

Lancaster  
University



Liberal Arts

Undergraduate Degrees 2026





# Welcome

**Studying liberal arts at Lancaster offers you the opportunity to expand your mind and become a creative and critical thinker, able to take a holistic view of global issues. Engage with local communities, tackle societal challenges, and explore influential ideas.**

By exploring ideas from a range of arts, humanities and social science subjects, you will develop a sophisticated understanding of the key issues facing humanity, hone your problem-solving skills and innovative thinking. Prepare to become a versatile, global citizen ready to make a meaningful impact in an ever-changing world.

**Topics could include:**

- + the environment and climate change
- + objectivity and subjectivity in information
- + relationships between human and non-human
- + the digital world of today and the future

Your studies will draw on principles from diverse disciplines which may include history, politics, philosophy, language and cultural studies, English literature and arts.





Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Liberal Arts		BA	Y001	3	AAB
Liberal Arts (Global Engagement Year)	 	BA	Y002	4	AAB

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

### Think big and think differently

Develop your creative and critical thinking through dynamic, interdisciplinary approaches in humanities, arts, and social sciences.

### Unleash your creativity

Choose innovative assessments that develop your interests and skills, from producing a podcast to crafting a case study or creating a performance piece.

### Make a real-world impact

Collaborate with local communities to design and deliver meaningful, hands-on projects that make a difference.

### Build a future-ready skillset

Apply your learning in practical, professional settings to master problem-solving, negotiation, communication, and empathy.

### Turn learning into action

Graduate with experiences and skills that demonstrate your ability to innovate, connect, and lead in a rapidly changing world.

### Embark on an adventure

Expand your horizons by studying, working, or teaching abroad and gaining a truly international perspective.

### Expand your horizons

Study, work or teach abroad.





# Made for *learning*

The degree adopts an interdisciplinary approach, integrating various disciplinary perspectives to address complex real-world issues. There is a strong emphasis on connecting studies to current social issues and developing a sensitivity to cultural contexts, preparing you to become global citizens. You will be encouraged to apply your learning to professional settings, such as working on collaborative projects and live briefs. This could for example lead you to work on delivering a podcast, presenting a performance, creating a case study or making a piece of art.

You will learn through a combination of lectures, workshops, seminars and independent work. The programme will encourage you to analyse, critique and question different perspectives, fostering flexible and creative thinking. Some of your modules may also include interaction with local partners and community settings (such as charities, arts and heritage groups, councils or community centres).

As you progress, you can tailor your degree by choosing from a range of carefully-selected modules, allowing you to craft your own expertise. If you choose to study a language, you will have the opportunity to study or work abroad, strengthening your global perspective and enhancing your horizons.





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*I value the knowledgeable lecturers who are happy to help.*

”



**Emma**

**School of Global Affairs**

**Languages student**

Within the School of Global Affairs, I value having access to native speakers and incredibly knowledgeable lecturers who are happy to help with any questions or queries. I am also very grateful for the other students that I have met who have been very friendly and sociable.

I often get involved with many of the extracurricular activities that are organised including international karaoke nights, quiz nights and lunch clubs. Karaoke takes place every 5 weeks and the only rule is that you are not allowed to sing in English. It's a great way to spend time with friends whilst discovering new songs and new languages. There are also lunch clubs every week in each of the different languages where you bring along your lunch and chat to other students, native exchange students and anyone else who wants to learn or practise their language skills.

I decided to go to Spain for my year abroad, where I worked as an English Language Assistant in a primary school near Córdoba. This placement not only allowed me to greatly improve my Spanish but also to live and travel abroad, experiencing new and different cultures first hand. I was also lucky enough to live with a Spanish host family which meant I was fully immersed into daily life.





# Your global *experience*

**You may choose to study BA Hons Liberal Arts with an integral global engagement year, making it a four-year degree. On this degree, you will study a language for the first two years of your degree, in preparation for your year spent abroad. You can choose from French, German, Spanish, Italian or Chinese.**

You will spend your third year living abroad in one or more countries where you'll be working, teaching, studying or volunteering.

The global engagement year is designed to consolidate the skills you have learned during the course via practical experience as well as expanding your horizons and your mind.

You have several options for how to spend this year and flexibility to potentially split your time abroad between different activities.

## **Language Assistant with British Council**

In this role, you support the teaching of English in a school or college, plan extracurricular activities and produce learning resources. It is a great way to explore the start of a career in the teaching of global English.

## **Work Placement**

Engage with the local culture and community while developing professional skills by completing a work placement.

Examples of previous student placements include archival research, business development chamber of commerce internship, cyber intelligence, culture and language facilitation, events coordination, international relations, translation, text production and editing.

## **Study Abroad**

You can choose to study with one of our well-established partner universities. This enhances your language skills whilst offering the chance to make a host of international friends and experiencing learning in a different culture and context.



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*Invaluable in developing my cultural sensitivity, resilience and communication.*

”

*L'Université Bordeaux  
Montaigne, France*

*Lancaster University*



**Eve**

School of Global Affairs  
Languages student

On my year abroad, I studied at L'Université Bordeaux Montaigne in France, and the second half of the year was spent studying at UIC Barcelona in Spain. This experience was genuinely the best year of my life, where I made memories to last me a lifetime. The chance to travel and experience new cultures and meet diverse people was so fun. I loved going to my classes and being immersed in French and Spanish language and culture. The city of Bordeaux is so beautiful, has rich history and plenty to do and see to keep entertained - I loved visiting the Miroir D'eau at nighttime and taking part in student events and French evening classes. Barcelona was equally amazing, from its incredible weather, sights, beaches and food to the incredibly welcoming people, especially at the university. My year abroad has been invaluable in developing my cultural sensitivity, resilience and communication. If I could do it all again, I would.

# Liberal Arts

## BA (Hons)

**Studying liberal arts at Lancaster offers you the opportunity to expand your mind and become a creative and critical thinker, able to take a holistic view of global issues. Engage with local communities, tackle societal challenges, and explore influential ideas.**

In your first year you will explore the foundations of liberal arts as a discipline. You will work with both traditional concepts and decentred and decolonising approaches. These perspectives will help you to reflect on how diverse communities face contemporary issues.

In your second year you will further examine global and local realities through transcultural lenses. Embedding your studies in the north-west region, you will engage with connected communities tackling social challenges.

Exploring creative and imagined futures, your final year will empower you as a critical thinker for the future. You will bring your varied skills together in an innovative and creative project. Projects begin with a real-life brief and include working with external stakeholders to prepare you for the world of work.

### 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

#### Perspectives on Liberal Arts

This module introduces the stories that have made liberal arts what it is today. We will look at a series of cultural artefacts to think about a range of social issues in the real world. These cultural artefacts may include literature, paintings, buildings and iconic figures.

#### Engaging with Social Challenges

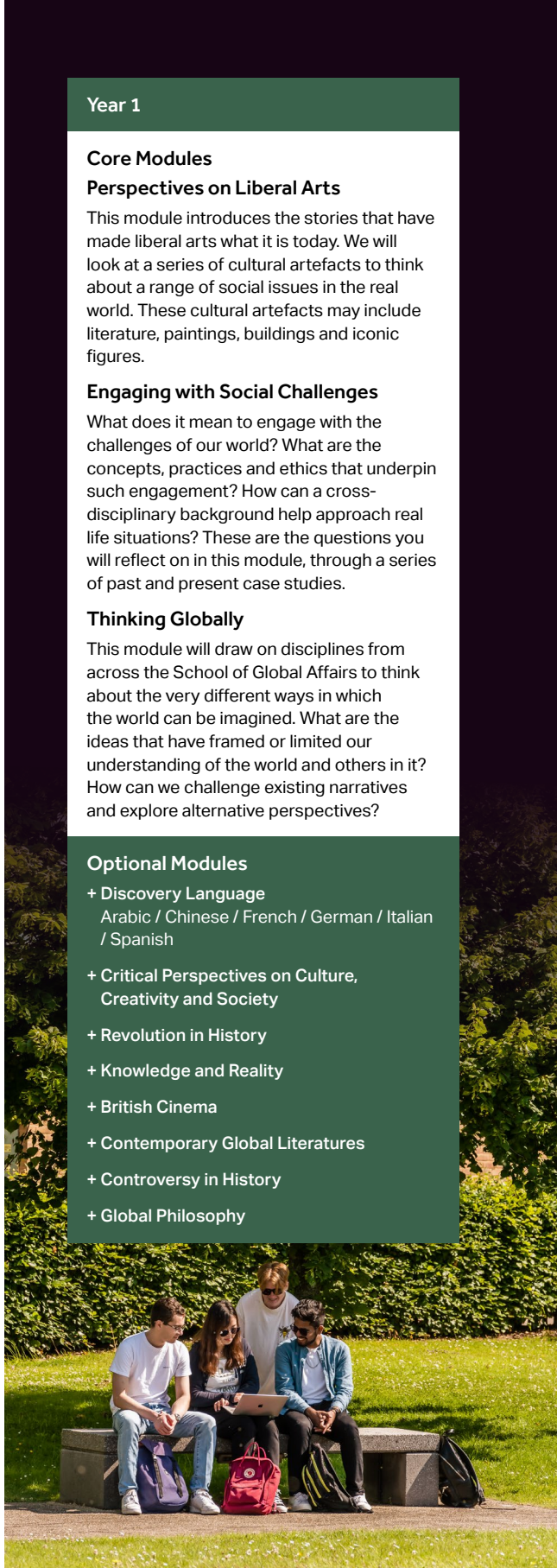
What does it mean to engage with the challenges of our world? What are the concepts, practices and ethics that underpin such engagement? How can a cross-disciplinary background help approach real life situations? These are the questions you will reflect on in this module, through a series of past and present case studies.

#### Thinking Globally

This module will draw on disciplines from across the School of Global Affairs to think about the very different ways in which the world can be imagined. What are the ideas that have framed or limited our understanding of the world and others in it? How can we challenge existing narratives and explore alternative perspectives?

### Optional Modules

- + Discovery Language  
Arabic / Chinese / French / German / Italian / Spanish
- + Critical Perspectives on Culture, Creativity and Society
- + Revolution in History
- + Knowledge and Reality
- + British Cinema
- + Contemporary Global Literatures
- + Controversy in History
- + Global Philosophy





## Year 2

### Core Modules

#### Transcultural Approaches to Social Challenges

This module focuses on culturally, socially and politically relevant themes and develops your critical and analytical skills. It will train your critical thinking skills and help you make informed choices on which materials to draw on, for what purpose, and in what way. Topics may include power structures, paradigm shifts, ideology and politics, cyberpunk, Big Tech.

#### Connecting Communities

This module will focus on how we can apply a global liberal arts perspective to working with communities. You will study spatial humanities theories and draw on them to engage with local stakeholders.

#### Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact

Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts

Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

### Optional Modules

#### + Discovery Language

Arabic / Chinese / French / German / Italian / Spanish

#### + Critical Theory

#### + Critical Practice

#### + Film, Gender, Race and Ideology

#### + Who Makes History?

#### + Information and Misinformation

#### + Professional Communication

#### + Applied Philosophy

#### + Global Religions, Conflict and Peace

### Global engagement year

If studying the BA Hons Liberal Arts (Global Engagement Year) 4-year degree, it is essential to study the same language in years one and two, in preparation for your third year which will be spent abroad.

## Final Year

### Core Modules

#### Shaping the Future

This module asks you to imagine the future in a range of creative and critical ways to think about how you might engage with future challenges and opportunities. Topics may include areas such as personhood, community, non-human experience, and the environment.

#### Liberal Arts Independent Project

In this group project you will draw on the knowledge and skills you have gained in your course and gain employability skills by working with external stakeholders. Your project can take different forms, from creative performances to multimedia projects or policy work. You will also be invited to reflect individually on your experience, helping you find your voice as a liberal arts graduate.

#### Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice

Queer Futures

People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action

Confronting the Climate Crisis

The Power of Ideas

Artistic Fusions

Migration and Borders

### Optional Modules

#### + Postcolonial Literature

#### + Literature and Environment

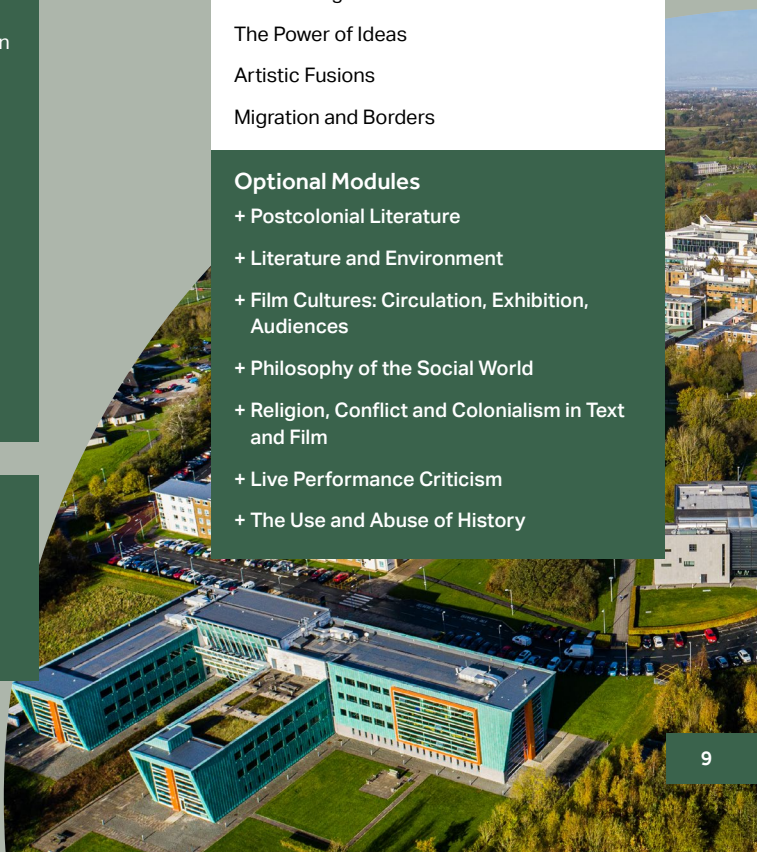
#### + Film Cultures: Circulation, Exhibition, Audiences

#### + Philosophy of the Social World

#### + Religion, Conflict and Colonialism in Text and Film

#### + Live Performance Criticism

#### + The Use and Abuse of History



# Careers and *employability*



**We know you want to graduate confident and ready to progress towards 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.**

## **Global engagement year**

You can opt to study your degree with a global engagement year. On this degree you spend your third year working or studying abroad before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University.

## **Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme**

You can gain sector-relevant work experience with these paid internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities such as publishing assistant, content delivery manager or assistant events producer. The scheme is delivered by our faculty employability team who are here to support your 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.

## **Careers service**

Our careers service has connections with top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across diverse sectors. There are regular careers fairs, workshops and networking opportunities. You can be matched with an employer or a graduate for one-to-one advice and take part in workshops such as writing a CV, developing a LinkedIn profile or succeeding at psychometric testing. We have a vast range of online resources as well as an exclusive job search portal. Our team of friendly, experienced careers professionals are always on hand to help and advise.





### Graduate destinations

Graduates from a liberal arts degree acquire transferable skills that are a real asset to a wide range of professions that require effective communication, problem-solving and leadership skills as well as an ability to work in multicultural environments. Graduate destinations could for example include government and policy-making, education, charity and arts sectors as well as journalism.

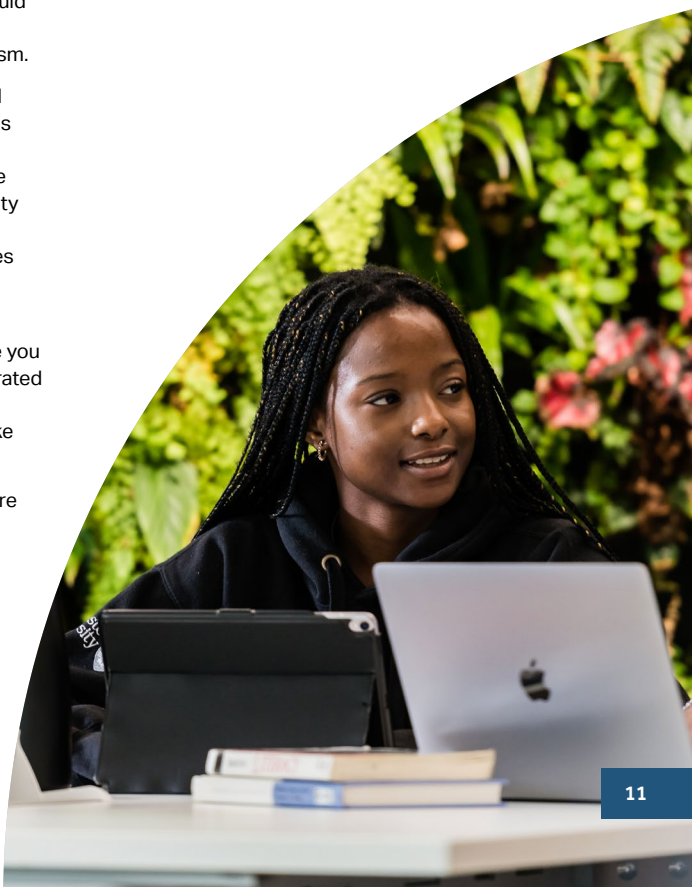
Creative and critical thinking skills are in high demand in the workplace as is the ability to communicate ideas at every level. A skilled analyst able to see all sides of an argument, you will be a persuasive negotiator while remaining open to the ideas of others. Your adaptability and flexibility, evidenced throughout your degree, will be an asset in today's rapidly changing and sometimes challenging work environment.

The practical elements of this course will give you demonstrable experience of real-life situations where you have organised and managed workloads and collaborated as part of a team. You will have developed sensitivity to and tolerance of others along with an ability to make ethical and informed decisions.

With the knowledge, skills and experiences you acquire at Lancaster, you can graduate with ambition and confidence that you will bring real value to whatever you choose to do.

### Future careers could include:

- + Broadcasting: radio or TV work
- + Public relations
- + Teacher
- + Social or community worker
- + Manager or team leader in charitable sector
- + Museum or gallery curator
- + Archivist
- + Politics researcher
- + Documentary maker
- + Journalist
- + Marketing or social media specialist
- + Manager or team leader in an arts organisation or the heritage industry
- + Social responsibility manager





[lancaster.ac.uk/liberal-arts](https://lancaster.ac.uk/liberal-arts)

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. 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](https://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](https://lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).