

Guidelines for SC students reaching out to firms and institutions

Are you a Screen Cultures student keen to shape your own path through the Master's programme by reaching out to public institutions, or private businesses for potential research collaboration? Great! The Screen Cultures programme would like to support you! The Screen Cultures programme provides students who wish to collaborate with external parties a degree of institutional backing. However, in order to ensure that research collaborations are entered into fairly, and will facilitate work of scholarly merit, the Screen Cultures programme requires all students to adhere to a set of guidelines. The aim of these guidelines is to ensure that all parties in research collaborations - you, Screen Cultures, and the external institutions/businesses - benefit from the experience and connections made. Please read this document carefully and ask a member of the Screen Cultures staff if you have any questions.

What kinds of cooperation between students and institutions/firms are possible within the Screen Cultures framework?

- Firstly, there is the **internship**. We suggest for students to do internships in the third term of their Master's programme. If you receive an internship offer, you **must** make an appointment with the Screen Cultures staff prior to accepting the position. We will help you negotiate your tasks with your internship host.
- Secondly, there is the **Master's thesis**. You may find an institution/corporation that needs research in an area that you are interested in. In this case you could write your MA thesis based on this corporation's research needs. Such collaborations are fantastic opportunities and very much encouraged! However, you **must** discuss this with your supervisor prior to agreeing to any collaboration. Your supervisor will help you delimit the thesis in cooperation with the partnering institute/corporation.
- Thirdly, there is the **elective course unit**. "MEVIT 4896 - Work as a research assistant" (<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/imk/MEVIT4896/index-eng.html>), a course for Master's students at IMK can be chosen as the elective course offered in the third term of the Screen Cultures MA programme. In this course you may cooperate with a partner institution in a research capacity. Compared to the internship, it entails a smaller workload and has a more

academic focus. Again, you **must** consult with the Screen Cultures staff in order to determine how best to organise your cooperation so that it corresponds to the course requirements.

Guidelines for approaching potential outside partners:

1. Always do your homework. Before you contact an institution, make sure that you know exactly why you want to work with them, and have an idea what the collaboration will ideally facilitate for both parties. This means you need to know a lot about the institution or firm before you pick up the phone or send an email. Read up and know your stuff!
2. Ensure that you refer to yourself as the research collaborator. When you get in touch with outside partners, you are primarily doing so as an individual researcher (so, as yourself). However, as you are a member of the Screen Cultures programme, you should refer to your institutional context. That is to say, when you make contact you should state your name and that you are a student in the Screen Cultures programme at the Department of Media and Communication, University of Oslo.
3. Students are encouraged to become ambassadors for the Screen Cultures programme and actively seek potential ongoing partners. If this is something that interests you, you **must make sure that you first talk to Steffen Krüger** (the current head of the programme) prior to making contact with any external partners. You may not make offers that are not approved by staff.
4. It is okay to refer to current cooperation partners (such as the Munch Museum) by way of example for new potential partners. Indeed, such examples may aid in explaining how your research collaboration may function. However, you must ensure that you do so accurately (again, do your homework on existing collaboration) and that you **do not** make any promises or offers on your own. It is not always possible to turn every *possibility* into an *actuality*, and we do not want to disappoint people/institutions/corporations by building up expectations that we will not be able to fulfil.
5. Finally, when you *do* get in touch with a potential outside partner on behalf of Screen Cultures, you should keep contact information of the respective people/representatives you talk and make these contacts available to Steffen Krüger. Following generations of Screen Culture students might be interested in a similar type of collaboration.