

Film Studies

Lancaster
University



Film Studies

Undergraduate Degrees 2022

Where film comes to life

#6

Film (Communication and Media Studies)
Complete University Guide 2021

Expand your knowledge and appreciation of the aesthetics, history and culture of film.

Gain practical film-making skills and an understanding of film production.

Our approach to the study of cinema is underpinned by film theory to give you a deeper appreciation of the aesthetic and intellectual complexity of cinema, and a keener understanding of the ways in which films shape our identities and experience.

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, you will have the opportunity to make your 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 'Comic Book Films' and 'Documentary Practice'), and you may combine Film Studies with another degree subject, including Theatre, Fine Art, English Literature, Creative Writing, Media and 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), a £10m BREEM award-winning, sustainable 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.

Degrees and entry requirements

Degree title	Award	Degree length	UCAS code	Typical offer
Film Studies	BA (Hons)	3 years	P303	ABB
Film and Creative Writing	BA (Hons)	3 years	PW38	ABB
Film and English Literature	BA (Hons)	3 years	PQ33	AAB
Film and Philosophy	BA (Hons)	3 years	PV35	ABB
Film and Sociology	BA (Hons)	3 years	PL33	ABB
Film and Theatre	BA (Hons)	3 years	PW34	ABB
Film, Media and Cultural Studies	BA (Hons)	3 years	PL36	ABB
Fine Art and Film	BA (Hons)	3 years	WP13	ABB, plus portfolio
Chinese Studies and Film	BA (Hons)	4 years	T1P3	ABB
French Studies and Film	BA (Hons)	4 years	R1P3	ABB
German Studies and Film	BA (Hons)	4 years	R2P3	ABB
Spanish Studies and Film	BA (Hons)	4 years	R4P3	ABB

Placement Year and Study Abroad degrees

These are options for most of our degree programmes. See our website for details.
www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year | www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

For information on other entry qualifications such as BTECs and International Baccalaureate, as well as fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website:
www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

A career at ITV for Chris



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
Former BA Film and Media & Cultural Studies student
TV Producer/Director
www.chrissmithson.co.uk

Your degree

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 different areas of cinema history, and produce a short digital video.

Year 1



Single major students take:

This module 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 within a small group to produce a short film.

This module focuses centrally on British cinema and is designed to supplement and enhance the essential knowledge and skills covered in, "Introduction to Film Studies," and develops the study skills you will need as you progress through the course. As well as lectures and seminars, there will also be weekly screenings of key films. Topics covered include Hitchcock and silent cinema, the Ealing comedies of the 1950s, the James Bond franchise, and Working Title's romantic comedies.

There is a wide choice of optional modules including:

- + Creative Writing
- + Design
- + Drama, Theatre and Performance
- + Fine Art
- + History
- + Media and Cultural Studies
- + Marketing and more.

Availability is subject to any timetabling restrictions.

OR

Joint major students take:



Joint major students will take the core module for their second subject instead of a minor option. In years 2 and 3, they will take 50% of their modules in Film and 50% in their second subject.



Year 2



This module 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.

You will learn about critical theory in the arts and its application to film and related media. 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 seminars/workshops allow you to work with each other on ideas and examples specifically tailored towards your discipline.

Select from modules including:

- + Documentary Cultures
- + European New Wave Cinema
- + Documentary Film Practice
- + Women Film Makers
- + Film and Comic Books
- + Film/Media related modules in other departments





Year 3

Dissertation



Optional Modules

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; and Identity in the films of Stanley Kubrick.

Select from modules including:

- + Creative Enterprise
- + Film Theory
- + Contemporary Hong Kong Cinema
- + Apocalypse Then: New Hollywood Cinema
- + Silent Cinema
- + Film/Media related modules in other departments
- + Experimental Cinema: Theory and Practice

Optional module example: Creative Enterprise

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.

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and regularly introduce and update modules. In any academic year, the modules offered may therefore differ from those presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, in response to curricular developments and following consultation with students. Please check our website for the latest information www.lancaster.ac.uk/study.

Your life at Lancaster

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.

Facilities

You'll have access to top of the line digital film production facilities fully equipped for creating original content for short films and experimental videos. This includes the full range of Adobe Creative Cloud suite in computer labs across campus and in our acoustic editing suites. There are large green screen and soundstage studio spaces plus well-equipped film screening spaces on campus. HD Video cameras and a range of high end DSLR cameras are available on loan along with portable lighting kits, tripods, light reflectors, mics, a gimbal and various accessories.

About Covid-19

Our thoughts are with all who are affected by the coronavirus pandemic. For the latest information in relation to applying to Lancaster University, please visit: www.lancaster.ac.uk/coronavirus/applicants

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) 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.

Your future career

Throughout your degree we will support you in developing skills and gaining experience that will give you a head start in your chosen career. The Department of Film Studies has excellent links with organisations in the creative sectors enabling you 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, some are paid, and there are opportunities to gain experience working in schools on volunteer placements. Places are not usually guaranteed but we will help you prepare for the competitive application process.

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees that you can apply to via UCAS. With specialist support, you apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

Get in touch

Department of Film Studies,
Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (LICA),
Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YW

E: lica-enquiries@lancaster.ac.uk

www.lancaster.ac.uk/film

Message a student: www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat

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Study abroad and vacation travel

You can apply for a study abroad year when you arrive at Lancaster. On our three-year study abroad degrees you spend Year 2 studying at one of our international partner universities. There are also exciting possibilities for short vacation travel. These opportunities provide you with a chance to travel, experience new cultures, and make life-long friends. www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Please note that overseas opportunities may be impacted by international travel or Government border restrictions.

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's 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

Important information

The information in this leaflet relates primarily to 2022/23 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of publication in May 2021. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after publication. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.

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