Film Studies at Lancaster is a stimulating and intellectually engaging course which provides a framework for the close analysis of individual films. You will study cinema history and the social significance of films and will develop a detailed understanding of the techniques of film production. While Film Studies is primarily an academic programme, students have the opportunity to make their own digital film in all three years of the course, and receive professional training in the use of editing, sound-recording, and camera equipment.

Your degree recognises cinema’s role as a major cultural form and investigates film through a variety of approaches. You’ll examine cinema’s aesthetic, social and political importance in the context of an increasingly visual and media-orientated culture, while also investigating the intersections between contemporary art, theatre, dance, music, sound and film. It is possible to choose from a wide array of specialist film modules (from ‘Silent Cinema’ and ‘Women Filmmakers’ to ‘Comics Book Films’ and ‘Documentary Practice’), and may combine Film Studies with another degree subject, including Theatre, Art, English Literature, Creative Writing, Media & Cultural Studies, Sociology, and more.

We have excellent technical resources, including digital editing and production suites housed in the Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts (LICA) £10m award-winning building. During your degree you will have the chance to develop a network of professional contacts, through specialist modules and work placements to help prepare yourself for a successful career in the creative arts.

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**Welcome**

Film (Communication and Media Studies)  
*The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018*

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**Degrees and Entry Requirements**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Degree length</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Film Studies</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>P303</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and Creative Writing</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PW28</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and English Literature</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PQ33</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PV35</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and Sociology</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PL33</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and Theatre</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PW34</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film, Media and Cultural Studies</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PL36</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine Art and Film</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>WP13</td>
<td>ABB, plus portfolio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Studies and Film</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>R1P3</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Studies and Film</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>R2P3</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Studies and Film</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>R4P3</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are placement year and study abroad options available with all of our degrees. Please check our website for details.

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**I knew I enjoyed film, but combining and seeing film from a social and cultural point of view was fascinating. Research is an important part of making television. Learning to research thoroughly and quickly is one aspect that has helped me in my career. Being able to analyse from an artistic and academic aspect as well as a cultural/social one has also been very important. When making TV programmes (or if you want to be a filmmaker) you not only have to approach things from an artistic stance, but also from a social and cultural point of view. My degree has been invaluable to me, and has given me an edge over other graduates, enabling me to become one of the youngest Producer/Directors at ITV and in the freelance industry.**

Chris Smithson  
*BA Film and Cultural Studies, graduated in 2008  
TV Producer/Director  
www.chrissmithson.co.uk*
Your Degree

Year 1

The first year serves as a foundation for your studies where you will be introduced to a range of critical approaches; you will also explore the areas of cinema history, and produce a short digital video.

Film Studies

Provides you with the essential knowledge and competencies to undertake the academic study of film at university level. The first term provides you with an understanding of the medium’s formal and technical composition to allow you to undertake detailed analysis of films, from the level of close scrutiny of individual images, and their interrelation with the soundtrack, to the narrative assembly of shots and scenes. Through the analysis of a range of examples such as Jaws, Psycho, and On the Waterfront, you will become familiar with the key formal and semantic conventions of cinema.

The second term is designed to provide you with a structural knowledge of world film history. By focusing on a selection of key films and filmmakers (including Jean-Luc Godard, Jane Campion, and Zhang Yimou), this section of the module will explore historically significant movements and themes within international cinema from the 1920s to the present day. This term is thematically organised around issues of ideology and realism, and explores the shifting social and political status of cinema during the last century. In the third term you will undertake a practical project, working with a small group to produce a short film.

The Arts and Culture in Modernity

You will examine the ideas and events underlying the revolutions in the arts which began about the end of the nineteenth century and continued throughout the twentieth. Influential works and thinkers in art, design, film and theatre (such as Brecht and Adorno) will be examined, with particular emphasis on ideas of crossover and integration between different art forms. This module enables a richer appreciation of the context for contemporary creative practice.

Flexible Subject Option

Select a subject of your choice. This could be another subject within LICA, such as Design, Fine Art, Theatre or a module offered by another department, such as Media and Cultural Studies. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-flexible-learning

Optional Modules

Select from modules including:
- Schools Placement Module
- Perception and the Arts
- Documentary Cultures
- European New Wave Cinema
- Documentary Film Practice
- Women Filmmakers
- Introduction to Sound
- Film and Comic Books
- Film/Media related modules in other departments

Your Degree

Year 2

Hollywood and Beyond: Global Cinema

Develops your analytic skills and encourages you to understand world cinema in relation to a variety of social, cultural, political and industrial contexts. You will explore such issues as the relationship between film form and modes of production (from industrial film-making through to low-budget art film), theories of film style and aesthetics, and the political function of cinema.

In the first term, we focus wholly on various modes of American film production (considering films such as Casablanca, Raiders of the Lost Ark, The Long Goodbye, and Slacker), and in the second term we explore some broader theoretical questions through an analysis of films from a number of different national traditions (examples may include Bicycle Thieves, All About My Mother, and Rashomon). You will gain a thorough grasp not only of the historical factors shaping various national and international cinemas, but also of some key critical and theoretical concepts within the field of film studies.

Critical Reflections (Contemporary Arts Theory)

You will learn about critical theory in the arts and its application to aesthetics and art. Among the topics explored are Form and Structure, Semiotics and Authorship, Phenomenology and Spectatorship, Sexuality and Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and Class and Society. Weekly lectures make connections across the arts, and weekly two-hour seminar/workshops allow you to work with each other on ideas and examples specifically tailored towards your discipline.

Schools Placement Module

If you are thinking of a career in teaching, this placement offers the opportunity to work for half a day a week for one term in a primary, secondary or special needs school. Working alongside a teacher, you will gain valuable classroom experience, normally through teaching a class or working with a designated group of pupils.

We also offer a Placement Year - see overleaf.
Lancaster Arts

The campus is brimming with culture and boasts its own theatre, art gallery and concert series; there’s also a fully equipped, student-run cinema. The Nuffield Theatre is one of the largest professional studio theatres in Europe. It hosts public performances of theatre, contemporary dance and live art from some of the best-known and respected companies from the UK and abroad.

Visiting speakers

The department hosts a number of visiting speakers each year, representing different professions, practices, and positions within film theory and production.

Student societies

There are lots of opportunities to get involved in the arts through our student societies. Students run their own cinema (Take 2 Cinema), TV station LA1:TV, radio station (Bailrigg FM) and newspaper (Scan).

Lancaster – the City

The city has two cinemas, Vue and the independent Dukes theatre and cinema. The Grand Theatre also provides a year-round calendar of drama, music and dance as well as professional touring companies. Lancaster regularly plays host to major comedy and theatrical tours, and has its own music and literature festivals.

Facilities

The resources available to Film students include digital editing equipment, large film screening spaces and digital studios, as well as individual technical support.

Teaching

Lancaster University has been awarded the highest possible score in the UK government’s 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) ratings. Our TEF Gold rating is based on high quality teaching, excellent teaching facilities and the good careers our graduates go into.

Creative Enterprise Module

You will learn about innovative ways creative practitioners produce and deliver their work, alongside the challenges they face. You will develop a working understanding of the key management and enterprise skills involved in delivering creative projects. Working in groups you will put your learning into practice through the delivery of your own live creative arts project. This will enable you to understand the skills, knowledge, attributes and behaviours relevant for employment in the arts and creative industries.

Dissertation

You will complete an independent research project on a topic of your choice. Research skills are taught via lectures/seminars and you will be supported by means of one-to-one supervision. Previous dissertation topics include: Cinematography in The Dark Knight; The absent mother in Disney films; Film Style and Authorship in the films of Shane Meadows; The cinematic figure of the vampire; Cinematic Femininity in the Alien films; Identity in the films of Stanley Kubrick.

Optional modules

Select from modules including:
- Creative Enterprise
- Film Theory
- Contemporary Hong Kong Cinema
- Apocalypse Then: New Hollywood Cinema
- Silent Cinema
- Sound as Practice
- Film/Media related modules in other departments

Year 3

Creative Enterprise Module

You will learn about innovative ways creative practitioners produce and deliver their work, alongside the challenges they face. You will develop a working understanding of the key management and enterprise skills involved in delivering creative projects. Working in groups you will put your learning into practice through the delivery of your own live creative arts project. This will enable you to understand the skills, knowledge, attributes and behaviours relevant for employment in the arts and creative industries.

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Optional modules

Select from modules including:
- Creative Enterprise
- Film Theory
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- Apocalypse Then: New Hollywood Cinema
- Silent Cinema
- Sound as Practice
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LIFE AT LANCASTER
Hello Future!

Throughout your degree we will support you in developing skills and gaining experience that will give you a head start in your chosen career. LICA has excellent links with organisations in the creative sectors enabling students to collaborate with individuals and organisations outside of the University.

**Placements and internships**

Placements and internships are great ways to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your career path. A wide range of opportunities is available, most are paid, and the optional Schools Placement module in Year 2 provides credit towards your degree. Places are not usually guaranteed and we will help you prepare for the competitive application process.

You will have the option to extend your degree to four years and undertake a year-long work placement in Year 3. This will boost your employment prospects and help you decide on your future career direction. You will be fully supported by university staff throughout your placement and you will complete preparatory and reflective modules that will connect your placement to the wider degree programme. We also offer summer internships and school volunteering placements.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements)

**Study abroad**

You can apply to spend your second year studying abroad at a partner institution; previous LICA students have studied in Australia, the USA and Canada. There are also exciting possibilities for short vacation travel; recent destinations have included China, the USA, Malaysia and India. These opportunities provide you with a chance to travel, experience new cultures, and make life-long friends.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/global](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/global)

**Careers**

Recent Film Studies graduates have gone into careers in:

- Production roles at the BBC, ITV and MTV
- Independent film production
- Advertising and marketing

Throughout your degree a wealth of career guidance and support is available from the department and the University Careers Service, which has subject specific Careers Consultants. We have connections with some of the world’s top graduate recruiters and employers across every sector, and organise careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers)

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The University makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing (June 2018). Please see [www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legal notice](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legal notice) for further information.

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**GET IN TOUCH**

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[www.lancaster.ac.uk/film](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/film)

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**CONNECT WITH US**

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