

# Gender studies



## Essentials

### Taught programmes

#### MA degrees

Gender and Media  
Gender Studies

#### MSc degree

Social Research Methods (for details, refer to page 14)

### Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Gender Studies (Humanities)  
PhD Gender Studies (Social Sciences)

### Related programme

MA in Gender and Development (p71)

### Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

#### MA in Gender and Media

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in media, film or another relevant discipline. We also welcome applications from those with relevant professional experience

#### MA in Gender Studies

We encourage applications from a diverse range of backgrounds. Applicants normally have a first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree or comparable experience

#### MSc

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in a relevant social sciences subject, but applicants with other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests and state how studying for the MSc will help develop those interests, possibly for further research

#### MPhil

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social science, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests

#### PhD

A Masters degree in a subject relevant to your research. Applicants should submit an outline research proposal (three to four pages) indicating their topic, including possible chapters, methodology, research context and a short bibliography of relevant sources

### English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

### Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

### Pre-Masters for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission directly to our MA in Gender and Media, we offer a Pre-Masters entry route. For more information, refer to page 31

### Further information

#### MA in Gender and Media

School of Media, Film and Music,  
University of Sussex, Falmer,  
Brighton, BN1 9RG, UK

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#### MPhil, PhD in Gender Studies (Humanities)

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(address above)

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#### MA in Gender Studies and PhD in Gender Studies (Social Sciences)

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www.sussex.ac.uk/gender

- The Centre for Gender Studies covers many areas of gender research, nationally and internationally, while the Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies has a strong focus on gender studies and looks into questions of power, representation and identity. Visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/gender](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/gender) and [www.sussex.ac.uk/sccs](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sccs)
- Gender studies is quintessentially interdisciplinary. It is an excellent area for lifelong learning, providing perspectives and information that will illuminate your personal experience and enhance your career prospects.
- Drawing together faculty and graduate researchers, gender studies at Sussex offers opportunities to work on issues of representation, identity and sexuality, as well as politics and social relations.
- You benefit from the interdisciplinary seminar series NGender, which brings together researchers, faculty and recently graduated doctoral students. Visit <http://ngender.wordpress.com>
- You will explore the ways in which gender intersects with other markers of difference such as 'race', ethnicity, class and sexuality.
- The subject also familiarises you with research methods appropriate to the examination of gender issues across a wide thematic range, within different social, historical and cultural contexts.

## Taught programmes

### MA in Gender and Media

#### 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA focuses on the production, circulation and reception of media representations of masculinity, femininity and sexuality. It also explores the ways in which questions of gender and sexuality might shape and inform media relations more generally, for example in the negotiations of the public/private divide.

This programme engages with a substantial intellectual area to address some of the key social, cultural and political issues of the present day.

Undoubtedly, the media have been extremely influential in shaping and reflecting gendered power relations, and processes of identification in relation to the politics of gender, sexuality and the body. This unique MA brings these issues to the fore, and allows you to address them in depth.

Drawing on Sussex's team of recognised scholars in the fields of both media and film and gender studies, the interdisciplinary programme allows you to combine approaches from the social sciences, cultural studies and the humanities. You will be introduced to the key concepts in feminism, postfeminism, queer theory, 'crip' theory, masculinity studies and body image studies, as well as a wide range of media and cultural theory.

The media texts addressed throughout the MA are drawn from a wide range of historical and national contexts and will include print and online media, film (both Hollywood and non mainstream), and radio and television genres such as soap operas, dramas and make-over shows. However, you are encouraged to set your own agenda throughout the programme, culminating in a research-led dissertation.

### Applicant profiles

This MA provides perspectives and information for people already in the media field or wishing to enter it, or for people in any occupation where gender awareness would be an advantage.

### Career opportunities

This MA will equip you with the skills for a career in the media industries, cultural and events management, and in fields in which a knowledge of both gender politics and the media is useful.

### Programme structure

Autumn term: Media Theory and Research I, which introduces a range of conceptual, institutional and methodological perspectives on the media • Gender and Representation, which interrogates mediations of masculinity, femininity and sexuality.

Spring term: two options from a list that has previously included Approaches to Film Noir • Culture, Experience, History • Emotion, Representation and Culture • Feminism and Film • Gender, Technology and Embodiment

- Latin American Cinema • Media Audiences
- Media Theory and Research II • Queering Popular Culture • Rethinking European Cinema
- Science, Technology, Culture • The Cinematic Body • Women and Human Rights.

Summer term and vacation: you undertake work on the MA dissertation under faculty supervision.

#### Assessment

All courses are assessed by 5,000-word term papers. You are also required to submit a dissertation of 18,000 words.

#### MA in Gender Studies

##### 1 year full time/2 years part time

The MA applies historical, sociological, anthropological, and political perspectives to the field of gender studies.

The programme explores the following:

- the contribution of feminist theory to a range of academic disciplines
- identity and the social construction of gender across different cultures and societies
- the structural and political aspects of gender
- gender as an embodied social relation and experience.

The MA is taught by a combination of seminars, tutorials and individual supervision.

#### Career opportunities

The programme aims to cater equally for those seeking to develop an existing research interest, those in a career in which issues of gender play an important role, and those who simply wish to explore a broad range of issues concerning gender.

Our graduates have gone on to careers as researchers, administrators and communications officers for charities and NGOs. Many have also gone on to doctoral studies at Sussex.

#### Programme structure

Core courses familiarise you with key debates on gender issues, and present feminist challenges to established disciplines, as well as important feminist theories and methodological approaches. You take two core courses and two options, and you also write a dissertation.

Autumn term: Gender and Representation

- The Politics of Gender.

Spring term: you take two options from a list that has previously included Anthropology of Childbirth and Reproductive Health

- Embodiment and Institutionalisation of Violence, Conflict and Conciliation • Feminism and Film • Queering Popular Culture • Race Critical Theory • The Cinematic Body • Women and Human Rights.

Summer term and vacation: you undertake work on the MA dissertation under faculty supervision.

#### Assessment

All courses are assessed by 5,000-word term papers. You are also required to submit a dissertation of 20,000 words.

#### MSc in Social Research Methods

##### 1 year full time/2 years part time

Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on page 14 for more information about this programme, including structure and assessment.

#### Research programmes

There are two doctoral pathways in gender studies:

- Gender Studies (Humanities) for those seeking to do research in areas that are primarily, but not exclusively, cultural
- Gender Studies (Social Sciences) for those seeking to do research in areas that are primarily sociological.

Research and teaching in gender studies crosses the subject boundaries of anthropology, art history, sociology, English, history, international relations, media, film and cultural studies, and there is a wide range of potential research supervisors for PhD students in gender studies.

#### Coursework

There are two common modes of entry for research students. First is traditional entry to an MPhil or PhD. Second is the MSc plus PhD pathway, which is the 1+3 route supported by the ESRC for studentships (refer to page 14 for more details).

All new research students will be required to participate in a programme of research training courses and to take other courses that may be recommended by the supervisor of their research. (Exemption from research training courses can be granted to those who have already taken such courses at postgraduate level. Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on pages 14-15.)

#### Current faculty areas of research

19th- and 20th-century British women's history and literature; cultural representations of gender in art, literature and the media, including cyberspace; feminist life history; feminist movements/women's activism; gender and citizenship, nationalism and globalisation; gender and education; gender and health; gender, inequality and work; gender, power and politics; gender and sexuality; gender and social anthropology; gender and development; reproductive politics; lesbian and queer studies; and sexual violence.

#### Recent thesis titles: Gender Studies (Humanities)

*Changing media, changing feminisms*

*The older woman's body as a source of horror*

*The queer uncanny*

#### Recent thesis titles: Gender Studies (Social Sciences)

*Breaking the silence – lesbian clients speaking out about their experiences of counselling*

*Lone mothers and social policy in Korea*

*Women, migration and social change: migrant women workers from the Philippines*

#### Academic activities

There are a variety of gender-related research seminars across campus, with local and visiting speakers. Skills workshops for MA students are also available.

Recent seminars have covered being Barbara Streisand, feminist working-class autobiographies, gendered militarisms, queer mental health, the aftermath of violence, and the politics of beauty.

#### Faculty research interests

Research interests are briefly described below. For more detailed information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/gender](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/gender)

**Caroline Bassett** Refer to the Media and film subject entry on page 124.

**Professor Gillian Bendelow** Refer to the Sociology subject entry on page 152.

**Anastasia Christou** Refer to the Migration and globalisation subject entry on page 128.

**Professor Andrea Cornwall** Refer to the Anthropology subject entry on page 41.

**Professor Jane Cowan** Gender, nationalism, memory and identity.

**Denise DeCaires Narain** Refer to the English subject entry on page 94.

**Anne-Meike Fechter** Refer to the Migration and globalisation subject entry on page 128.

**Ben Fincham** Refer to the Sociology subject entry on page 152.

**Marzia Fontana** Gender inequalities in development.

**Elizabeth Harrison** Discourses of gender and development.

**Professor Beate Jahn** Refer to the International relations subject entry on page 110.

**Professor Liz James** The representation of women in the classical and medieval world.

**Pamela Kea** Refer to the Anthropology subject entry on page 41.

**Kate Lacey** Refer to the Media and film subject entry on page 124.

**Claire Langhamer** Refer to the History subject entry on page 106.

**Vicky Lebeau** Refer to the English subject entry on page 94.

**Andy Medhurst** Popular culture, sexuality, gender, and Englishness.

**Sharif Mowlabocus** Digital cultures, gender, sexuality and representation.

**Professor Sally R Munt** Refer to the Media and film subject entry on page 124.

**Kate O'Riordan** Refer to the Media and film subject entry on page 124.

**Filippo Osella** Refer to the Anthropology subject entry on page 41.

**Alison Phipps** Refer to the Sociology subject entry on page 152.

**Niall Richardson** Refer to the Media and film subject entry on page 124.

**Vincent Quinn** Refer to the English subject entry on page 94.

**Professor Sue Thornham** Refer to the Media and film subject entry on page 124.

**Maya Unnithan** Refer to the Anthropology subject entry on page 41.

**Professor Cynthia Weber** Refer to the International relations subject entry on page 110.

**Janice Winship** Refer to the Media and film subject entry on page 124.

**Ruth Woodfield** Refer to the Sociology subject entry on page 152.