Film Studies Degrees 2020

Where film comes to life

lancaster.ac.uk/film
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 state-of-the-art 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.

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 (ICan).

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.

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 attain.

Degrees and entry requirements

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Placement Year and Study Abroad degrees

These are options for most of our degree programmes. See overleaf.

For information on fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: 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 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 the areas of cinema history, and produce a short digital video.

Year 1

**Introduction to Film Studies**

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 module enables a richer appreciation of the context for contemporary creative practice.

**The Arts and Culture in Modernity**

You will examine the ideas and events underlying the revolutions in the arts which began around 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 cross-over and integration between different art forms. This module encourages you to understand the function of cinema.

**Flexible Subject Option**

Choose from:
- Design
- Drama, Theatre and Performance
- Fine Art
- A relevant subject offered by another department

**Single major students take:**

You will examine the ideas and events underlying the revolutions in the arts which began around 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 cross-over and integration between different art forms. This module enables a richer appreciation of the context for contemporary creative practice.

**Joint major students take:**

You will examine the ideas and events underlying the revolutions in the arts which began around 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 cross-over and integration between different art forms. This module enables a richer appreciation of the context for contemporary creative practice.

**Joint Major Subject**

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

OR

**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

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 seminars/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.
Year 3

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.

Optional Modules

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

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 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.

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 ‘Comic Book Films’ and ‘Documentary Practice’), and you may combine Film Studies with another degree subject, including Theatre, 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 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.
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. 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.

Our Placement Year degree includes 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. lancaster.ac.uk/fass placements

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

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. lancaster.ac.uk/careers

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Speak to a student: lancaster.ac.uk/chat

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