

UoW Film Society

Prospectus 2017-2018



University of Westminster Film Society is one of many societies operating within the University of Westminster Students' Union family of societies and has been identified as a key society for development as a crucial society catering to the creative outlet demands by our student community.

The society last year (2016-17) was run by Bishakha Dutta, a current third year Journalism Student and the prospective President for UoW Film Society this year (2017-18) is Louis Holder.

This document details the intended plan for UoW Film Society; including details of how the society will be run; to ensure maximum efficiency and outreach in catering for the student community.

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Mission Statement

University of Westminster is synonymous with creativity and innovation. It is paramount that UoW Film Society too is synonymous with students across campus - from Harrow to our Central London campuses. That's why this year will be the most important year to date for Film Soc, and here's why.

We'll be building on the previous year's commitment to providing a weekly screening of a film in the Auditorium at Harrow Campus, creating a genuinely enjoyable atmosphere where people love film, and come together to enjoy in that. We have a number of short and long term aims the prospective team and I wish to implement to ensure you'll have the best and most well-rounded film society experience as possible during your studies here.

Modelling on successful film societies and festivals such as the UCL Film & TV Society, which Director Christopher Nolan was President of (1992-94) with producer Emma Thomas. UCL Film & TV Society is one of the oldest film societies in the country and is highly established - we would be proud if we could achieve half of what they've done in their 65-year run so far. The BFI London Film Festival is a prime example of a festival we'll be modelling our long-term aim for *original* programming; modelling on their successfully curated themed strands.

Programming is one of our long-term strategies; which we will aim to achieve in, at least, a small format by the end of the academic year. UOW's collective faculty of creative subjects across MAD (Media, Arts & Design) create some of the most exciting bodies of student work that examine contemporary themes such as identity, social media, the modern workplace, language & communication and relationships; in addition to executing these through a more classical framework and aesthetic such as the application of 16mm Motion Picture Film as used by some students on the BA Film & BA Contemporary Media Practice courses for example.

UWSU (University of Westminster Students' Union) provide the funding for the society; and we want to challenge every penny that we receive. There'll be a position within the society which will hold to account both the money we receive and how we then spend it: including our own informed trajectories, and our final spend for every area financial infrastructure is needed. We have an example business trajectory for the first Semester. The person responsible for this area of operations will be responsible for collecting and inputting real student opinion data and responding to the ever-changing needs of the Film Society and its members where appropriate, using the data to inform that as and where necessary.

I hope to be able to lead UoW Film Society in a way that will bring Film Society to a new generation of glory and will encourage as many of you to attend and be a part of it.

Louis Holder
President of UoW Film Society

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Short Term Goals for Film Society - Goals 1-6 by June 2018, to be implemented in Semester 1 of 2017-18

1. To successfully implement weekly screenings at Harrow Auditorium - our essential goal.
2. To enable Film Society Attendees the possibility to cross-collaborate with students from different courses.
3. To promote Film Society to as huge of a student community as possible; and become a society synonymous with bringing people together.
 - a. We will achieve this through welcoming promotion assistants and creating a tight-knit team of Film Soc advocates, social commentators and promoters.
4. To implement an easy-to-use booking system where you can choose your own seats for advance screenings, confirm your attendance, using Eventbrite for a screening.
5. To provide collaborative opportunity for Film Soc attendees to be Special Guest of the Week on The Saturday Film Show on Smoke Radio; where they can discuss the films they've watched at Film Soc and advertise the next.
6. To host at least 1 marathon screening during the Academic Year.

Long Term Goals for Film Society - Project 1 by June 2018, Projects 2 & 3 by June 2019

1. Project 1 - To develop an *Originals* strand of programming where students can showcase their work; which will be Open in the first instance and will become more curated as needed - dependent on the success of the implementation, the volume and diversity of submissions/selections.
2. Project 2 - To develop this *Originals* strand of programming into a mini film festival in it's own right, with a strong volunteering, creative, production and technical team to lead this into future years of UoW Film Soc. With a vision to launch the first UoW Film Soc-Led Film Festival in Academic Year 2018-2019.
3. Project 3 - To develop Marathon Screenings which are programmed by the fixed Screenings Producers and utilising a rota in the second instance.

Programming

Programming is an integral part of the film exhibition process, it is a process done by cinema chains, film festival organisers and film societies to bring you the best possible, and most well-rounded cinematic experience catered directly to the local demographic.

Successful programming is one where the films shown successfully reflect, but don't command, the tastes of the target audience and remit of film society - as we're catering to the student community it is important we're as proactive as possible offering up a range of accessible and niche cinema from all genres and countries - whether that be arthouse and experimental to blockbusters and cult classics - we want to offer a selection that excites and is unusual.

Short Term Goals for Film Soc Programming - By June 2018

- To showcase student work in the form of short-form Originals Nights where submissions can be a maximum of 10 minutes.

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Long Term Goals for Film Soc Programming - By June 2019

- To extend the *Originals* selection to offer separate *Short* and *Longer* Film strands with Longer Film submissions & selections being accepted for projects where the running time is over 10 minutes.

Other Prospective Goals - Imaginative...for now!

- Inviting special guests and increasing ties with the Westminster Film Department by inviting filmmakers of previous graduation years to present themselves and films.
- To have graduate-curated screenings; of shorts, of other filmmakers, or of a marathon of feature-length films.
- To have fundraising events at The Undercroft & The Loft; where we can put more money into the society (i.e buying popcorn/drinks, hiring a popcorn machine for special events).

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Venues



University of Westminster's Harrow Campus Auditorium can seat **212** people, the size of the screen makes it perfect to showcase films with a beautiful widescreen grandeur of a format such as 2.39:1 [CinemaScope]. There is also a seated Dubbing Theatre in the Film Department which can seat approximately 60 people although all our screenings will be in here.

In future years of UoW Film Society; films may be shown at the University's very own Regent Street Cinema in London's West End. Steeped in history; and having had a recent renovation in 2014 - the single-screened facility shows films using state-of-the-art digital projection but is also fortunate to have both 16mm/35mm projection facilities too. But it's up to the students and organisers, both current and future, to make that happen!

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Positions

- Treasurer
 - The treasurer will work together with the President to ensure fair spending across all areas of Film Society, and will plan accordingly an accurate business plan at the start of the academic year. This post holder must work closely with all other committee members to ensure that all plans come to fruition.
 - They will also be an advocate for financial goals and fundraising where needed.
- Secretary
 - The secretary is responsible for taking minutes at meetings and sending out the society's newsletters and emails.
- Marketing and Communications Officer
 - The M&C Officer will be responsible for managing social channels including Facebook, Twitter & Instagram - posting regular, exciting content that meets and exceeds the expectations of the UOW Student Community.
 - The M&C Officer will also be expected to provide or outsource digital artwork, graphics and videos to promote our Weekly Screenings & Events. This may offer an exciting avenue for students to design artwork and a space where we can promote their work.
 - Focussing on developing collaborative relationships with other departments within the Uni and reaching out to potential press & other filmmakers to showcase their work / screen films; particularly Westminster-affiliated organisations or Westminster Alumni.
- Screenings Producers
 - Throughout the academic term there will be a fixed team of screenings producers who will come together to programme our special marathon and specialist strand events and will also work in coordination with all other posts to ensure events take place.
 - An ideal candidate for a Screenings Producer will be someone who is active within the screen arts in the form of attending and/or making moving image work (whether it be film, video, TV, animation or graphic-design based) and has an informed understanding of organising an event.
- Socials Producer
 - The Socials Producer will be responsible for organising Film Society socials such as nights at The Undercroft, The Loft and other venues across campus.
- Analytics Officer
 - Our Analytics Officer will work closely with the M&C Officer & Treasurer to provide secondary analysis and reports; and to prepare them in conjunction with the Secretary to send to the President of Film Society. An ideal candidate will be savvy with using a variety of digital applications and help to support and inform their work.

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Example Budget Expenditure

We're unable to provide an exact expenditure statement on what we intend to spend our society's budget as we haven't received the money yet (the president of the society applies for the budget from UWSU) but here's a rough look at what the costs might entail - using a prospective £500 budget as a basis, and

Semester One Spend

£180 - Popcorn & Drink, based on spending £15 per screening (for 12 screenings)

£40 - Marketing Consumables - Printing Etc

£30 - Special Event Budget

Semester Two Spend

£180 - Popcorn & Drink, based on spending £15 per screening (for 12 screenings)

£40- Marketing Consumables - Printing Etc

£30 - Special Event Budget

Example Schedule - Semester One

Date	Time	Film	Duration
Tuesday 26th September 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 3rd October 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 10th October 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 17th October 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 24th October 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 31st October 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 7th November 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 14th November 2017	18:00	???	?? Min

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Tuesday 21st November 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 28th November 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 5th December 2017	18:00	???	?? Min
Tuesday 12th December 2017	18:00	???	?? Min

Key Contacts & Links

Official Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uwfilmsociety/>

Official Twitter Page: @UoWFilmSociety // <https://twitter.com/UoWFilmSociety>

Email Address: FilmSoc@su.westminster.ac.uk

Instagram TBC.