can take place only in accordance with the Graduate School’s policy on video conferencing (GSH, appendix B). The Director of Graduate Studies will preside to ensure consistency and fairness across theses. The defense provides an opportunity for the committee to provide feedback on the final version of the project and to discuss possibilities for future academic research on the basis of the strengths and weaknesses.

Please note that these logistical guidelines presume that a successfully defended thesis will be deposited with nothing but the most superficial revisions. Slightly more important revisions can be required without financial penalty if the student can deposit by the “End-of-Semester” deadline. See Graduation Calendar for all deadlines: https://gradsch.osu.edu/graduation-calendar.

Assessment of the M.A. Thesis:

Thesis credits are graded S/U by the M.A. Thesis Advisor at their discretion based on the student’s assiduity in carrying out of research and professional respect of deadlines.

The completed M.A. Thesis and subsequent defense is evaluated by the committee (Master’s Examination Committee, in GSH terminology), comprised of the M.A. Thesis Advisor, the Second Reader, and DGS. [In the rare event that the DGS is the M.A. Thesis Advisor or Second Reader due to area of research expertise, a member of the Graduate Studies Committee will be appointed to serve as the third committee member for the examination.]

The M.A. Thesis is assessed using a rubric that includes the evaluation of: topic presentation and clarity, quality and statement of argument and research question(s), development and support of the argument/response to questions, appropriateness and effectiveness of the methodology, thoroughness of bibliography in secondary and theoretical literature, and originality and creativity of thought.

Outcomes for the Thesis, based upon the quality of the written document and its oral defense are:

**Distinction**: “Distinction” is not an official designation for Graduate School purposes and will not appear on your official academic record/transcript, but for internal purposes the Program allows committees to designate theses as having earned “Distinction” in order to indicate truly exceptional work.

**Satisfactory**: A satisfactory thesis has met the faculty’s expectations and indicates that the student has gained the knowledge and experience in scholarly research practices to prepare them for doctoral study.

This does not, however, mean that all students who pass their thesis with Satisfactory are encouraged to pursue doctoral study. Suitability for doctoral study is a complex picture and a Ph.D. should be pursued only after extensive consultation with multiple mentors and advisors.
**Unsatisfactory**: Indicates that the thesis does not adequately meet faculty expectations and the student has not met the requirement for the M.A. degree.

In the event of an “Unsatisfactory” Thesis, as specified in the GSH, the Master’s Examination Committee (M.A. Advisor, Second Reader, and DGS) will decide whether the student will be allowed to revise and re-defend the Thesis. (See GSH, 6.3.3-4)

**COMPLETING YOUR DEGREE—Yay!**

See “Final Semester Procedures checklist and timeline for Master’s degrees”

https://gradsch.osu.edu/completing-your-degree/final-semester/final-semester-procedures-and-timelines

for detailed information and links regarding submitting applications to graduate, thesis format checks, GRADFORMS, and Commencement.

Please note that while you may have experienced application deadlines that are internal to the Film Studies program to be “soft” and we can sometimes help you circumnavigate some graduate school requirements/deadlines, you should operate under the assumption that all Graduate School deadlines relating to graduation, especially format checks, are HARD deadlines. If you miss them, the Graduate School will tend to react with institutional indifference and you simply will not graduate when you had hoped, so you need to be organized and on top of this!

**Additional information regarding Advising and Curriculum**

**Advising**

Upon your acceptance of admission and matriculation in the program, the Director of Graduate Studies serves as your advisor. You are expected to consult with the DGS regularly regarding course selection, internship and other development plans, career goals, and possible areas of interest for your M.A. thesis (at least once per semester regarding your course selection for the coming semester, and more often as needed). During the spring of your first year (sooner if you begin the program knowing the major research subfield[s] that interest you), you should actively be discussing the possible choices of your eventual M.A. Thesis Advisor. Be aware that not all instructors of film studies courses are eligible to supervise M.A. Theses. Also, no individual faculty member is obligated to agree to supervise your project. You will need to initiate and build a relationship with a potential advisor (this may be through coursework or other contact within our intellectual community) and they must agree to supervise your work in a given area of research (that lines up with their expertise), before you will be allowed to register for thesis credit with them.

A tip for starting to see who might make a good M.A. Thesis Advisor for you in terms of research interests:
One way to identify the scholarly interests/expertise of faculty members in areas of film history and theory at OSU is to look on our Core Faculty page (https://film-studies.osu.edu/directory?field_people_terms_1_tid%5B%5D=9) and click on a single research/teaching interest, listed on the right-hand side. Please note that screenwriting and film production expertise are also a part of this list, not just film history and theory expertise. Each of these categories involves professors having self-identified areas of teaching and research expertise. Choosing, for example, “Classical Hollywood History,” will give you the list of people who are most likely to be good advisors for an M.A. thesis on some area of Classic Hollywood. With “National Cinemas,” you will need to read in more detail: most of the faculty in this category specialize in a specific language, country or region, or a combination of transnational cinemas—so, they won’t all have expertise in all national cinemas! Please be aware, though, that while we do our best to keep the website as up to date as possible, people’s interests shift and evolve, so there may be someone who is a good choice who won’t turn up searching this way, and our list of categories is hardly exhaustive (we do not break down different themes, or topics within critical theory, for instance) so be sure you discuss your interests with the DGS!

Once appointed, while your M.A. Thesis Advisor may be a good person to consult about course choices (insofar as it may impact useful preparation and development of the thesis), the Director of Graduate Studies remains your advisor both for discussion of course registration and for the purposes of verifying that you have fulfilled all program requirements prior to graduation. You must not neglect regular meetings with the DGS to verify your progress in the degree program as a whole.

The M.A. Thesis Advisor supervises your work on the intellectual development and realization (i.e. writing, revision, and defense) of your M.A. Thesis. Prior to the defense, a Second Reader will be appointed to the project, on consultation between the M.A. Thesis Advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

It is imperative that you respond to all communication from the DGS and from your M.A. Thesis Advisor in a TIMELY fashion.

Independent Study: FS 7191

Because of the breadth and richness of available coursework, independent studies are not encouraged and are only arranged in truly extraordinary circumstances. The independent study rubric for MA level coursework is Film Studies 7191, and you may register only with permission of both the DGS and of the Film Studies professor who will supervise the independent study.

Study abroad/away, archival research away from Columbus

The Film Studies program does not have any formal graduate study abroad or study away programs. However, many other departments or programs do run summer travel study programs that are open to graduate student participants. These summer programs can be used to earn elective credits, pursue foreign language training, pursue M.A. Thesis research, etc. Individual
departments may award scholarship monies to help defray costs. Additional funding and research grants for international projects and other travel are available through OIA and the Graduate College (see links in directory, above). If you are interested in pursuing summer travel study or archival research, please consult with the Director of Graduate Studies and/or your potential M.A. Thesis Advisor. Be aware that even to apply for summer research travel grants prior to your M.A. Thesis, you will need to develop and submit a grant proposal during the early winter of the previous year, so this is an option that is best pursued early, by students who are extremely clear about their research interests at a very early stage of their M.A.

**Summer credit options**

Because most graduate faculty are not contractually “on duty” during summer months and many engage in research travel, conference travel, and/or family vacations during this time, graduate credits that can be earned in the summer are extremely limited (not only in Film Studies, but in almost all departments). If you are a fellowship student or otherwise have the resources to pay for summer courses, this may be a good time to engage in foreign language study. Many language courses are offered in summer, including reading courses geared towards graduate students, and language courses via study abroad. Internship credit may be earned in the summer term, but as always, it is your responsibility to arrange the internship. If you are interested in earning summer credits, please consult with the DGS for help identifying your best options.

**About (non-film) Courses in Other Departments**

An M.A. degree is short and we expect that you will take the vast majority of your courses on film topics. However, it is entirely possible that there will be non-film courses offered somewhere in the university that will provide you with valuable interdisciplinary training. Particularly when this might feed your methodological training or give useful background for your M.A. thesis, for example, a seminar on 20th C American politics in the History department, a Comparative Studies course on Post-May 68 critical theory, or an Art History seminar on the history of photography might provide essential support and preparation for your independent research. Since opportunities to take courses outside of film studies will be limited, please weigh these choices carefully and always discuss them with the DGS upon registration.

**Course Load**

The M.A. done full time is programmed to be completed in 4 semesters: Autumn-Spring, Autumn-Spring. This usually involves registering for 3 courses [9 credit hours] per semester, which allows some additional time to hold a Teaching Assistantship, take a foreign language course if needed, or to engage in a small-credit professional development opportunity (Teaching Apprenticeship or Internship, which also may be taken for up to 3 credits at a time and be taken for elective credit).
Fellowship students typically register for four courses [12 credit hours] or more per semester (this may of course include foreign language courses, Teaching Apprenticeships, Internship credits, etc.)—minimum course loads are usually dictated by the fellowship conditions, and outside employment may be prohibited or restricted.

**Dual Degrees**

It is possible to pursue an M.A. in Film Studies as part of a dual degree program. See the Graduate School website for basic information: [https://gradsch.osu.edu/degree-options](https://gradsch.osu.edu/degree-options).

For further details about applying see: [https://gradsch.osu.edu/pursuing-your-degree/career-development/degree-options/applying-dual-degree](https://gradsch.osu.edu/pursuing-your-degree/career-development/degree-options/applying-dual-degree).

**Transfer Students**

It is possible to apply to the M.A. program as a transfer student. OSU graduate college rules state that “Master’s students must complete 80 percent of the degree requirements [at OSU] over at least two semesters.” ([https://gradsch.osu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/pdfs/GRADFORMS-TransferOfGraduateCredit.pdf](https://gradsch.osu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/pdfs/GRADFORMS-TransferOfGraduateCredit.pdf)) This means that the program can only accept 20% of degree credits via transfer. The film studies program does not guarantee upon admission that it will approve 20% of degree credits by transfer; transfer credits will only be approved after the first semester of study at OSU. In practice, the 20% cap on transfer credits means no more than three 3-credit classes from a previous M.A. program will be approved for transfer, and most transfer students will need three-semester at OSU in order to complete the MA.

**Professional development**

**Internship credit: FS 5193 & 7193**

All M.A. students are encouraged to undertake at least one internship over the course of their studies, as a means of gaining professional experience. Information about Columbus area institutions with which our students have secured internships in the past is available with the Program Coordinator. But internships need not be limited to past placements. Students with ideas for internships with new organizations (for example, audio-visual production outreach or cinéma-club program with a local school/district) are encouraged to pursue these options, especially if it entails an innovation that is particularly well suited to the student’s professional ambitions. But in all cases, it is the student’s responsibility to secure the internship and negotiate the terms of the credit agreement with their supervisor at the internship site.

FS 5193 and 7193 are available for variable credit (1-3 hours).

Registration for FS 7193 must be done for you by the Program Coordinator (swift.23@osu.edu). In order to register, the student must file a completed copy of the Graduate Internship Learning
Agreement Form with the Film Studies Program Coordinator and DGS. Registration deadlines are those established by the University Registrar for the semester or half-semester the student wishes to carry out the internship. The Graduate Internship Learning Agreement Form is available here: Link.

The Internship Learning Agreement Form must be signed by the student, site supervisor, and the Film Studies Program Internship Advisor (currently the DGS). The form details the agreed upon hours, description of duties, and the reflective activity to be completed under the supervision of the Film Studies Program Internship Advisor.

The reflective activity (in most cases an internship report) is necessary to the awarding of academic credit and should in some way address: 1. what the student has learned; 2. how the internship experience relates to the student’s classroom learning; 3. how the student should/will include the internship on their professional résumé and/or academic c.v.; 4. how this experience can be used in a job search process (or further education application) to highlight the relationship between the student’s skills, academic training, and workplace knowledge. Depending upon the internship duties, additional documentation (such as sample work product) may be included to supplement the reflective activity.

Teaching Assistantships (GTAships)

The Program in Film Studies currently offers only one part-time GTAships, without a tuition waiver, as a funding possibility. However, it is frequently the case that other departments are short of graders or discussion section leaders for general education courses on film studies or other topics (these courses are often taught by Film Studies faculty).

Teaching assistantship compensation and duties vary by department (and sometimes by course). If you wish to seek out one of these opportunities, you are encouraged to contact individual departments and Film Studies faculty offering large undergraduate lecture courses. Students who are native or near-native speakers of a language other than English may also find sections of language teaching to be available (contact the appropriate Department Chair or Director of Basic Language Programs). Please note that some departments will require participation in departmental orientation/training programs as a condition of GTA employment.

In coming years, Program in Film Studies expects to be able to offer GTAships as a funding possibility for some incoming students.

Teaching Apprenticeships

The Program in Film Studies does not currently offer Film Studies teaching apprenticeships (coming soon), however many Film Studies faculty teach in departments with a (variable-credit S/U) Teaching Apprenticeship rubric (e.g. English 8903, French 8303, Russian 8150), and may be willing to accept Film Studies M.A. students as apprentices to one of their current undergraduate courses. Unlike a GTAship, which entails financial compensation, a teaching
apprenticeship is a teacher training experience. (Another way to think of it is as an internship in college-level teaching.) Apprenticeships vary by department and by professor. Most will entail attending and doing all reading and film viewing prep for an undergraduate course; observing the course; possibly participating in small group discussions (but not full course discussion, at which point the apprentice only observes); reading a small sampling of student work in order to learn grading standards; guest teaching one-three sessions of the course; and developing one’s own course syllabus and annotated bibliography on a similar topic, all under the professor’s guidance. Apprentices are given insight into the professor’s process of course development (discussion of the syllabus choices), and also receive written and verbal feedback on their guest teaching (which may eventually serve the professor as the basis for a letter of recommendation for the student) as well as their syllabus project, etc.

A teaching apprenticeship may be a desirable professional development activity for an M.A. student who has not held a GTAship but would like to gain some insight and experience into teaching in preparation for a GTAship or in evaluating their interest in teaching before pursuing doctoral work in film studies (which usually will involve a significant teaching component and often leads to a post-secondary teaching career). Students interested in such an opportunity are encouraged to talk with the Director of Graduate Studies, who can help them identify Film Studies faculty teaching appropriate undergraduate courses on a film topic who are willing to supervise an apprentice for that course.
Information about Life in Columbus

The following includes some practical basics to help you get oriented to living in Columbus and to finding fun/interesting things to do (focusing on off-campus).

But first, two words on “work-life” balance: Find It.

Being a graduate student is NOT just Undergraduate Studies Part Deux. Expectations on the part of your professors are different (usually higher), both in terms of in-class performance and general professionalism. You should not be surprised that professors treat you more like junior colleagues or apprentices and that grad school is not like what you experienced as an undergrad, even at the same institution. Even as you recognize these differences, it is easy to be overwhelmed or alienated by them. Successful adaptation often depends upon two things:

1. ASK if you aren’t sure. Don’t pretend you know what you don’t know—most professors are happy to help you; but if you don’t speak up, they’ll assume you’re on top of things.

2. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. Although you will naturally be worried about performing well, and we expect that your studies will be your main priority, it is important that you strategically take/make time every week (or even every day) to engage in activities that are necessary for you to stay centered, healthy, and happy. This can be anything: see close friends, talk with family, exercise, cook a fancy meal, visit a museum, work in a community garden, volunteer at a foodbank. Find what works for you, and don’t neglect to do it, even when pressures from your schoolwork rise.

PRACTICAL Basics

Transportation

• Buses
  COTA—Public transportation
  http://www.cota.com
  Your Buckeye card works as a bus pass (paid via student fees).
  The #2 bus is your best friend!

  CABS—Campus bus service
  https://ttm.osu.edu/cabs

• Bikes
  Bicycles are a great way to get around Columbus and campus, because it is relatively flat, has an ever-increasing bike-lane infrastructure, and some lovely dedicated bike paths (along the Olentangy River, for example) that give direct and protected access to much of the city.
There are MANY, MANY bike stores on High Street (north and south of campus) as well as scattered in south Clintonville where you can buy new or used bicycles. There are also three local bike share options:

CoGo Bike Share
https://www.cogobikeshare.com
Covers most well-frequented sights in town

Campus bike share: https://ttm.osu.edu/bikeshare
On-Campus racks only

LimeBike
https://www.limebike.com/
Dockess bike share.

•Cars
Cars rarely fit well into graduate student budgets. Campus Parking Permits are very expensive—information here: http://osu.campusparc.com.

Groceries
The two main grocery chains in the Columbus area, both of which have locations relatively close to campus, are Kroger and Giant Eagle. Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s have multiple locations in the Columbus suburbs.

A recent and excellent addition is Lucky’s Market, on High Street in Clintonville (on #2 bus line). Lucky’s is an affordable alternative to Whole Foods—has a good selection of organic and locally-sourced items.

Farmer’s Markets (summer-early fall, sometimes special Thanksgiving/Winter dates)
Clintonville—Saturday mornings, starts at Autozone parking lot and runs south along High Street.
http://www.clintonvillefarmersmarket.org

Worthington—Saturday mornings
https://www.worthingtonfarmersmarket.com

North Market (Downtown/Short North)
http://www.northmarket.com
Historic covered market in downtown. Has produce, butcher’s and bakery stands inside, but is mostly prepared food stands. Runs outdoor farmer’s market Saturday morning in season.

Small, specialized international groceries (Asian, Mediterranean, etc.) can be located around town, many on the stretch of High Street that runs from Campus, through Old North Columbus and into Clintonville.
CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) or “farm shares”
If you have a family or share food costs with roommates, there are many farms that do “shares” of local produce that you pick up weekly (you subscribe for a given period). Worth looking into if you want to access high quality (often organic), local produce economically—and are creative about cooking (since you don’t determine what is in the share!). Some CSAs are summer only, some run fall and spring as well. Many CSAs have deals with local institutions (schools, community centers), where if you subscribe via the institution (which usually also serves as pick-up center), you get a discounted rate and/or the institution gets a benefit/donation. You can search “Columbus/Central Ohio CSA” on-line, and/or visit local farmer’s markets for information.

Cell Phones
All major US cellular carriers have coverage and stores in Columbus. Many have small shops right off campus (on High towards the South Campus Gateway—check on-line for specific addresses). If you are an international student, you may simply choose to swap out your SIM card for a US SIM (check your carrier at home if you want to keep your number, they may let you do so for a fee, so you can re-activate it when you return for visits).

Something to consider when choosing a data plan (if you have a smart phone)—if you spend most of your time on campus or at home (and have wi-fi at your apartment), then you may be easily able to get away with a very low amount of data, since everywhere on campus has OSU wi-fi.

Banks
Huntington
OSU has a special agreement with Huntington Bank, which gives it exclusive access to branch and ATM locations on campus. This involves some special student banking packages and the possibility to use your BuckID card as your ATM.

The Credit Union of Ohio
https://www.cufohio.org
CU of Ohio has a “campus” location on Neil Street (not technically “on” campus, because the building is not owned by the university!) They have very affordable rates and the “campus” branch is not far from the Oval.

Travel
Columbus has no passenger rail service, it but does have Greyhound buses and of course John Glenn International Airport: COTA runs an “AirConnect” shuttle bus that runs directly from the Airport to Downtown, with easy connections on COTA: http://www.cota.com/airconnect.

If you’re inclined and able to weekend or even 1 day road trip: The large cities in the region (comparable in size to Columbus and all within 3 hours car travel), Cincinnati, Pittsburgh,
Cleveland, and Detroit, have some truly world class art museums, symphonies, etc. Dayton (closer and smaller) also has some interesting museums/sights, including Wright-Patterson Airforce Museum. If you prefer hiking/camping, the Hocking Hills are also within 1 ½-3 hours.

**Arts, Recreation, Entertainment**

Columbus has a vibrant and diverse community that provides many opportunities for education, recreation, and entertainment. The Greater Columbus Arts Council is the primary clearing house for all events in Columbus. [http://www.columbusmakesart.com/](http://www.columbusmakesart.com/)

**Movie Theaters**

Note that many venues in Columbus offer student discounts. You should pick up a Film Studies Student Card from the Film Studies program office in order to receive an additional $1 discount on tickets at the Wexner Center.

- **The Wexner Center for the Arts** (on campus)  
  [http://wexarts.org](http://wexarts.org) (see Film/Video)

- **The Gateway Film Center** (on High St. in South Campus Gateway—art house and independent multiplex)  
  [http://gatewayfilmcenter.org](http://gatewayfilmcenter.org)

- **Studio 35 Theater and Drafthouse** (Clintonville)  
  [http://studio35.com](http://studio35.com)

- **AMC Lennox** (South West, across the Olentangy River from campus; closest large chain multiplex to campus)  

- **The Grandview Theater and Drafthouse** (Grandview)  
  [http://grandviewtheater.com](http://grandviewtheater.com)

- **The Drexel Theater** (Bexley)  
  [http://www.drexel.net](http://www.drexel.net)

Other ways to see films (for FREE)…

The **OSU Library** has an extensive DVD collection, open to browse on the first floor of **Thompson Library**. DVDs circulate if they are not on reserve for courses.

**OSU Library** also subscribes to a number of **streaming services**, including Kanopy and Alexander Street Press that have excellent, reliable interfaces and good image quality (these services include many Criterion and California Newsreel titles, for example). You can access films in these collections either by searching film title in the library catalogue or by first
accessing the electronic resources and then searching (or browsing) within the specific collection.

The Columbus Metropolitan Library (http://www.columbuslibrary.org) is free to all residents (including those in university housing) and has an EXCELLENT DVD/Blu-ray collection. The brand-new Northside Branch is closest to campus. Whetstone (in Clintonville) and the Main Branch (downtown) are also easily accessible via public transportation. Materials can be ordered electronically to be delivered for pick up at your branch. Columbus Metropolitan also maintains a browsing collection of “fun” books near the Circulation desk at Thompson Library. ALL Columbus Metropolitan library material can be returned to any of their branches, but ALSO to Thompson!

Performing Arts
Many major performing arts events occur on campus, at the Wexner Center, Schottenstein Center, Ohio Union, or other venues.

CAPA, owner and operator of many historic theaters in downtown Columbus, is a good centralized location for information about live music and theater performances:
http://www.capa.com

Columbus Recreation and Parks
https://www.columbus.gov/recreationandparks/
Many beautiful parks, facilities and programs, free or at very low cost, throughout the city.

Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
http://www.metroparks.net
Parks usually a bit further afield, but some available via public transport.

Museums (on and off campus)

The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum
https://cartoons.osu.edu

Columbus College of Art and Design, Beeler Gallery
http://beelergallery.org
CCAD has a wide variety of programming of interest to film studies.

Columbus Museum of Art
http://www.columbusmuseum.org/#/gallery/popular

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
https://www.columbuszoo.org

COSI—Center of Science and Industry
https://cosi.org
Not just a kids’ museum—COSI has regular adult-only evening hours, and an IMAX theater.

**Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**
http://www.fpconservatory.org

**Ohio History Connection**
http://www.ohiohistory.org

**Pizzuti Collection**
https://pizzuticollection.org

**Thurber House**
http://www.thurberhouse.org

**The Wexner Center**
http://wexarts.org

### Shopping

**Bookstores**
**Barnes and Noble** has a location on High Street (next to South Campus Gateway) that functions as the main Ohio State University bookstore (textbooks can be purchased there). B & N has many other locations throughout the Columbus area, including at the Lennox Center and in Upper Arlington, both of which are not too far from campus. **Half-Price Books** also has multiple locations, some fairly close to campus.

Otherwise, there are not many independent booksellers in Columbus. The shops in the Wexner Center and the Columbus Museum of Art are not large, but have high-quality selections of publications on visual arts, including film.

**Laughing Ogre Comics** (Clintonville)
http://laughingogrecomics.com
(There are other comic books stores in Columbus, but Laughing Ogre is arguably the best, and is easily accessible on the #2 bus line from campus.)

**Gramercy Books** (Bexley)
https://www.gramercybooksbexley.com
Not convenient from campus, but a small and excellent selection.

**The Book Loft** (German Village)
http://www.bookloft.com
More impressive for size than quality of selection, a long-standing local institution.

**Karen Wickliff Books** (Used, Clintonville)
4327 N. High St.
Kind of chaotic, but nice for a rummage.

**Cover to Cover** (Children’s books, Upper Arlington)
2116 Upper Arlington Ave. Upper Arlington
[https://www.covertocoverchildrensbooks.com/](https://www.covertocoverchildrensbooks.com/)

**Other Shopping**

Small boutique and chain stores are scattered along High Street near to campus, mostly catering to undergraduate tastes.

More upscale/eclectic and independent boutiques can be found along High in the **Short North** and **German Village**.

**Lennox Center**—a strip-mall type shopping area across the Olentangy River from campus (accessible on foot or by bus), has a Target.

**Graceland**—also strip-mall type shopping area, in Beechwold/Clintonville (accessible by Bus), also has a Target.

**Lane Avenue**—across Olentangy River from Main campus, Lane has a series of strip malls (increasingly upscale as they get further from campus).

Columbus has numerous large indoor or indoor/outdoor shopping malls which can be accessed (if not terribly conveniently) by limited transportation. **Polaris** and **Easton Town Center** are the most interesting/upscale. (An **IKEA** has just opened in the vicinity of Polaris.)

**Restaurants, Cafés, Bars, etc.**

Columbus has a reputation as a “foodie” town, with a wide range of places to suit individual tastes and budgets. Breweries and distilleries are popular. Check on-line for the latest info.

**News and Entertainment information**

Pretty much all of these have Facebook groups, Instagram accounts, etc., so you can set up for updates on your preferred social media platform.

*(614) Magazine*  
[http://614columbus.com](http://614columbus.com)  
“The User’s guide to Columbus”

**Edible Columbus**  
[http://www.ediblecbus.com](http://www.ediblecbus.com)  
Local food, free monthly
Experience Columbus
https://www.experiencecolumbus.com
Tourist information

Columbus Alive
http://www.columbusalive.com/

Columbus Dispatch
http://www.dispatch.com
The local newspaper of record

Columbus Monthly
http://www.columbusmonthly.com
Monthly glossy magazine

Columbus Navigator
http://www.columbusnavigator.com
News, entertainment, real estate website

Columbus Parent
http://www.columbusparent.com
Free monthly, also on-line

Columbus Underground
http://www.columbusunderground.com
Free weekly, also on-line

The Lantern
http://www.thelantern.com
Official OSU student-run newspaper

Outlook Ohio
https://outlookohio.com
LGBTQAI news and events