

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For students starting in Academic Year 2018/2019

1. Course Summary

Names of programme(s) and award title(s)	BA or BSc (Hons) Film Studies BA or BSc (Hons) Film Studies with International Year (see Annex A for details)
Award type	Combined honours <i>NB:</i> Students who study their two Principal subjects in humanities and/or social science subjects will be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) (BA Hons). All students who study a science Principal subject are candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science (with Honours) (BSc Hons) irrespective of their second Principal subject.
Mode of study	Full time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Duration	3 years 4 years with International Year
Location of study	Keele University – main campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
Tuition Fees	UK/EU students: Fee for 2018/19 is £9,250* International students: Fee for 2018/19 is £14,000** <i>or</i> £14,360** <i>(if combined with a laboratory-based Principal Subject)</i> The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee
Additional Costs	Refer to section 15

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

2. What is a Combined Honours programme?

Combined Honours degrees are degrees that are taken in two different subjects, resulting in an *X and Y* degree title, for example *Film Studies and Music Technology*. If you are taking a Combined Honours programme, these will be the two subjects you applied for. These are referred to as your Principal Subjects.

In a Combined Honours degree you must take at least 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), accrued over all three levels of study, with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). The remaining available credits can be filled with modules from these subjects or other subjects entirely.

As a Combined Honours student you can choose to study just one subject in your final year of study, taking a minimum of 90 credits in this subject. This will result in an *X with Y* degree title, for example *Film Studies with Music Technology*.

3. Overview of the Programme

Film Studies is a broad and challenging discipline involving the rigorous and critical study of films from around the world. It is an exciting and relatively new academic discipline that allows students to develop skills in critical argument, and involves imaginative engagement with films from past and present and from a variety of different global cultures.

Recognizing that film has become one of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries' preeminent and most influential forms of both art and mass entertainment, the programme allows students to investigate the possibilities and limitations of film language and its influence on how we understand our own (and others') history, as well as our various forms of identity (individual, national, sexual, racial). Thus, the subject also demands an understanding of how films function within the cultures of which they are part, as well as the ways in which the formal characteristics of film have developed over time and across diverse cultures.

Film Studies at Keele

The Film Studies programme at Keele reflects each of the core areas of the discipline of Film Studies: film history; national cinemas; film theory; film and culture. While core modules cover key skills and concepts in film studies, a variety of elective modules offer students the opportunity to pursue more focused interests in genre, particular film directors and in a variety of international cinemas. Thus students on the programme will be invited to revisit popular and 'classic' cinema within new and enriching critical frameworks but will also have the chance to study and enjoy films from other less familiar film-making traditions, periods and cultures. All modules offered will be taught by a team of staff who are research active and experts in their fields with a commitment to lively and innovative teaching methods.

4. Aims of the Programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Gain an understanding of the dimensions of film language and aesthetics and furnish them with a vocabulary with which to describe and assess different film practices
- Provide a context for the critical understanding of selected aesthetic, national, cultural and historical debates in film studies
- Outline some of the cultural and historical backgrounds and industrial practices within which films (mainstream and non-mainstream) are produced
- Cultivate and refine skills in group and independent research and encourage advanced levels of

scholarship in response to current research in film studies and related fields of research

- Obtain the knowledge, skills and personal qualities necessary for them to find a fulfilling and rewarding career and with a lifelong interest in Film Studies and related fields

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Describe and evaluate a number of key concepts and theoretical positions in film theory and apply these in their analysis of a range of films from different cultural and historical contexts
- Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between different aesthetic practices and pleasures in cinema and the way these make possible different sorts of meaning

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Show an understanding of the historical development of film genres, aesthetic traditions and forms, and of their current characteristics and possible future developments
- Articulate, on paper and orally, detailed critical accounts of the aesthetic and formal qualities of film language using close reading practices

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Use the knowledge and skills they have acquired in complex and unpredictable contexts and as the basis for more advanced learning or professional training
- Manage time and materials to deliver assignments on time and to required standards (both individually and as part of a team)
- Demonstrate a capacity to assess, balance and develop ideas and apply these in the articulation of critical argument and be able to harness these skills imaginatively in appropriate contexts, and for a range of audiences, through oral presentation and in writing

6. How is the Programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- **Traditional lectures** where the lecturer provides students with a framework for spectatorship/reading and further independent study. These may also involve a degree of interaction when students are asked to consider and then respond to tasks or questions set by the lecturer
- **Tutorials, seminars, and workshops** in groups of up to 15 students where key issues can be discussed in more depth. Students will be provided with worksheets in advance of these classes outlining their minimum preparation requirement together with some questions to consider in advance of the class. Students are expected to play a full part in, and sometimes to lead, these discussions. Some tutorials and seminars may consist largely of student presentations or of group work set by the tutor
- **Independent study** based on directed spectatorship of particular films, reading from textbooks, research

monographs, academic journals and other media

- **Web-based learning** using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE). The KLE is used to give students easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools, and as a platform for online tests, discussions, quizzes and blogs
- Those students who choose to take The Independent Study Project (Dissertation) in Film Studies in their final year (you will have the option to do an ISP in either one, or both, of the subjects studied for your combined honours degree) will have the opportunity to undertake a piece of independent research supervised and supported by a member of staff

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Personal Tutors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- **Lectures and independent study** allow students to gain a wider understanding of the contexts (cultural and historical) in which films may be understood as well as giving students ideas and examples for their own further study of the films they will be discussing, both in tutorials and in their own written work.
- **Seminars, tutorials and online discussions** provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, questions arising from film analysis in a responsible way, and to present their own ideas to members of staff and other students using an appropriate medium of communication.
- **Interactive lectures** (especially those on film analysis), seminars, tutorials and web-based activities encourage students to reflect on their own learning and take responsibility for its development by addressing areas of difficulty, by discussing them with their fellow students or by getting additional help from a member of staff.
- **Lectures** provide students with the tools and the knowledge to further their understanding of their subject, and help them to organize and focus their material in preparation for seminar discussion.
- Undertaking a research **dissertation** with the support of an experienced and active researcher allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise a feasible and ethically sound strategy for answering them

7. Teaching Staff

Currently our core teaching staff comprises a number of full professors, senior lecturers, lecturers and teaching fellows, all of whom have appropriate academic qualifications and extensive teaching experience at undergraduate and postgraduate level in universities in the UK, continental Europe, and North America. Each one is an active researcher in their field and as a group the staff cover a very wide range of interests in film and related research fields. Their work has been widely published in books, research monographs and leading international journals.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the Structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April.

Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are three types of module delivered as part of this programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules – a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules – these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;
- Elective modules – modules that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

Year 1 (Level 4)

At Level 4, students will take 15 compulsory credits per semester, in the form of a single 30-credit module running across semesters one and two. In addition to this, students must take at least one further optional module.

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Approaching Film: History and Theory	30	Reading Film	15
		Popular British Cinema: from the 90s to the present	15
		Introduction to European Cinema	15
		Digital Video	15

Year 2 (Level 5)

At Level 5, students must take at least 45 credits in Film Studies, including one compulsory 30-credit module. In addition to this, students must take at least one further optional module.

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Hollywood and Beyond: Global Popular Cinemas	30	Adaptation	15
		Gender and the Cinematic Gaze	15
		Science-Fiction Cinema	15
		French Cinema	15
		Politics and Cinema	15
		Documentary Theory and Practice	15
		Unheard Melodies: Music in the Narrative Film	15

Year 3 (Level 6)

At Level 6, students must take at least 45 credits in Film Studies, either by choosing three 15-credit optional modules or by choosing a 30-credit Dissertation plus a 15-credit optional module.

Optional modules	Credits		
ISP (Dissertation) in Film Studies	30		
British Society Through the Eyes of British Film: 1960's to the Present Day	15		
British Women Directors	15		
Crime in Neoconservative America	15		
World Cinemas in the 21st Century	15		
Race and Sexuality on Screen	15		

In addition to the elective modules listed in this table, students may choose to study modules which are offered as part of other programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and across the University. These include:

- Modules in other programmes closely related to Film such as English Literature, English and American Literature, American Studies, and Media, Culture and Creative Practice
- Modules in other subjects in which they may have a particular interest such as History, Psychology, Politics or Music
- Modules designed to help students for whom it is not their first language to improve their use of English for academic purposes
- Modern foreign languages modules at different levels in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish
- Freestanding modules in subjects of general interest
- Freestanding modules related to student volunteering, studying abroad as part of the University's exchange programme employability skills and personal development

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit:

www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/az

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Honours Degree	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 Combined Honours: A minimum of 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). Your degree title will be X and Y (e.g. 'Film Studies and Music Technology'). If you choose to study one Principal subject in your final year of study a minimum of 90 credits in that subject is required. Your degree title will be X with Y (e.g. 'Film Studies with Music Technology').
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

Film Studies with International Year: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree in Film Studies with International Year. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year Combined Honours Film Studies programme.

10. How is the Programme assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used within Film Studies at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used within Film Studies:

- **Closed examinations with seen or unseen papers:** both these types of exam test students' knowledge of film and film theory as well as their ability to construct a clear argument using detailed film knowledge under timed conditions. For seen exams students will be supplied with a copy of the examination paper up to a fortnight in advance of the exam. Written exams will usually require students to write two short essays
- **Essays** allow students to demonstrate their ability to articulate their ideas clearly using argument and reasoning skills and with close reference to the contexts and critical concepts covered in the modules. They will also be asked to carry out basic bibliographic research and to communicate their ideas effectively in writing in an appropriate scholarly style using an appropriate system of referencing
- **Close reading exercises** test students' skills in close film reading, their ability to identify key aspects of film form, and their ability to articulate the connection between form and meaning in a film excerpt
- **Class tests** taken online via the KLE assess students' subject knowledge and their ability to apply it in a more structured and focused way
- **Individual and Group presentations** to the seminar or tutorial group allow students to give an oral presentation to the larger group on an aspect of a film, film director or critical debate/concept. They also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development. Students will be supported in their use of appropriate technology and visual aids
- **Peer Review** requires students to offer constructive feedback on the draft copies of work (essay or exam drafts, for example) submitted by other students. They are assessed on the quality of reflection, insight and thoughtfulness that they bring to the process, as well as on their general ability to work as a member of a team
- **Reviews** of films, as well as of other scholars' work, test students' ability to identify the key differences between academic and journalistic discourse, as well as distinctions within these fields
- **Reflective Diaries** require students to keep a record of their critical or creative responses to the work of the module. They are assessed on the quality of this reflection and on their ability to respond constructively to the challenges and difficulties they encounter in the process of their own creative development and learning
- **Reflective Analysis** requires students to develop critical self-awareness through analysis of and active reflection on filmic texts as well as sources of financing, production and distribution, analysing in the process the impact of such contexts on textual and national identities
- **Annotated Bibliographies** test student's ability to construct a bibliography according to the Harvard system of citation. It also asks them to reflect briefly and critically on the content, usefulness and importance of the secondary sources they have encountered and their contribution to their own learning

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

Assessment rationale

In the first year, students are introduced to assessments that ensure they have a thorough understanding of the subject and the skills needed for the study of film and television at the university level. Students examine cultural, analytical and critical theories, and learn how to apply them to a range of filmic and televisual texts. In first-year modules, including Reading Film and Approaching Film: History and Theory, a range of assessments are

used to measure whether the varied learning outcomes of this award have been achieved, as well as catering for different learning types. These include essays, exams, short papers, presentations, reflective diaries, and tests (conducted online through the virtual learning environment). Group work and presentations are introduced early on, as these develop students' skills beyond the analysis of film (tested in exams and essays).

In the second and third years, these assessment strategies are used to build on the foundations laid in the first year. Essays continue to be the main assessment types, as in *Hollywood and Beyond: Global Popular Cinemas* and *Gender and the Cinematic Gaze* and in year 3 option modules *British Women Directors* and *British Society through the Eyes of British Film*. Essays at Level 5 (year 2) prepare students for the third year dissertation (if they opt for it). More extended, independent work is introduced at Level 6 (year 3) where the trend is towards increased depth and specialization, typically in the form of more developed critical essays.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year/stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity	Year 1 (Level 4)	Year 2 (Level 5)	Year 3 (Level 6)
Scheduled learning and teaching activities	18%	21%	10%
Guided independent Study	82%	79%	90%
Placements	0%	0%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option

14. Other learning opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the Film Studies programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided at Annex A.

Enhanced Degree: With Language Competency/With Advanced Language Competency

Film Studies students successfully completing a series of language elective modules have the opportunity to gain an enhanced degree title including their language competency such as, "BA (Hons) Film Studies with competency in Japanese". Students taking language modules of at least 60 credits counting towards their main degree at Keele, and successfully completing minimum stage 6 in the chosen language, will be awarded an enhanced degree title with the designation 'with competency in [Language]'. Students taking language modules of at least 60 credits counting towards their main degree at Keele, and successfully completing stage 10 in the chosen language, will be awarded an enhanced degree title with the designation 'with advanced competency in [Language]'.

15. Additional costs

There are no major additional costs for students on the Combined Honours Film Studies programme. There are a number of recommended critical texts identified across Film Studies modules that students may wish to purchase, though there is no compulsory purchase of designated text books required on the course (and all recommended texts will be available from the Keele library). Details of recommended texts will be made available via the individual module guides. Students may incur optional additional expenses in terms of the purchase of DVDs or access to screen media online; though all primary film/television texts taught on the course are made available via the library or the KLE, or through designated class screenings.

16. Document Version History

Date of first approved version (v1.0): 19th September 2017

Revision history

Version number¹	Author	Date	Summary of and rationale for changes

¹ 1.1, 1.2 etc. are used for minor changes and 2.0, 3.0 etc. for major changes (as defined in the University's Guidance on processes supporting curriculum changes)

Annex A

BA (Hons) Film Studies (Combined Honours) with International Year

Please note: in order to be eligible to take the International Year option your other subject must also offer this option. Please refer to the information published in the course document for your other subject.

International Year Programme
<p>Students registered for Combined Honours Film Studies may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Combined Honours programme in both their principal subjects, providing that they meet the progression criteria outlined in this document. Students accepted onto the International Year programme will have an extra year of study at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.</p> <p>Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the Combined Honours programme without the International Year and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.</p> <p>Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for 'Film Studies with International Year'.</p>
International Year Programme Aims
<p>In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially
Entry Requirements for the International Year
<p>Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.</p> <p>The criteria to be applied are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Performance (an average of 60% across all modules at Level 5 is normally required)• General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)
Student Support
<p>Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutors, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring meeting points.• Support from the University's Global Education Team
Learning Outcomes
<p>In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of this document, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:</p>

- a. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
- b. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
- c. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.

Please note that students on Combined Honours programmes with International Year must meet the subject-specific learning outcomes for BOTH their principal subjects.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Course Regulations

Students registered for the 'Film Studies with International Year' are subject to the course specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline areas.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any Film Studies module with significant overlap to Level 6 modules to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.