# MASTER OF ARTS IN CINEMA STUDIES

The Master of Arts in Cinema Studies at SF State offers students the opportunity to pursue graduate research in cinema and media scholarship. We believe that “cinema” refers to all moving image media, from early films to emerging digital media forms. The M.A. program emphasizes not only the study of cinema history, theory, and criticism but of all “cinematic” media and the theories related to them. The curriculum allows students considerable freedom to choose among a wide variety of course offerings, building toward producing a thesis that emphasizes focused research on a specific topic related to their interests.

## Professional Outlook

### Ph.D. Programs

Graduates of the program have gone on to earn doctoral degrees at prestigious schools such as UCLA, UC Berkeley, Harvard, Glasgow University, Concordia University, UT Austin, Indiana University, University of Iowa and UC Santa Barbara, among others. Some hold tenure-track positions at universities around the world.

### Media Arts Management

Graduates have secured successful careers as managers of local and regional media arts organizations, curators at art museums and film festivals and as media archivists and librarians.

### Entertainment Industry

Graduates have found work in the entertainment and digital media industries, holding positions as journalists and reviewers, studio archivists, audience analysts, producers, and creative executives, among others.

The M.A. in Cinema Studies enables students to:

- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of cinematic theory, history, and criticism.
- Conduct close analyses of cinematic texts, including film, television and digital media.
- Craft written arguments and analysis utilizing appropriate source materials.
- Conduct independent research that leads to a thesis project.
- Demonstrate teaching skills appropriate to undergraduate cinema studies coursework.

## Application Procedures

To apply to the M.A. in Cinema Studies, you must complete the Cal State Apply application for graduate admission.

The School of Cinema accepts new M.A. students for the Fall term only. The application opens on October 1, 2019. The priority deadline for M.A. applications is March 1, 2020, followed by a second deadline on April 15, with applications accepted on a space-available basis until June 1.

**Cal State Apply**

[https://www2.calstate.edu/Apply](https://www2.calstate.edu/Apply)

**Please note:** you must complete the entire application to be considered.

## Use the Documents tab to upload the following:

1. **CV/Resume**
   A one to two-page resume or Curriculum Vitae summarizing the applicant’s education, awards or recognition, work experience, languages, and special skills.

2. **Personal Statement**
   Background and Research Interests Statement (four double-spaced pages maximum). Applicants should describe how their past academic work or other experience has prepared them for graduate work and discuss how they plan to develop these (or other) research interests as a graduate student in the M.A. in Cinema Studies program.

3. **Unofficial Transcripts**
   The Division of Graduate Studies requires you to upload unofficial copies of transcripts from every college or university attended, including study abroad coursework and community college coursework even if transfer credit appears on your degree transcript. Upload all transcripts to the documents section of this application. The Division of Graduate Studies may request official transcripts.
from you at any time during the application process to complete our review. Photographs of documents are not accepted.

4. **Writing Sample**
   An example of academic writing (6–12 pages) that illustrates the applicant’s ability to make and support a thesis as well as familiarity with scholarly form and expository style. Papers from the film and media disciplines are preferred, but other academic work is acceptable.

5. **Additional Unofficial Transcripts**
Use the **Recommendations** tab to:
1. Manage the submission of letters of recommendation
2. Letter writer email addresses should be from professional or academic organizations (ex. @sfsu.edu, @CA.gov or @ibm.com), not personal email addresses.

Use the **Questions** tab to:
1. Answer the questions about your Academic Background, Foreign Language proficiency, and Teaching Interests.

The GRE is **NOT** required.

Questions about the application process and materials can be directed to the School of Cinema graduate advisor at cinegrad@sfsu.edu and/or to the Division of Graduate Studies: Domestic applicants: gradstdy@sfsu.edu or International applicants: intlgrad@sfsu.edu.

**Written English Proficiency Requirement**

**Level One**
First level proficiency is assessed by means of written work completed in CINE 700 for an overall grade of B or better.

**Level Two**
Second level proficiency is assessed by means of the thesis proposal.

**Advancement to Candidacy**
Students must also meet all general University requirements for advancement to candidacy, receive a “B” or better in all required courses for the M.A. degree, and successfully pass their thesis committee review. It is incumbent upon the student to fill out and file all the paperwork required by the Division of Graduate Studies. The Advancement to Candidacy Form is filled out in the first semester of the final year of the program.

**Thesis Project**
After completing course work in film and media theory and history and criticism, students produce a thesis based on the standard length of an article (25 - 35 pages) in an academic cinema journal. The thesis process is initiated in the second year in consultation with an adviser. Students intending to use their thesis as a writing sample in an application to doctoral programs can elect to initiate the process at the end of their second semester in the program. To initiate the process, students must assemble a committee (typically a chair and either one or two other members of the faculty). In the fall or spring of the second year, the student enrolls in CINE 898 Master’s Thesis to complete and file the thesis. The student’s thesis committee reviews the thesis before it is approved. Recent thesis projects include:

- “Family, Selfhood, and Growing Up in the Queer World of Steven Universe,” Allyce L. Ondricka
- “Who can be Eaten? Consuming Animals and Humans in the Cannibal Horror Film,” Erin Wiegand
- “The Reincarnation of Tiger Mountain: Post-socializing the Model Opera Film (yangbanxi),” Xiuye Zhang
- “A Carnival at Termite Terrace: Laughter and Expression in Warner Brothers Animation,” Lucas Seastrom

**Required Courses**
All students must complete at least 30 units for the degree. All 30 units should be for graduate-level courses (i.e., undergraduate courses cannot fulfill the 30-unit requirement). Two courses are required: Introduction to Graduate Studies (CINE 700), which must be taken in the fall of the student’s first year, and Master’s Thesis (CINE 898), which must be taken in the student’s second year (typically the final semester). To complete the 30-unit requirement, students are encouraged to select from the courses listed as Electives under Degree Requirements. Students are encouraged to select electives in consultation with a faculty adviser.

**Cinema Studies (M.A.) – 30 units**

**Core Requirements (6 units)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE 700</td>
<td>Introduction to Graduate Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE 898</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Electives (minimum 24 units)**
Chosen from the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CINE 720</td>
<td>Critical Paradigms and the Cinematic</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE 721</td>
<td>Cinematic Documentary</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CINE 722</td>
<td>Independent Cinema</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE 723</td>
<td>Cinema Forms and Aesthetics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CINE 727</td>
<td>Cinematic Styles, Forms and Movements</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CINE 728</td>
<td>Cinema Histories</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CINE 741</td>
<td>Cinema and the City</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CINE 743</td>
<td>Sexuality in the Cinema</td>
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<td>CINE 747</td>
<td>Post-colonial Cinema</td>
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<td>CINE 748</td>
<td>Cinema and Cultural Studies</td>
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<td>CINE 749</td>
<td>Critical Practices</td>
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<td>Course</td>
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<td>CINE 820</td>
<td>Seminar in Critical Theory</td>
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<td>CINE 823</td>
<td>Curation and Cinema</td>
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<td>CINE 852</td>
<td>Directed Experience in Film Education</td>
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<td>CINE 897</td>
<td>Research Projects in Cinema Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE 899</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
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Not all courses will be offered each semester; please check the Cinema website [cinema.sfsu.edu](http://cinema.sfsu.edu) for schedule information for the relevant semester.