

Cultural studies

Essentials

At Sussex, you take cultural studies alongside another subject as part of a joint degree

What degrees can I take with cultural studies?

Anthropology and Cultural Studies (p32)
 Art History and Cultural Studies (p34)
 Media and Cultural Studies (p98)
 Sociology and Cultural Studies (p121)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

Refer to relevant subject entries for details

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the admissions tutor:

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Cultural Studies, Silverstone 222, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RG, UK

www.sussex.ac.uk/cultural

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

Why cultural studies?

From soap opera to grand opera, from celebrity lifestyle to our own social life, we are shaped by the culture we consume. Studying culture is about understanding the often complex way our everyday life is constructed.

Why cultural studies at Sussex?

- Our high-quality research pushes the boundaries in cultural thinking and our rankings confirm our research reputation on the world stage: cultural studies at Sussex was rated joint 8th in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 100 per cent of our research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and 75 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher.
- Our lecturers bring a wealth of expertise and cutting-edge thinking from departments across the University such as Anthropology, Art History, Geography, Media and Film, Music, and Sociology. In these centres of excellence in teaching and research, you will be taught by the most innovative, as well as the most rigorous, researchers in their fields.
- You take Cultural Studies alongside another subject, which will develop your critical thinking, give you a new set of skills in a second area of knowledge and increase your potential in the workplace.
- Sussex is distinctive in that we spend as much time examining popular culture as we do high culture and ordinary culture.
- We look at culture from a geographic and historical perspective.
- At Sussex, we promote a political approach to cultural issues and put emphasis on developing critical thinking in particular on gender, nation, class and ethnicity.

Katie's career perspective

'Cultural studies at Sussex encourages you to find the everyday fascinating.'

It provides you with the tools to deconstruct and start to understand the culture you are living in, as well as the cultures of those you live alongside, which is increasingly important in today's global city.

'Having completed a joint honours degree in Anthropology and Cultural Studies, I'm now working as a youth development worker, alongside studying for a Masters in Youth and Community Development. The Sussex approach to cultural studies has proved invaluable in my current job, helping me to understand how young people construct their identities while negotiating issues such as race, gender, sexuality, and class.'

It's also highlighted the importance of encouraging young people to be actively involved in the creative cultures that they live within, produce and reproduce – from art, fashion and music to politics and the media.'

Katie Myerscough
 Youth Development Worker,
 North Reading
 Youth Work Team



A street in Ghana: cultural studies at Sussex looks at culture from a global perspective

Core courses

Courses currently include:

Year 1

Practising Cultural Studies
Options: Culture Across Space and Time • Culture and the Everyday • The Meaning of Things

Year 2

Theory, Taste and Trash
Options: Allure of Things • Culture, Race and Ethnicity • Gender, Space and Culture

Year 3

Options may include: **Body in Society • Class, Spectacle and Popular Culture • Comedy and Cultural Belonging • Consuming Passions • Contemporary British Cinema • Globalisation and Culture • Media, Technology and Everyday Life • Music, Media and Culture • Politics of Media Representation • Ritual, Performance, Spectacle • Science and the Media • Sexualities and the Cinema • Working in the Cultural Industries**



Graffiti written in front of a security camera in London. Culture refers to a number of creative forms but always stands at the centre of human experience

What sort of career could I have?

A degree in Cultural Studies opens the doors to a wide variety of career paths. With its emphasis on critical thinking and developing your political understanding, it provides a good foundation for careers requiring the ability to question and provide innovative solutions.

Our graduates have gone on to careers in:

- community work – particularly in areas of multiculturalism
- marketing, advertising and PR
- media and the arts, including arts administration
- postgraduate study in cultural studies and related disciplines.
- tourism, museums and the heritage industry.

How will I learn?

Learning and teaching methods are varied and range from lecture-based core courses to seminar thinking and independent study for specific options. You will also learn important skills for the workplace in joint project work, presentations to the class and field work.

You will be assessed individually as well as in groups, with essays and learning diaries offering a wide variety of continual assessment. In your final year, with your tutor's support, you will undertake individual research projects, culminating in an 8,000-word dissertation.

What will I achieve?

- an understanding of 'culture' as a contested term referring to the variety of ways meaning, identity and ideas are formed
- an understanding of how culture changes through time and place
- an understanding of the way that power operates in society
- an ability to contribute to critical thinking and debates on culture
- an understanding of the range of interdisciplinary approaches to the study of culture
- intellectual skills in research design and methodology, understanding, summarising, synthesising, criticising and analysing material
- practical skills in IT, oral and written presentation, team work, working independently, personal and time management.

Sam's perspective

'Media and Cultural Studies at Sussex has given me the chance to examine, in detail, aspects of social life that tend to inspire debate among students of various disciplines.'

'The Cultural Studies programme is highly interdisciplinary, building upon the strengths of several subjects from the humanities and the social sciences.'

'As a result I've been able to pursue my interest in philosophy, something that has kept me motivated, as well as enhancing all of my work across both aspects of my joint honours programme.'

Sam Scott
BA in Media and Cultural Studies

