Film Studies

Undergraduate Degrees

2023
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. 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-orientated culture, while also investigating the intersections between film and related media such as theatre, contemporary art, sound, and dance.

It is possible to choose from a wide array of specialist film modules (from ‘Silent Cinema’ and ‘Women Filmmakers’ to ‘Films and Comic Books’ 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 BREEAM 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.
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 different areas of cinema history, and produce a short digital video.

**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 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.

**Fundamentals: 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 British crime and horror genres, the James Bond franchise, and Working Title’s romantic comedies.

**Single major students take: Minor Module**

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 Subject

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.
# Degrees and entry requirements

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<th>Degree title</th>
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<th>Degree length</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
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<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>PW38</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film and English Literature</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PQ33</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PV35</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film and Sociology</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PL33</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film and Theatre</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>PW34</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<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>Chinese Studies and Film</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>T1P3</td>
<td>ABB</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>

- **Study abroad options**
- **Placement year options**

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements (such as BTECs).

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

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**Meet Kyle**

During my degree I thoroughly enjoyed the range of modules, particularly learning about global cinema. It opened my eyes to a world of wonderful films and helped me understand how and why films are made.

I also met so many like-minded people and I’ve worked with them to create films since graduating. I made life-long friends who love a good natter about films we’ve seen.

My degree gave me the experience I needed to become the Production Executive for an events-based youth charity, Escape2Make. I continue to work on films as a Producer or Assistant Director whenever I can and I will never lose my passion for film.

**Kyle McKenzie**
Former BA Film Studies student, now taking a Master’s in Film Studies.

[www.kylemckenziefilm.com](http://www.kylemckenziefilm.com)
All film students take this core module.

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 filmmaking 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.

If you are taking a single major in Film, you will choose up to six optional modules, depending on the length of the optional modules.

If you are doing a joint degree in Film and another subject, you will choose up to four optional modules.

Select from modules including:
+ Documentary Film: History and Theory
+ European New Wave Cinema
+ Documentary Film Practice
+ Women Film Makers
+ Film and Comic Books
+ Short Film Production
+ Film/Media related modules in other departments
Year 3

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; and Identity in the films of Stanley Kubrick.

Optional Modules

Select from modules including:
+ Advanced Film Theory
+ Contemporary Hong Kong Cinema
+ Apocalypse Then: New Hollywood Cinema
+ Silent Cinema
+ Movie Musicals
+ African American Cinema
+ Experimental Cinema: Theory and Practice
+ Film/Media related modules in other departments

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.

Student work

Every year our final year students showcase their films in a major degree show exhibition, that is open to the public.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/lica/degreeshow/
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 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 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 DLSR cameras. You'll have access to a versatile set of lighting and grip equipment as well as 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.

Student societies
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, as well as their own cinema (Take 2 Cinema), TV station (LA1:TV) and newspaper (Scan), as well as the Film Production Society.

wp.lancs.ac.uk/cut-to/home/

Lancaster – the City
The city has two cinemas, Vue and the independent Dukes theatre and cinema. We work closely with the Dukes, and will be showcasing student work at the cinema in 2022.

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.
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. 

**Study abroad and vacation travel**

We partner with institutions around the world to provide exciting opportunities to travel, study and work abroad. Potential destinations currently Canada and the USA. These destinations are given as a guide only as the availability of places may vary year to year. 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.

**Important information**

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2023–24 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2022). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University’s reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study) for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University’s liability can be found in the Student Contract at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms).

Further legal information may be found at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).

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