Film Studies

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/film-studies
filmstudies@st-andrews.ac.uk

Available degree options

Single Honours
Film Studies

International Honours
Film Studies
See entry requirements and other information, page 12

Joint Honours
Film Studies and one of 21 other subjects
See Arts combinations, pages 172-173

Previous knowledge of subject required? No

You will examine the forms and histories of film in all their artistic, documentary and non-theatrical variants, from silent cinema to virtual reality and will cover a range of topics including stardom, activism, as well as numerous genres and filmmakers.

• Top ranked teaching: Film Studies was first in the UK for student satisfaction, topping a list of over 80 film programmes and receiving a 100% satisfaction rating in the National Student Survey 2017.
• Outstanding staff: as leading figures in the ever-expanding fields of film and media studies, members of the Department have published award-winning scholarship on a range of topics, from the stars of silent cinema to the newest digital effects.
• Cutting edge facilities: with specially fitted seminar and screening rooms as well as consistently small class sizes, you can explore 3D cinema, virtual reality, and a collection of over 9,000 audio-visual works.
• Vibrant film culture: from student-led filmmaking marathons and screening series to visits from world-renowned filmmakers and collaborations with international film festivals, you will have numerous opportunities to contribute to a community of cinephiles and film artists.

Entry requirements
We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement. Offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here. See also page 169.

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/entry

SQA Highers: AABB
GCE A-Levels: AAB
International Baccalaureate Points: 35

What will I study?

Film Studies here is a dynamic and growing discipline, drawing in students with a variety of interests. We critically examine the history of moving images across time and cultures, looking at a diverse range of topics from sexuality in film to activist documentary, from propaganda to digital media.

Film Studies uses a variety of critical, theoretical and historical approaches to examine one of the most significant cultural and artistic forms of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. During the first two years, you will take four Film Studies courses (one per semester). These provide the theoretical, cultural and methodological frameworks you will need for the more specialised and challenging Honours seminars.

In third and fourth years, you can take either Single Honours or Joint Honours in Film Studies, taking seminars typically two per semester for Single Honours, or one per semester for Joint Honours) across the next two years. These seminars reflect the research expertise of the Department and allow you to develop your own interests within the discipline.

The Honours programme examines a diverse range of film theories and practices covering film genres, sound cinema, global and transnational cinemas, documentary, and various histories of the moving image. You work closely with the teaching staff, and develop excellent intellectual, writing and research skills that are useful in a wide variety of professions.

First year
The two first-year courses introduce you to key approaches to the study of film (such as the cycle of film production, distribution and exhibition and the analysis of genre, narrative and stardom) and its history, from early cinema and the advent of sound to wartime propaganda and

Emma (Suffolk England)
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post-war developments in the art and technology of film. Cinema provides a rich resource for analysing the social, cultural, and ideological cross-currents of a particular historical moment, and the films we study bring these into bold relief.

Second year
The two second-year courses focus on cinematic movements in the period following World War II, typically looking at new wave cinemas in Europe, political movements in Latin America and Africa and contemporary trends in Asia, and on theoretical engagements with film and visual media from the 1920s to the present day. Based on screenings of a selection of cinematic texts, you will explore questions of identity and representation, and the relationship of film, public discourse, cultural production, and cultural policy.

Third and fourth years (Honours)
Honours courses explore particular topics, such as documentary, sensory cinema, stars, and digital media. Each week you will participate in seminar discussions of advanced work in the field. The Honours programme introduces a diverse range of film and media theories covering gender, national and transnational, aesthetic and historical approaches.

Study abroad
Film Studies students participate in the University-wide St Andrews Abroad programme. For information about study abroad options, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study-abroad

Careers
The Film Studies degree resonates with the demands of today’s job market, where film and media literacy is of direct relevance to a variety of careers, from journalism and teaching to professions in the creative industries.

A degree in Film Studies from St Andrews will provide an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers as well as for those directly connected with cinema (such as film distribution and production, arts administration, cinema management, film festivals, advertising and public relations, journalism and media, publishing and education). The main purpose of the programme is to provide a high quality general education, promote independence of thought and encourage intellectual initiative backed by a strong knowledge of cinema’s histories and forms.

Film Studies graduates will be well placed to compete in today’s job market, having gained an extensive range of skills from written and oral communications to archival research and visual analysis.

Recent graduates in Film Studies have gone on to a number of exciting careers, including film archive director, production editor in publishing, media researcher, programmes negotiator for a television company, and director’s assistant for a Warner Brothers feature film.

The Department offers a taught MLitt in Film Studies. The programme is a great way to complete an accelerated Masters degree with the view of undertaking PhD study in film and media studies. All MLitt students in Film Studies take part in a core course co-taught by several Department members, where you will cover the salient theoretical, analytical and historiographical approaches to cinema up close with renowned specialists in their respective fields. In addition, you take a topic course designed to probe new directions in film studies. The programme culminates in a dissertation supervised by a staff member in the student’s chosen area of expertise. MLitt students in our Department also benefit from contact with a large postgraduate cohort (currently counting 26 PhD students stemming from five continents). Postgraduate activities include regular research presentations by leading scholars, a prominent student-run academic journal (Frames) and a yearly postgraduate conference, as well as workshops, film screenings, activities and retreats.

“Film Studies is a close-knit community and every member of staff is always fully engaged with the students’ wellbeing and academic performance. All our lecturers present a wide range of research interests, which mean that we have a large variety of topics to choose from at Honours level, with our lecturers having written most of the academic research on specific subjects.”

Gabrielle (Harare, Zimbabwe)