

Film Studies

Lancaster  
University



Film Studies  
Undergraduate Degrees  
2024

# Film Studies at Lancaster

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

It is possible to choose from a wide array of specialist film modules that span global cinema and perspectives. You may combine Film Studies with another degree subject, including Theatre, Fine Art, English Literature, Creative Writing, Media and Cultural Studies, Sociology, and more.

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.



**for Film (Communication  
and Media Studies)**  
*Complete University  
Guide 2024*

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

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



# 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.

## British Film Institute partnership

We are proud of our exciting partnership with the British Film Institute (BFI). This offers an extraordinary range of opportunities and initiatives for students, enhancing employability and broadening the student experience. All students are able to redeem their own subscription to the award-winning BFI Player, with access to hundreds of British, world, and classic cinema titles.

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

## Lancaster – the City

The city has two cinemas, Vue and the independent Dukes theatre and cinema. We work closely with the Dukes, and frequently showcase student work at the 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 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 (examples may include 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 centres on British cinema. You will explore some of the key films, filmmakers, and traditions that have shaped British cinema over the last century. You will study examples of the most important genres, considering the ways in which they have developed across the decades, and you will also learn about cinema-going habits in Britain.

Alongside this historical overview of British film, you examine some of the key critical debates with which scholars studying British cinema have engaged, such as the question of the relationship between national identity and cinema, the value of realism in film, or British film's peculiar preoccupations with emotional repression, race, gender, and social class. Alongside a set reading each week, you will watch a varied selection of case-study films by some of the most influential or successful British directors. Indicative topics include the James Bond franchise, romantic comedy, the crime and horror genres, British film stars, the "woman's picture," and more.



### Fundamentals: Contemporary Arts and Design

This core module introduces you to university-level study. It encourages you to think of yourselves as burgeoning creative critics who use intelligent observations about the creative world to inform your own practice of writing and making.

During the first term, you will work together in mixed seminar groups with students on all the LICA programmes to explore the different ways creative practitioners respond to the culture of a rapidly changing world.



### Minor Module

Choose an optional module from another discipline.

OR

### Joint Degree Subject

Study your core module in your second subject.

# Year 2

## Global Cinemas: Forms, Debates, Histories

### 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 film-making through to low-budget art film), theories of film style and aesthetics, and the political function of cinema.

The module consists of two strands. The first strand focuses on various modes of American film production (considering films such as *Casablanca*, *Dracula*, and *Shadows*), while the second strand explores an array of national cinematic traditions (examples may include Japanese, Italian, German, and Indian cinema).

## Optional Modules

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
- + Film Theory
- + Short Film Production
- + Film/Media related modules in other departments

*Information contained in this booklet with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research. Please check our website for the latest information. [www.lancaster.ac.uk](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk)*

# 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; 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

Select from modules including:

- + 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/degreshow/](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lica/degreshow/)

# 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

 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)

## Meet Sky



Film Studies at Lancaster has introduced me to complex film theories and invaluable practical filmmaking skills. The courses cover a wide range of film theories, examining films ranging from Classical Hollywood to modern franchise films, from French New Wave to Senegalese cinema. The diversity of films is a strong suit at Lancaster. My personal favourite is the module on women filmmakers, which highlights overlooked female talents throughout the years.

Dr Maryam Ghorbankarimi, our lecturer and mentor in film production, always encourages us to implement the theories we've learnt throughout the course into our short films. This balanced integration between theory and practice is something I love about Lancaster.

There are many opportunities to collaborate with my peers in filmmaking, both as part of the course and outside of it. The practical modules include workshops that let us test out equipment hands-on. The accessibility of the filming equipment and editing suites allows us to make more short films beyond the course. I have met others passionate about filmmaking through both the course and the Filmmaking Society. Making films with talented and passionate people at Lancaster is everything I have longed for.

**Sky Fong**

BA (Hons) Film and Creative Writing, Year 2

# 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.

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

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees where you spend Year 3 working in a professional, paid role and complete your degree in Year 4.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements](http://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](mailto:lica-enquiries@lancaster.ac.uk)

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

Message a student: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat)



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for Film Graduate  
Prospects  
(Communication and  
Media Studies)  
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## 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 include Canada and the USA. Alternatively, we run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, India and Malaysia during the Easter and summer vacation. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience)

## Careers

Recent Film Studies graduates have gone into careers in:

- + Broadcast and print journalism
- + 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](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers)

## Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2024–25 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2023). 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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