

Media

Tara's career perspective

'The Media Studies degree at Sussex offered a critical approach to media and communications, which opened my eyes and helped shape my worldview. Studying theory laid the groundwork for my final year at Sussex, when I developed practical film-making skills, including shooting on broadcast-standard video cameras and editing and directing a short documentary. 'My final-year project, a 10-minute documentary film that I shot and directed, was selected for a number of prestigious film festivals including the Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival. Since leaving Sussex I've directed a second short film, which has done even better, screening at world-class film festivals including the Edinburgh International Film Festival. 'My degree has allowed me to develop a critical stance in documentary film-making – encouraging me to do something different and challenging within the genre, to innovate documentary.'

Tara Manandhar
Documentary
film-maker



Essentials

What media degrees are there?

BA degrees

Media and Cultural Studies

Media Practice

Media Studies

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

English and Media Studies (p68)

Sociology and Media Studies (p121)

BSc degree

Computing for Digital Media (p50)

See also

Cultural studies (p54), Film studies (p73)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

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

Typical A level offer: ABB

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

Typical IB diploma offer: 34 points

For Media Studies and a Language, 34 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 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

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School of 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 media?

We live in a media-saturated society influencing almost every aspect of our lives. If you want to understand our contemporary world, you have to understand the media – from newspapers, film and broadcasting to blogging, YouTube and twitter. And that's not just because the media, in all their modern technological variety, inform, educate and entertain us. It's because they also provide the means by which we communicate with each other individually, nationally and globally. The media help shape how we act as citizens, consumers and producers. They are part of how we construct our communities and identities, and how we organise and experience our everyday lives. It is precisely the way that media are integrated into almost every aspect of modern life that makes questions about their production, meanings and impacts so challenging and important.

Why media at Sussex?

- Media and film at Sussex is ranked in the top 15 in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2010-11*, *The Guardian University Guide 2011* and *The Times Good University Guide 2011* – we are leading the debate about the future of film.
- 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, confirming our research reputation on the world stage.
- Media 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.
- Here at Sussex we look at how the media shape us and how we can shape the media. You'll gain a deeper understanding of how the media work through a range of programmes and creative and critical courses, using our state-of-the-art facilities including industry-standard digital production and edit suites as well as smart new studios, workshops and viewing facilities.
- Our single-honours degrees allow you choose options from within the School of Media, Film and Music and across the University, allowing you to shape the direction of your degree. You may even opt for a year of study abroad, whichever degree you choose.
- Our international body of students from a variety of European countries, the USA and Asia contribute to the rich mix of debate about world media and culture.
- We have close links with the creative industries and media production community, as well as with galleries and festivals, in London and Brighton. This gives our students greater opportunities to find work placements, voluntary and/or part-time paid jobs.

What sort of career could I have?

Studying in the School of Media, Film and Music with teachers and students across several departments in the arts and social sciences will provide you with a rich educational experience that will be a good preparation for a wide range of careers. Our graduates have gone on to careers in:

- independent media production sector
- creative industries including public relations, broadcasting, advertising, marketing, web design, digital media, games production
- news media
- heritage sector, museums, galleries
- communication departments of non-governmental organisations, public institutions and companies
- research and teaching.



Media Practice student Will Steer (right) filming in Stanmer Woods near our campus for the multimedia production *Before I Sleep*, a key event in the 2010 Brighton Festival

How will I learn?

Teaching methods vary throughout our degrees, from lecture-based core courses with accompanying seminars in Year 1 to more specialised options that rely on independent study together with seminar teaching in the final year. Practice skills are taught by working to a particular brief and on self-initiated projects. Modes of assessment include group presentations and projects, portfolios of production work and take-away papers, as well as more traditional unseen exams, essays and dissertations.

What will I achieve?

- With a firm grounding in analysis, you will be able to study all forms of media from film to TV and radio, photography and digital media, looking deeply at their institutions and their operations. You will explore how media texts are produced, distributed and consumed against a political and social background both in the UK and internationally.
- You will look at who is saying what about the media and how you can get involved in pushing the debate forward. Intellectual theories are more than set texts at Sussex, they inform our thinking and our practice. You will graduate not just well versed in the debates, but able to contribute effectively and confidently to them.
- You will be working independently at times but, at others, you will work with a dynamic team of staff and students, equipping you with skills in teamwork and information and time management that you'll find essential in the workplace.
- Your practice will be informed by a rich understanding about how audiences consume media, leading to work that will be more thoughtful, more successful and critically well received.
- Reflection is the key to critical thinking at university and you will leave Sussex with the ability to think deeply and to rigorously question not only other people's work but your own.

Degrees

Media and Cultural Studies BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: PR39

This degree offers a rich combination of media and cultural analysis. It offers a diverse range of media studies courses exploring the histories, institutions, technologies, forms and meanings of the media. At the same time, cultural studies courses examine the term 'culture', exploring the implications of the term in a wide range of historical, social and global contexts.

You will study the media as a cultural form and the interrelationships between the media and social institutions to examine how society is constructed and how our identities are shaped within it. Looking at its historical and sociological background, you'll explore the role the media has played in the very roots of culture, politics and the way we live. Throughout your programme you will be encouraged to explore a dialogue between 'media' and 'culture'. You will develop a range of critical and research skills, and learn to present your work and ideas professionally and creatively. While media practice is not part of this degree, there are extracurricular opportunities for work experience in the campus media and beyond.

Refer to the Media Studies core courses list starting opposite; refer to the cultural studies subject entry on page 54 for more information on these courses.

Media Practice BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: P310

This is an innovative degree programme combining creative media production with the analysis of media to explore their impact on society.

You will learn to conceive and create media projects in photography, video, digital media and sound, while applying critical ways of thinking about media in our society. You will develop sophisticated technical skills and key skills in critical writing, research planning and project realisations. You will study critical and theoretical approaches to thinking about your chosen media practice strands, and deliver a final-year media project in the medium of your choice to showcase your skills. You will also do a short work placement in Year 2.

This degree allows you choose options from within the School of Media, Film and Music and across the University, enabling you to shape the direction of your degree. This combination of practical and intellectual approaches to examining the media is designed to give you the skills and understanding to make a real difference. By studying how the media work, why and how they are important to our society, our identities and the way we live, and by developing your own advanced media production skills, you will be laying the foundations for postgraduate study or a successful career in the media field of your choice.

For examples of student work, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm/showcase

Refer to the Media Practice core courses list opposite for further details.

Will's perspective

'Sussex's strong reputation and that of the School of Media, Film and Music first attracted me to studying here. What eventually persuaded me was a tour of the media services unit facilities: cameras, professional edit suites, a studio, a mini-cinema and enthusiastic members of staff all left a good impression.

'I'm now in the third year of my degree and loving it. I've found myself immersed in documentary film-making, graphic design, photography, and animation, and also come to appreciate that the theoretical side of the degree is just as interesting and challenging.

'If you are a proactive, creative person who is interested in expanding their skills in media production while also gaining a deeper intellectual understanding of how the media move our world, then I would definitely recommend this degree. It's awesome.'

Will Steer
BA in Media Practice



Brona's perspective

'I chose to study Media Studies at Sussex because I'm interested in current affairs and the world "right now". I've always been aware of the key role that media play in contemporary society, and wanted to investigate this further; Sussex has enabled me to do this and much more.

'With the generous range of courses on offer, I've been able to customise my degree to suit my particular tastes, and pursue my interest in the news industry, the public sphere and citizen journalism. 'Above all I've found the encouragement and academic excellence of my tutors to be a great source of motivation for me – so much so that I've decided to pursue my Masters degree at Sussex as well.'

Brona Molnárová
BA in Media Studies



Core courses

Courses currently include:

BA in Media Practice

Year 1

Creative Production • Issues in Film Studies II: Global Film Cultures • Questioning the Media

Year 2

Creative Media: Concepts and Development • Film Theory • News, Politics and Power • Professional Media Practice

Options from the BA in Media Studies and film studies

Year 3

Project Development • Final Project
Options: Alternative Cinemas
• Analysing Animation • Cinema and the Real • Class and Popular Culture
• Comedy and Cultural Belonging
• Contemporary British Cinema
• Everyday Life and Technology
• Genes and Clones: Where Science and the Media Collide • Globalisation and Communication • Hollywood Comedian Comedy • Hollywood: Industry and Imaginary • Media, Publics and Protest • Music, Media and Culture • Race and Ethnicity in Popular Culture • Sexualities and the Cinema • The Musical • The Politics of Representation • Viewing Women • Working in the Cultural Industries

BA in Media Studies

Year 1

Creative Production • Culture and the Everyday • Debates in Media Studies • Questioning the Media

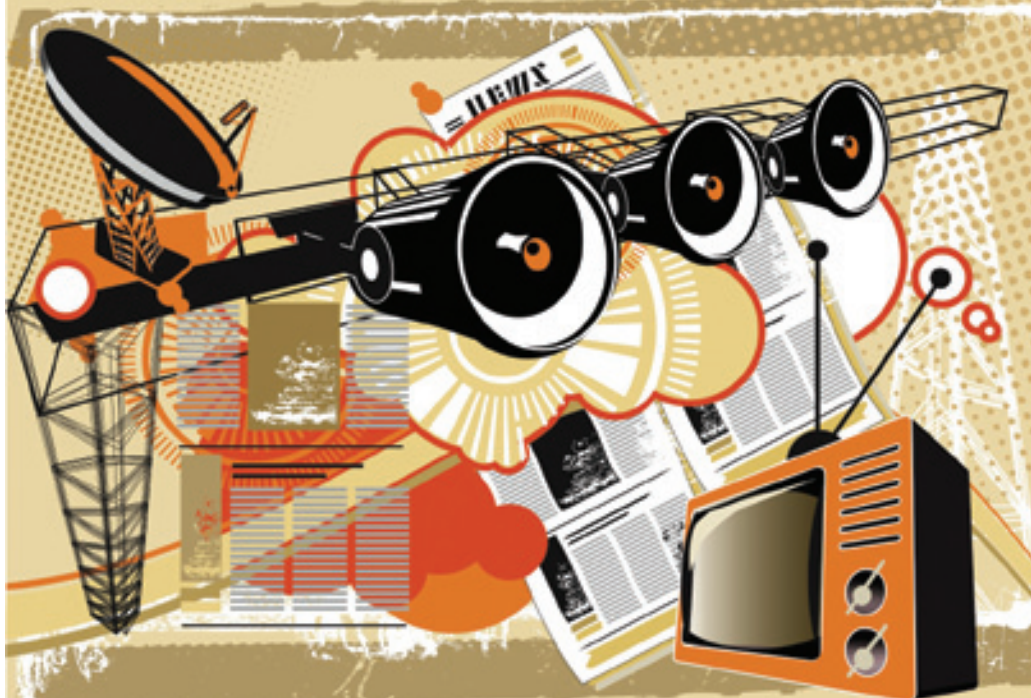
Year 2

Developing Research • News, Politics and Power • Theory, Taste and Trash • World Cinemas

Options from cultural studies, film studies, and the BA in Media Practice

Year 3

Options: Alternative Cinemas
• Analysing Animation • Cinema and the Real • Comedy and Cultural Belonging • Class and Popular Culture • Contemporary British Cinema • Documentary, Reality TV and Real Lives
• Everyday Life and Technology
• Genes and Clones: Where Science and the Media Collide
• Hollywood Comedian Comedy
• Hollywood: Industry and Imaginary • Globalisation and Communication • Media, Publics and Protest • Media Practice
• Music, Media and Culture • Race and Ethnicity in Popular Cinema
• Sexualities and the Cinema
• The Musical • The Politics of Representation • Viewing Women • Working in the Cultural Industries



Media Studies

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: P306

This is a broad-based degree enabling you to engage with the complexity of contemporary media culture and communication. It brings together critical perspectives from across the arts and social sciences to provide a comprehensive understanding of the history, meanings, politics, practices and pleasures of the media in all their variety. It includes opportunities to make media as an integrated part of developing a critical understanding of how the media work.

You'll begin with foundation courses that give you tools to question and investigate the range of media in terms of technologies, institutions, forms, audiences and influence, as well as practical courses concentrating on video, sound, photography or digital media. Year 2 core courses are accompanied by options allowing in-depth study of television, radio, interactive media, popular culture, advertising, media practice or film. There is also the chance to take options in other subjects in the first two years. In the final year, you choose from a wide range of specialist subjects taught by leading researchers, leading to your own research projects and dissertations.

Throughout, you will develop a rich portfolio of skills in critical and textual analysis, media practice, research planning and methods, and learn how to present your ideas effectively in a variety of formats. These skills, together with the cultural knowledge and critical agility that you will have developed in studying the media in a wide variety of contexts, will prepare you for a wide range of careers in the media industries or other professions.

Refer to the Media Studies core courses list on the left for further details.

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

BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: PRH9



Exploring the theories and history of the role media play in modern societies, this degree programme gives you the chance to develop a media career using a foreign language either in the UK or abroad. As with all our media degrees, you will study media history, forms and impact on the way we live, but you will also receive teaching in your chosen language.

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

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of media courses; refer to the languages subject entry on page 85 for more information on these courses.

Still from Year 2 animation project *All Along the Western Front*

