

Lancaster
University



Film Studies
Undergraduate Degrees 2027

Welcome

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 the ways in which films shape our identities and experience. You will study cinema history and the social significance of films developing a detailed understanding of the techniques of film production.

Film studies at Lancaster offers a distinctive, flexible blend of theory and practice. 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-oriented culture, while also investigating the intersections between film and related media such as theatre, contemporary art and sound.

It is possible to choose from a range of specialist film modules that span a diverse range of cinemas and critical perspectives. You may combine film studies with another subject, such as English literature, creative writing and media and cultural studies.

You will be able to access our excellent technical resources 24/7. Our digital editing and production suites are housed in a £10m BREEAM award-winning, sustainable building. We also have cinema-ready digital cameras available for you.

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.





Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Film Studies		BA	P303	3	ABB
Film Studies (Placement Year)		BA	P304	4	ABB
Film Studies (Study Abroad)		BA	P305	4	ABB
Film, Media and Cultural Studies		BA	PL36	3	ABB
Film, Media and Cultural Studies (Placement Year)		BA	PL37	4	ABB
Film, Media and Cultural Studies (Study Abroad)		BA	PL38	4	ABB
Film and English Literature		BA	PQ33	3	ABB
Film and English Literature (Placement Year)		BA	PQ34	4	ABB
Film and English Literature (Study Abroad)		BA	PQ35	4	ABB
Film and Creative Writing		BA	PW38	3	ABB
Film and Creative Writing (Placement Year)		BA	PW39	4	ABB
Film and Creative Writing (Study Abroad)		BA	PW40	4	ABB
Fine Art and Film		BA	WP13	3	ABB
Fine Art and Film (Placement Year)		BA	WP14	4	ABB
Fine Art and Film (Study Abroad)		BA	WP15	4	ABB
Film and Theatre		BA	PW34	3	ABB
Film and Theatre (Placement Year)		BA	PW35	4	ABB
Film and Theatre (Study Abroad)		BA	PW36	4	ABB
Film and Philosophy		BA	PV35	3	ABB
Film and Philosophy (Placement Year)		BA	PV36	4	ABB
Film and Philosophy (Study Abroad)		BA	PV37	4	ABB
Sociology and Film		BA	PL33	3	ABB
Sociology and Film (Placement Year)		BA	PL34	4	ABB
Sociology and Film (Study Abroad)		BA	PL35	4	ABB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements [lancaster.ac.uk](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk)



Made for *learning*

Our approach to teaching is designed to immerse you in both the theoretical and practical dimensions of film studies. Through rigorous analysis and hands-on exploration, you will produce innovative work that reflects both scholarly depth and creative ambition.

You'll engage in weekly lectures, where expert staff introduce key concepts, theories, and debates shaping the field. These sessions are complemented by seminars and/or group workshops, where you'll dig deeper into topics, share insights, and challenge ideas through discussion and collaborative learning.

Film viewings are integral to our teaching. These screenings, curated to support each week's themes, provide a shared foundation for analysis and discussion - allowing you to see theory in action and build a visual literacy that's essential to understanding cinema.

If you are taking practical modules, hands-on filmmaking training is at the heart of the experience. You'll experience the full creative process - developing skills in directing, cinematography, editing, and sound - while also learning to work as part of a crew.

In your final year, you'll undertake an independent research project, either practice-based or theoretical, with one-on-one supervision from a tutor who will guide and support you through your individual journey.

We use a range of assessment methods designed to reflect the diversity of the subject and the various skills you'll develop throughout the course. These include academic essays, presentations, film productions and critical reflections.

Typical contact hours

For a theory-based module, each week you can expect:

- A 50-minute lecture
- A 50-minute seminar or workshop
- A dedicated film viewing session

Contact hours for practical modules are more fluid and will vary depending on the nature of the work and stage of production.





Facilities

You'll have access to top-of-the-line digital film production facilities that are fully equipped for creating original content for short films and experimental videos. This specialist equipment includes cinema-ready digital cameras with prime lenses and various DSLR cameras.

You'll have access to a versatile set of lighting and grip equipment as well as the full Adobe Creative Cloud suite in computer labs across campus and in our acoustic editing suites. There are large studio and installation spaces, plus well-equipped film screening spaces on campus.

We are committed to bringing industry speakers in to speak to you to ensure that we stay connected to the evolving landscape of the creative industries. In the past, we have collaborated with the British Film Institute (BFI) and local film festivals (The Bay International Film Festival) to provide a series of lectures each academic year.

Lancaster arts

Campus has a vibrant arts community and boasts its own theatre, art gallery and concert series; there's also a fully equipped, student-run cinema. The Nuffield Theatre hosts public performances of theatre, contemporary dance and live art from some of the best-known and respected companies from the UK and abroad.

Student work

Every year final year students showcase their films in a major degree show exhibition that is open to the public. See the work here: lancaster.ac.uk/lica/degreshow

Student societies and extracurricular activities

There are lots of opportunities to get involved in the arts through our student societies. Our students run their own online film journal (CUT/TO), along with their own cinema (Take 2 Cinema), TV station (LA1:TV) and newspaper (Scan).

“

The careers support has gone above and beyond my expectations.

”



Katie, recent graduate
BA Hons Film and Theatre
(Placement Year)

Lancaster
University

NBC Universal Creative
Production Intern

Throughout my time at Lancaster, the support available for enhancing my future employability was instrumental in preparing me for life after graduation, particularly through the dedicated careers advisory teams and various internships I have participated in.

My experience with the Faculty Internship Scheme allowed me to gain valuable work experience that fit around my studies. I gained several placements within the scheme, but my most notable was Assistant Manager with The Bay International Film Festival, where I developed several transferrable skills such as organisation, teamwork, and management skills. I was also able to network and build professional relationships with many international filmmakers, which is crucial within any creative career. The internship scheme gave practical insights that complemented my academic learning and strengthened my CV, providing incredible opportunities within the highly competitive creative industries, giving me an advantage when applying for graduate opportunities.

Additionally, the dedicated careers advisors were incredibly supportive in shaping my career path. From career insight events, to reviewing my CV in depth, to one-to-one discussions about cover letters and mock interview sessions, their guidance helped me feel confident entering the competitive job market. Their around-the-clock support, from application tips to weekly check-ins and emotional support and encouragement, is something I'll be forever grateful for.

When looking for a university, the career support and opportunity to develop outside of my degree were very important. I can genuinely say that Lancaster University's careers support went above and beyond my expectations, with their guidance helping me to navigate the daunting world of graduate employment and secure a graduate creative internship at NBC Universal and pursue a career in doing what I love best. I would highly encourage everyone to get involved with everything on offer whilst you are at university, to help give that competitive edge and prepare you to confidently begin your future career.

Gain *real-world* experience

We know you want to graduate confident and ready to step into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.

Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance provided via a series of preparatory workshops and 1:1 appointments with our Placements Team.

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities such as publishing assistant, content delivery manager or assistant events producer. The scheme offers you an opportunity to gain access to direct work experience while you study.



The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this.



“

I valued the ability to connect and collaborate with my peers.

”

President of the
Film Making Society

Lancaster University



Roshan, recent graduate
BA Hons Film Studies

What I valued most about studying film at Lancaster is the combination of theory and practice and the support available from The School of Arts Technicians as we got hands-on experience with expensive equipment.

The topic that interested me most was the role of sound in film. When I was working on films, be it with the Film Making Society, as part of a module or my friends' independent films, I would immediately gravitate towards the camera. I would focus on making a shot look as gorgeous as possible, but when it came time to watch the film, the lack of clean sound design would break my immersion in the story. I decided to specialise into this area and even researched it for my dissertation.

During my time at Lancaster, I was the President of the Film Making Society. It was a great place to practise my filmmaking skills with students from all disciplines (not just the arts) and get help from them on my dissertation film. It was the place I made the most friends and expressed my creativity, adding a number of films to my portfolio.

Something that stood out to me at Lancaster was the connection to other arts collectives in both the University and the city. I found it amazing that we are able to connect with established arts initiatives outside of the University such as the Lancaster International Film Festival, The Dukes Cinema and Theatre, TEDxLancasterU and Up North Arts.



Your global *experience*

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college or your students' union.

At Lancaster the study of film embraces an international mindset, and we encourage you to make the most of these opportunities to travel as part of your studies.

Study abroad

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying from a different perspective enhances your subject knowledge and develops resourcefulness for life after university.

Follow us on Instagram @GlobalLancaster

Find out more lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Vacation travel

You can also discover the world during your vacations. Our Global Experiences team run vacation travel trips to Malaysia which include a mix of academic study and cultural discovery. These trips range from cultural exchanges to studying sustainable practices with world leading experts.

Overseas summer schools

During summer vacation, you can apply to attend a summer school at one of our international partner universities all around the world. Destinations are varied – from Singapore to Italy, Hong Kong to Canada. Explore where you could go: lancaster.ac.uk/overseas-summer-schools



Film Studies

BA (Hons)

You'll explore rich cinema history and theories and use them to inspire your own practical film projects.

In your first year, you'll gain essential knowledge in film studies, learning to analyse key cinematic elements like cinematography, editing, and sound, while exploring global film history and movements, and participating in workshops that lead to a collaborative film project. You'll also explore the evolution of British cinema by analysing influential films, directors, and themes from the past century.

In your second year, you'll explore the stylistic and cultural diversity of global cinema, analysing films across historical and regional contexts while studying movements, authorship, and cinema's wider social, political, and technological impacts. You can also develop your filmmaking and screenwriting skills and engage with themes like representation of gender, race and ideology.

In your final year, you'll carry out an independent research project on a topic of your choice, with one-to-one tutorial support, while expanding your knowledge in areas like documentary and experimental filmmaking, industry practices, film genres, cultures, fandom, exhibition, and digital media.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Introduction to Film Studies

This module explores film theory, analysis, and history alongside practical filmmaking. You'll examine cinematography, editing, sound, and performance through case study films while tracing global cinema's cultural and political impact. Hands-on workshops develop technical skills, culminating in a group film project that deepens your understanding of form, storytelling, and cinematic traditions.

British Cinema

This module explores the key films, filmmakers, and traditions that have shaped British cinema over the past century. Through a study of major genres, styles, filmmakers and themes, you will consider how British cinema has evolved and reflect on historical cinema-going habits.

Understanding Media and Culture

You'll be introduced to major debates, theories and thinkers in studying media and culture. You will encounter a diverse range of material from different media, including: television, film, news, advertisements, social media, video games and more.

Optional Modules

- Transformations in Digital Media
- Raw Materials of Performance
- Screens and Selves
- Re-making Tradition
- World Literatures
- Art Histories and Contexts



Year 2

Core Modules

Global Cinemas

This module examines global cinema's stylistic, industrial, and cultural diversity, analysing films across historical and regional contexts. Through screenings, lectures, and discussions, you'll explore key cinematic movements, authorship, and genre evolution, developing critical perspectives on film history, digital technologies, and the social, political, and industrial impact of cinema.

Classical Hollywood Genres

Explore the development of film genres in Hollywood, examining how the studio system shaped genre conventions, storytelling techniques, and audience expectations. You will analyse key genres, such as Silent Cinema, Musicals, and Melodrama, considering their evolution, industrial contexts, and cultural significance.

Optional Modules

- Film Theory and Aesthetics
- Film, Gender, Race and Ideology
- Screenwriting
- Short Film Production
- Digital Cultures
- Visual Cultures

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

Your third year is spent in a graduate-level work placement and assessed via assignments reflecting on your experiences.

Final Year

Core Modules

Film Studies Independent Project

You'll conduct an independent research project on a chosen topic, developing research skills through lectures, seminars, and one-to-one supervision. Previous dissertation topics include Cinematography in *The Dark Knight*; *The Absent Mother* in Disney films; *The Legacy of the Tragic Mulatto*; *The Cinematic Figure of the Vampire*; *How Black Female Filmmakers Are Combatting Mainstream Cinema's Misogynoir*; and *Identity in the Films of Stanley Kubrick*.

Optional Modules

- Film Industries: Practices and Movements
- Film Circulation, Exhibition, and Audiences
- Documentary Production
- Experimental Film Production
- The Making of Media and AI Futures
- Contemporary Literature
- Global Film Genres
- Audiences, Fans and Participatory Cultures



Combined *honours* degrees

You can combine your study of film with a range of other subjects through a joint honours degree. You'll study core modules from each subject, which will enable you to develop the essential knowledge needed for both. You will also have the freedom to tailor your degree further by choosing from a selection of optional modules.

Our joint honours programmes offer you the flexibility to explore multiple interests within one degree, and understand how different subjects interact to enhance your learning. You will develop a range of subject and career specific skills as well as transferable skills essential to all career pathways.

Film, Media and Cultural Studies

Explore how media and film shape identities, values, and perspectives. Blending theory with practical skills in video production, you will learn how to analyse key cinematic elements - like editing, sound, and cinematography - and examine how screens shape culture, helping you develop as a critical thinker and creative filmmaker.

Film and English Literature

Delve into storytelling across different forms of media, by blending film aesthetics and production with the study of literary texts from ancient myth to the contemporary graphic novel. You'll develop an understanding of theory and historical change in both disciplines, as well as how literature interacts with film, art, and music through adaptations.

Film and Creative Writing

Immerse yourself in the complex world of cinema and storytelling. You will develop an in-depth understanding of the theory behind writing and film while gaining hands-on experience in film production and writing for different media. This degree is designed to help you build the skills needed to craft a story and bring it to life on the page or the screen.

Sociology and Film

Engage with the key questions surrounding contemporary social issues as you consider lived experiences and wider social processes from multiple perspectives. This insight will inform your exploration of film history and theory, enabling you to undertake close film analysis with confidence and better self reflect during practical tasks.

Fine Art and Film

This degree invites you to explore bold and imaginative connections between moving image and fine art practices. You'll develop your ideas in an environment where the histories and theories of cinema and fine art intersect, challenge, and reimagine one another. You'll be encouraged to think critically, experiment and take artistic risks to develop work that is conceptually strong and visually compelling.

Film and Theatre

Combine your studies of popular visual storytelling media, film and theatre. You will consider the impact they have on our emotions, societies, and futures as you gain skills in directing, acting, scenography, scriptwriting, editing and more. You will explore the history, trends and innovations that have shaped both creative disciplines and apply your knowledge to inform productions of your own.

Film and Philosophy

Build a unique cinematic voice by combining the study of key philosophical questions, film history and academic theories. Through philosophy, you will consider human existence, politics and justice, art, faith and reason, and learn how to address global, social, cultural and political challenges through different media, including creative filmmaking and written assignments.

“

A brilliant space for creativity and collaboration.

”

Volunteer at
the Dukes Theatre

Lancaster University



Elke, recent graduate

BA Hons English Literature
and Film

What I appreciated most about my degree was its flexibility. As a joint honours student, I was able to explore storytelling across divergent media forms, from novels to experimental film. It encouraged me to approach literature and film as dynamic, evolving forms that speak to one another, as opposed to two rigidly different areas of interest.

I'm particularly drawn to the theme of space - how we move through it and understand our environments, and I found that both literature and film offered unique ways of exploring this. In my own work, I'm interested in finding ways to bind these seemingly opposing forms of creativity to reflect how we experience the world around us. Some of my favourite projects stemmed from thinking about how narrative, setting, and perspective shift depending on the medium, and how we can adopt these tools to reimagine space and place.

I was a member of Lancaster University Theatre Group throughout my degree. It was such a brilliant space for creativity and collaboration. I met like-minded people from my course and other degrees who inspired me. I acted and produced plays - but there were endless ways to get involved.

Careers and *employability*

Throughout your degree we will support you in developing skills and gaining experience that will give you a head start in your chosen career.

Employers will value your range of transferable skills including your analytical thinking, writing ability and research, as well as your practical skills.

We are proud to have excellent links with organisations in the creative sectors, enabling you to collaborate with individuals and organisations outside of the University.

Graduate destinations

Recent graduates have gone into careers in:

- Broadcast and print journalism
- Production roles at the BBC, ITV and MTV
- Independent film production
- Advertising and marketing
- Social enterprise and community organisations

A wealth of career guidance and support is available from your tutors and the University's Careers Service, which has specialist careers support available to you. We have connections with some of the world's top graduate recruiters and employers, and organise careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year.



“

So much of being a filmmaker comes down to being open, curious, and willing to throw yourself into something new. I really think Lancaster planted that seed in me.

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Niamh Wynne, Film graduate 2022

I graduated from Lancaster University in 2022 with a First Class Honours.

While I was there, I completely fell in love with documentary filmmaking - I just knew it was something I wanted to keep doing. In my final year, I applied to the Directing Documentary MA at the National Film and Television School (NFTS) and somehow got in! Two years and four films later, I've graduated again. Alongside carving my own path as an emerging filmmaker - I recently worked at Louis Theroux's production company and I've just landed my first job as a junior researcher.

Even though my time at Lancaster was a bit overshadowed by COVID, it was honestly such a special experience - I really miss it. What I loved most was how much freedom we had to explore different things. I tried everything: journalism, life drawing classes, even things I never thought I'd enjoy. That freedom to experiment helped me figure out what I actually cared about, and it gave me the confidence to take creative risks.

That mindset has stuck with me. Last year, I found myself leading a small crew of three people 8,000 miles away in Patagonia, filming a coming-of-age documentary in Spanish and Welsh - two languages I can't speak! It was intense, but it showed me that so much of being a filmmaker comes down to being open, curious, and willing to throw yourself into something new. I really think Lancaster planted that seed in me - to try, to fail, to figure it out along the way- and that's something I'll carry with me wherever I go.





lancaster.ac.uk/film

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2027 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2026. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.