

Film studies

Essentials

What film studies degrees are there?

Film Studies
Film Studies and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)

American Studies and Film Studies (p30)
Art History and Film Studies (p34)
Drama Studies and Film Studies (p57)
English and Film Studies (p68)
History and Film Studies (p79)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer range: AAB-ABB

For Film Studies and a Language, A levels (or equivalent) must include the language you wish to study at grade B

Typical IB diploma offer range: 34-36 points

For Film Studies and a Language, 34-36 points normally including your chosen language at Higher Level with a final grade of 5

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

Foundation year for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission direct to the first year of these degree programmes, we offer an international foundation year entry route. Refer to pages 26 and 131 for details

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the admissions tutor:
E mfm@sussex.ac.uk
T +44(0)1273 873481
F +44(0)1273 877219
Media, Film and Music, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RG, UK
www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm

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 film studies?

Film has been one of the most powerful cultural forms over the past 120 years. Whether seen as entertainment, art, documentary or propaganda, it has shaped how we see ourselves, others, and the world in which we live. Enjoyed by audiences across the world, explored by artists and censored by governments, film's ability to manipulate time and space both reflects our lives and mirrors our fantasies.

Why film studies at Sussex?

- Media and film at Sussex is ranked in the top 15 in the UK in *The Times Good University Guide 2011* – we are leading the debate about the future of film.
- Film at Sussex scored 91 per cent in the teaching category and 90 per cent in the student satisfaction category of the 2010 National Student Survey (NSS), placing us 7th and 6th respectively in the UK.
- Our research, which pushes the boundaries in thinking about media and film, 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.
- At Sussex we investigate how film has constructed its meanings and its pleasures, and why it is important. This is your chance to gain a deeper understanding of how film works via a range of creative and critical programmes, core courses and options.
- Film Studies at Sussex is not just about film itself but about the rich history of visual representations that make meaning. From Hollywood to Bollywood, you will study the connections between cinema, society and technology that have shaped our attitudes and cultural beliefs, developing a critical depth that will change the way you think.
- You will learn to 'read' film, critically analysing how meaning is made – and why. You will study how culture is represented and expressed in a diversity of film forms, from international and world cinemas to independent film, avant-garde to mainstream, and starting with cinema's most dominant influence, Hollywood.
- You will also have the opportunity to benefit from the School of Media, Film and Music's excellent production facilities. Throughout your degree you can select practice courses including sound, screen writing and video.

What sort of career could I have?

- digital media, film or broadcasting
- publishing/communications
- public relations
- journalism
- other non-media professions where critical, analytical and presentational skills are important.



Helen's career perspective

'Film Studies at Sussex is perfect for anyone interested in cinema and its cultural context. The degree is designed to allow you to pursue your own interests – I'm interested in feminist film theory and was able to explore this across three years and during my final dissertations. The atmosphere at Sussex is very welcoming and Brighton is a real cultural hub. There's a fantastic arthouse cinema, and plenty of film societies on campus. The Library is also an excellent resource for audiovisual material. Since graduating, I've worked solidly for the past few years. A week after graduation I began working at Birds Eye View (the London-based women's film festival) as an Events Producer, and have spent the last 18 months as UK General Manager for Shooting People, an online network for independent filmmakers. I've travelled to festivals, worked as a journalist, been involved in film programming and put on my own events. I couldn't have chosen a better degree.'

Helen Jack
Manager,
Shooting People





The Duke of York's Picturehouse in Brighton is one of the oldest cinemas in Britain

How will I learn?

Lectures by Sussex's internationally recognised experts in film studies will introduce you to a new framework within which to explore film. You will be able to practice your new thinking in seminars and small-group debates designed to challenge you, and to develop a critical edge to your arguments in a supportive environment.

What will I achieve?

These degree programmes are about challenging your thinking in order to challenge others. Your ability to 'read' film will deepen your analytic faculties, giving you a vital head start to your future career.



Our programmes offer a firm foundation in visual literacy, critical debates and film theory by introducing you to a diverse range of film-making and viewing across the globe

Degrees

Film Studies

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: P300

This is a wide-ranging degree programme exploring how film expresses who we are and how we live. It enables you to explore international cinemas from Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Year 1 courses explore the wider landscape of film through different film histories and film geographies, while seminar-based courses introduce you to the terminology and techniques of film analysis and critical approaches to film theory. By Year 2, you will be considering how film theory relates to a wider range of international and transnational cinematic practices, from the familiar to the new. By Year 3, you will be encouraged to develop an independent direction through your selection of options and the research topic you develop in your final project.

You are not expected to have any prior experience of film studies, and we welcome students with a wide range of interests to bring to the seminar discussions.

Film Studies and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)

BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: PRJ9

This programme aims to develop your critical thinking about film while improving your language skills. With an emphasis on European Cinema, you will be introduced to a range of film-making and film theory from around the world, including Hollywood and British Cinema.

You will spend Year 3 abroad improving your language skills at one of our partner universities, and you may choose a film-related work placement to give you practical insights into the way film shapes and reflects different cultures.



Core courses

Courses currently include:

Year 1

- Authorship, Genre, Stardom
- Creative Production • Culture and the Everyday • Film Analysis I and II • Global Film Cultures
- Histories, Politics, Technologies
- Issues in Film Studies I and II
- Narrative Style

Year 2

- Creative Media: Concepts and Development • Film Theory
- World Cinemas Options: Cinema and Nation courses • Media Analysis courses

Year 3

Options:

- Film: Alternative Cinemas**
- Analysing Animation: Medium and Meanings • Cinema and the Real • Contemporary British Cinema • Documentary, Hollywood Comedian Comedy • Globalisation and Communication • Race and Ethnicity in Popular Cinema
- Reality TV and 'Real Lives'
- Hollywood: Industry and Imaginary • Sexualities and the Cinema • The Musical • Viewing Women

- Media: Class and Popular Culture**
- Comedy and Cultural Belonging • Genes and Clones: Where Science and Media Collide
- Media Practice • Media, Publics and Protests • Media Technology and Everyday Life • Music, Media and Culture • The Politics of Representation • Working in the Cultural Industries

Melanie's perspective

'My degree has provided me with a wealth of theoretical and technical knowledge, expanding my understanding of topics from the historical and cultural to the social and psychological aspects of film. I've also been inspired to build on my learning further afield and I'm currently involved with [filmdirecting4women](#), an initiative supporting female film directors at grassroots level. My time at Sussex has proved to be rewarding and exciting. I would sincerely recommend it for anyone seeking to better their education.'

Melanie Carrick
BA in Film Studies

