

## Programme Specification: Undergraduate

### For students starting in Academic Year 2017/2018

#### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme(s) and award title(s)</b>	BA (Hons) Film Studies with Creative Writing BA (Hons) Film Studies with Creative Writing with International Year
<b>Award type</b>	Single Honours
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 6
<b>Duration</b>	3 years 4 years with International Year
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele University – main campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Regulator</b>	Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<b>UK/EU students:</b> Fee for 2017/18 is £9,250*  <b>International students:</b> Fee for 2017/18 is £13,000**  The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee
<b>Additional Costs</b>	Refer to section 18

*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 Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on Film Studies. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules outside Film Studies, in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as

---

\* 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/>

part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

### **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.

The Film Studies with Creative Writing programme allows students to combine the analytical study of film with modules in creative writing integrating and emphasising the significance of screen writing in the context of poetry and prose.

#### **Film Studies with Creative Writing at Keele**

The Film Studies with Creative Writing 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. Students will also study creative writing in every semester, experimenting with poetry, prose, and screenwriting in order to develop their creative writing and to become self-reflexive practitioners.

### **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.
- Work both constructively and critically, by themselves and as part of a team, to deliver specific projects and be able to reflect productively on their strengths and weaknesses.

### **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
- Demonstrate knowledge of creative processes.
- Demonstrate understanding of the connections between creative and critical practice.

### **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
- Organise their own learning through self-management.
- Work with others in a constructive and respectful way.
- Give and receive constructive and critical feedback.

### **Keele Graduate attributes**

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

## **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:

- **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 text books, 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 **dissertation** double module in Film Studies in their final year 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
- Undertaking a **creative writing independent study project** with the support of an experienced and active creative practitioner allows students to develop an extended portfolio of writing with a critical commentary reflecting on their practice

## 7. Teaching Staff

Currently our core teaching staff comprises a number of full professors, senior lecturers and lecturers, 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 or practitioner in their field and as a group the staff covers a very wide range of interests in film,

literary and related research fields, as well as demonstrable achievement in the field of creative writing. 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 four types of module delivered as part of this programme. They are:

- Compulsory core module – a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional core module – these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;
- Programme approved elective module – subject-related modules that count towards the number of subject credits required by your degree;
- Free-standing elective module – a free choice of modules that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

All students must take four compulsory modules in Year 1. In Year 2, they take four compulsory core modules, plus at least two further 15 credit Film modules. In Year 3, students must take the Dissertation in Film Studies and the Creative Writing Portfolio, which are both 30-credit, year-long modules, plus at least 15 further credits in Film in each semester.

### Year 1 (Level 4)

<b>Compulsory Core modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Elective modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Reading Film	15	Mediated World	15
Poetry through Practice	15	Understanding Culture	15
Film Texts and Contexts I: History & Theory	15	New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture	15
Fiction through Practice	15		
<b>Optional Core / Programme approved elective modules</b>			
Introduction to Television Studies	15		
Reading Literature	15		
Telling Tales: An Introduction to Narrative Fiction	15		
Popular British Cinema: from the 90s to the present	15		
Introduction to European Cinema	15		
Digital Video	15		
Becoming a Critic	15		

## Year 2 (Level 5)

Compulsory Core modules	Credits	Elective modules	Credits
Gender and the Cinematic Gaze	15	Politics and Cinema	15
Writing for the Screen	15	Science-Fiction Cinema	15
Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema	15	Writing Genre and Mode	15
Creative Writing: Poetry and Prose	15	Documentary Theory and Practice	15
		Seoul Summer School (Yr 2)	15
		Unheard Melodies: Music in the Narrative Film	15
		Teenage Dreams: Youth Subcultures in Fiction, Film and Theory	15
		French Cinema	15
		Alfred Hitchcock's America	15
		Twentieth Century Novels into Films	15

## Year 3 (Level 6)

Compulsory Core modules	Credits	Elective modules	Credits
Dissertation in Film Studies (Semesters 1 and 2)	30	Writingscapes	15
Creative Writing Independent Study Project (Semesters 1 and 2)	30	Representing the Self, Family and Society on Contemporary British and American Television	15
		Shakespeare on Film: Adaptation and Appropriation	15
		Film Noir: The Dark Side of America	15
		Seoul Summer School (Yr 3)	15
		British Women Directors	15
		Parody in British Film and Television	15
		British Society through the eyes of British Film: 1960s to the present	15
		Cinematic Modernisms	15
		Postmodernism: Fiction, Film and Theory	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 and Creative Writing such as English, English & American Literatures, American Studies, and Media, Culture and Communication
- 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](http://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/az)

## Learning Outcomes

In Years 1 and 2 (Level 4 and 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the core modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved in elective modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

### Year 1 (Level 4)

First year modules provide students with a thorough grounding in the study skills needed for the study of film and an introduction to Film Studies as a discipline. Students will cover a wide range of films and will be introduced to some of the key critical and historical contexts for studying these. In addition to the core modules, students may begin to identify programme pathways (in American Studies or American Literature, Creative Writing, English, Languages, Music) in their selection of elective options.

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Engage in description and analysis of varied examples of film language, form and narrative using appropriate terminology	Reading Film	Essay; short paper
Demonstrate insight into some of the aesthetic and conceptual debates that have shaped the understanding of film	Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Essay
Carry out varied analysis from a range of film cultures	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Essay
Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of questions of socio-historical contexts in understanding film meaning	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Essay
Articulate an understanding of some of the connections between film production, criticism and history	Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Essay
Carry out independent analysis and critical assessment of the value and/or limitations of different approaches to film analysis	Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory Reading Film	Essay, short paper
Recognise the key features of poetry and the short story in relation to the development of the student's own writing practice.	Poetry Through Practice Fiction through Practice	Portfolio; reflective commentary

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Use appropriate bibliographic	Reading Film	Essay

search tools to find relevant primary and secondary cinematic materials in hard copy and electronic formats	Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	
Develop analytic skills: close watching/reading, description and analysis of form, meaning, and discourse	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Essay; short paper Essay
Present written work in English in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of citation and using basic word processing skills	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Essay
Interact confidently with KLE as well as other electronic and online resources	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	KLE tests; essay
Develop a clear, readable style of writing.	Poetry Through Practice Fiction Through Practice	Portfolio

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Work constructively with others, weighing up differing or opposing critical positions and assessing their relative value	Reading Film	Essay
Construct a clear and convincing argument using reasoning, analysis and judgment	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Essay
Acquire, assess, organize and engage with a wide variety of sources as part of the practice of research	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Essay
Develop a facility for self-reflective and critical thinking	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Short paper Essay plan
Reflect on and plan their own learning by acting appropriately on feedback	Reading Film Film Texts and Contexts: History & Theory	Short paper, essay Essay plan, essay

## **Year 2 (Level 5)**

In the second year students build on the skills and subject knowledge they will have acquired in the core modules of the first year. The Level 5 learning outcomes are reflected in the optional core modules which extend students' knowledge of some of the defining debates in Film Studies about constructions of gender and objectification in the cinema, as well as introduce them to theories about cinema's relationship to popular culture. Students may combine these conceptually focused modules with one of the other electives, such as those on a national cinema or film genre.

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Outline and critically assess at least one model of film spectatorship	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze	Exam; essay
Reflect on some of the ways in which film functions as a cultural practice within different societies	Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema	Exam; essay; reflective analysis
Identify some key aspects of the relationship between film genre and popular culture	Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema	Exam; essay
Demonstrate and articulate an understanding of the complexities of the relationship between gender and film spectatorship	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze	Essay; exam
Show an understanding of the social and historical development of practices of representation and cultural consumption in relation to film	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze  Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema	Exam; Essays
Begin the process of becoming a writer in prose and/or in poetry, and in screenwriting	Creative Writing: Poetry & Prose  Writing for the Screen	Portfolio  Assignment (script)

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Use a range of bibliographic search tools to collect and present a bibliography according to the Harvard System of citation and using a variety of different source materials (books articles, newspapers etc.)	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze	Essay
Construct clear and convincing arguments using advanced literacy and communication skills	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze  Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema	Essays; exam
Weigh up differing or opposing critical positions and articulate a clear assessment of them demonstrating skills of judgment and reasoning	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze  Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema	Essay; exam; reflective analysis
Locate their own work in a reflexive manner, within academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions	Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema  Creative Writing: Poetry and Prose	Essay; reflective analysis  Portfolio; commentary

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Work under pressure of time to produce examples of written	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze	Essay; exam

argument that is clear, logical and analytical	Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema	
Demonstrate skills in relating critical concepts to specific textual examples and assessing their value	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze  Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema	Essay; exam; reflective analysis
Articulate examples of both abstract thought and historical and textual fact	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze  Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema  Writing for the Screen	Essay; exam  Assignment (script); oral presentation
Manage their time and organise a number of different resources	Gender and the Cinematic Gaze  Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema  Creative Writing: Poetry & Prose	Essay; exam; KLE tests; reflective analysis  Portfolio; commentary

### Year 3 (Level 6)

In the third year students deepen their knowledge of film history, film genres, national cinemas and film theory by choosing to study two or more modules in a range of subjects that vary from year to year, reflecting the specialist expertise and active research interests of members of staff. Students may also choose to write a research dissertation in Film Studies. In either case, students work under the guidance of a member of a staff group with a wealth of experience in their given field of film research.

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Critically assess and evaluate the relevance of aspects of film theory to the practice of film analysis	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies with Creative Writing Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; short research papers; exams; presentations; dissertation
Clearly articulate and substantiate through argument and detailed analysis (in person and on paper) their critical judgements about film and film theory	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies with Creative Writing Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; short research papers; exams; presentations; dissertation

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Apply skills in textual analysis and intellectual argument and engagement in a diverse range of contexts	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies with Creative Writing Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; short research papers; exams; presentations; dissertation
Work productively as individuals and as group members, in both structured and unstructured contexts, exercising initiative and personal responsibility	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies with Creative Writing Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; short research papers; exams; presentations; dissertation
Plan, research and produce work within the limitations time and	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies with Creative Writing	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; short

resources available to them and responding to feedback on this work positively	Principal Programme	research papers; exams; presentations; dissertation
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------------------------

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b> <i>Successful students will be able to:</i>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
Work productively in a largely unstructured context exercising initiative and personal responsibility	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies with Creative Writing Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; short research papers; exams; presentations; dissertation
Undertake appropriate further training of an academic, professional or practical nature	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies with Creative Writing Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; short research papers; exams; presentations; dissertation
Demonstrate complex skills in written and oral communication (including visual analysis) and reasoning	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies with Creative Writing Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; short research papers; exams; presentations; dissertation

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

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

<b>Honours Degree</b>	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6.  You must accumulate at least 255 credits in Film Studies with Creative Writing (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 60 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in Film Studies with Creative Writing.
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

**Film Studies with Creative Writing 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 Creative Writing with International Year. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year International Relations 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 unseen papers:** this type of exam tests students' knowledge of film and film theory as well as their ability to construct a clear argument using detailed film knowledge under timed conditions. Written exams will usually require students to write two short essays, or sometimes one longer essay.

- **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.
- **Creative Writing Portfolios and Reflective Commentaries** give students the opportunity to produce original work and to situate their own creative practice in relation to the history of English literature and to contemporary literary practice.

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 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 Film Texts and Contexts: 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 and exams continue to be the main assessment types, as in *Film Texts and Contexts II: Contemporary Global Cinema* and *Gender and the Cinematic Gaze* as well as in optional core modules at Level 6. 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, and this includes forms of writing that take students beyond the analytical essay, such as short papers and reflective diaries.

## 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	19%	20%	14%
Guided independent Study	81%	80%	86%
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. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?

Subject	A-level	Subjects not included	International Baccalaureate	BTEC	Access to Higher Education Diploma	GCSE requirements
Film Studies with Creative Writing	BBB/ABC	None	32 points	DDM	Obtain Access to Higher Education Diploma with 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction and 15 Level 3 credits at Merit	English Lang @ C (or 4)

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

Please note: All non-native English speaking students are required to undertake a diagnostic English language assessment on arrival at Keele, to determine whether English language support may help them succeed with their studies. An English language module may be compulsory for some students during their first year at Keele.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/accreditationofpriorlearning/>

## **15. How are students supported on the programme?**

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Module and tutorial group leaders are responsible for providing support for learning on the modules and in the tutorial groups for which they are responsible. They also give individual feedback on in-course assessments and more general feedback on examinations.
- Every student is allocated to a personal tutor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress in Film Studies with Creative Writing and on their other Principal programme.
- Personal tutors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues, which may affect their learning and can refer students on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services co-ordinated by the University's Student Support and Development Services (SSDS).
- Non-native English-speaking students are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's English Language Unit. In addition to credit-bearing modules on English for academic study, students also have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth of resources for self-study and practice

All members of teaching staff on the Film Studies with Creative Writing Programme are available to see students during advertised weekly office hours and at other times by appointment

## **16. Learning Resources**

Film is taught in modern teaching rooms across the University, almost all of which are equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups.

The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

- Use of the new (2014) Multimedia Screening Room in the Media Building.
- The extensive collection of research materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. These materials include a large collection of DVDs, books, journals, and newspapers. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.
- Access to Box of Broadcasts (BoB) with the Keele Learning Environment (KLE)
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources – video, audio and text-based – accessible from external providers via the internet.

## **17. Other learning opportunities**

### **Study abroad (semester)**

Students on the Film Studies with Creative Writing 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.

## **18. Additional costs**

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation.

We do not anticipate any further additional costs for this undergraduate programme.

## **19. Quality management and enhancement**

The quality and standards of learning in Film Studies are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The Learning and Teaching Committee of the School of Humanities is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the Film Studies Programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year and as part of the University's Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Internal Quality Audit (IQA) process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every Film Studies module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the

Programme Committee as part of the Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.

- Findings related to the Film Studies Programmes from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the Film Studies Programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Programmes Staff/Student Liaison Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

## 20. The principles of programme design

The Film Studies Programmes described in this document have been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

- a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code>
- b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Communication, media, film and cultural studies (2008) <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Communication-media-film-and-cultural-studies.pdf>
- c. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: English (2015): <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-English-15.pdf>
- d. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

## 21. Document Version History

Version history	Date	Notes
Date first created	October 2016	
Revision history		
Date approved		

## Programme Specification

### Annex A for Single Honours Programmes

#### BA (Hons) Film Studies with Creative Writing with International Year

##### International Year Programme

Students registered for Single Honours Film Studies with Creative Writing may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Single Honours 'Film Studies with Creative Writing with International Year'. Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

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 Single Honours Film Studies with Creative Writing and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this programme specification. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for 'Single Honours Film Studies with Creative Writing with International Year'.

##### International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of the programme specification, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

##### Entry Requirements for the International Year

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.

The criteria to be applied are:

- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year tutors and programme director)

##### Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

##### Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

- 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.

In addition, students who complete 'Single Honours Film Studies with Creative Writing with International Year' will be able to:

- i) 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
- ii) Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between different aesthetic practices and pleasures in cinema and the way these make possible different sorts of meaning
- iii) Show an understanding of the historical development of film genres, aesthetic traditions and forms, and of their current characteristics and possible future developments
- iv) Articulate, on paper and orally, detailed critical accounts of the aesthetic and formal qualities of film language using close reading practices
- v) Demonstrate knowledge of creative processes.
- vi) Demonstrate understanding of the connections between creative and critical practice.
- vii) Use the knowledge and skills they have acquired in complex and unpredictable contexts and as the basis for more advanced learning or professional training
- viii) Manage time and materials to deliver assignments on time and to required standards (both individually and as part of a team)
- ix) 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
- x) Organise their own learning through self-management.
- xi) Work with others in a constructive and respectful way.
- xii) Give and receive constructive and critical feedback.

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 'Single Honours Film Studies with Creative Writing 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 area.

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 with Creative Writing 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](http://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.