

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BA or BSc (Hons) Film Studies BA or BSc (Hons) Film Studies with International Year (see Annex for details) BA or BSc (Hons) Film Studies with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Combined Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £9,250*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £19,500**</p> <p><i>or £20,700** (if combined with a laboratory-based Principal Subject)</i></p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee</p>

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.

* 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/>

** These fees are for new students. 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/>

2. What is a Combined Honours programme?

NB: 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.

Combined Honours degrees are degrees that are taken in two different subjects, resulting in an X and Y degree title. 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.

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, involving imaginative engagement with films from past and present and from a variety of different global cultures; as well as developing their awareness of film aesthetics and the practical and creative choices informing all areas of filmmaking.

Recognising that film has become one of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries' 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). The subject therefore 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 and aesthetics; world cinemas; film theory and practice; film and culture. While core modules cover key skills and concepts in film studies, a variety of optional and elective modules offer students the opportunity to pursue more focused interests in genre, different aspects of film history, and a variety of international cinemas. 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. Modules are taught by a team of staff who are research-active and expert 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

[Keele Graduate Attributes](#)

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, environmental and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

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 Academic Mentors 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 organise 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.

More information about staff teaching on Media is available at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/mcc/people/>

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 programme to programme, 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 two types of module delivered as part of your 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.

Global Challenge Pathways

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/>

Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching

English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Levels 4 and 5. At Level 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpages.

For Level 4 and 5 students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/languagecentreoptions/>

For Level 6 students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global-challenge-pathways/>

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows, with a minimum of 90 subject credits (compulsory plus optional) required for each year across both of your Principal Subjects. This document has information about *Film Studies* modules only; please also see the document for your other subject.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 6	0	45	75

In year 3 there is the option to choose to specialise in one of your subjects, taking a minimum of 90 credits in this subject rather than taking modules from both subjects.

Combined-honours students are required to undertake **at least one** of the ISPs designated for their respective programmes of study, and may do both if desired.

Module Lists

Level 6

For students specialising in this subject at Level 6, a minimum of 90 credits must be taken in this subject (see the lower tables of compulsory and optional modules below). For students specialising in another subject, the first list should be used.

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The American South: US Summer School (Level 6)	LIB-30004	15	Semester 0
Postmodernism: Fiction, Film and Theory	ENG-30053	15	Semester 1
British Social Realism	FIL-30019	15	Semester 1
Youth and Film: Growing Up on Screen	FIL-30021	15	Semester 1
Podcast and Radio Production	MDS-30021	15	Semester 1
Say It Loud! Music, Sound and Social Change	MUS-30057	15	Semester 1
Work Placement for Humanities Final-Year Students	ENG-30088	15	Semester 1-2
Independent Study Project (ISP) in Film Studies	FIL-30017	30	Semester 1-2
Shakespeare on Film: Adaptation and Appropriation	ENG-30070	15	Semester 2
World Cinemas in the 21st Century	FIL-30009	15	Semester 2
The Road Movie: Cinema as Movement and Journey	FIL-30011	15	Semester 2
Media and Climate Change	MDS-30063	15	Semester 2

If you choose to specialise in this subject in your final year you will study the following modules:

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The American South: US Summer School (Level 6)	LIB-30004	15	Semester 0
British Social Realism	FIL-30019	15	Semester 1
Youth and Film: Growing Up on Screen	FIL-30021	15	Semester 1
Independent Study Project (ISP) in Film Studies	FIL-30017	30	Semester 1-2
Shakespeare on Film: Adaptation and Appropriation	ENG-30070	15	Semester 2
World Cinemas in the 21st Century	FIL-30009	15	Semester 2
The Road Movie: Cinema as Movement and Journey	FIL-30011	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

Students must take an Independent Student Project (ISP) module in at least one of their Combined Honours subjects. Students who took the summer school and/or work placement at Level 5 won't be allowed to take those modules again at Level 6

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

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 undertake an Independent Study Project (ISP) 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.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
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 Principal Programme
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 Principal Programme

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
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 Principal Programme
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 Principal Programme
Plan, research and produce work within the limitations time and resources available to them and responding to feedback on this work positively	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies Principal Programme

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Work productively in a largely unstructured context exercising initiative and personal responsibility	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies Principal Programme
Undertake appropriate further training of an academic, professional or practical nature	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies Principal Programme
Demonstrate complex skills in written and oral communication (including visual analysis) and reasoning	All modules approved as part of the Film Studies Principal Programme

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Honours Degree	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>You must accumulate 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 'subject X and subject Y'.</p> <p>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 'subject X with subject Y'.</p>
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

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme 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 on your programme:

- **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 specialisation, 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

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	20.2%	79.8%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	18.4%	80.1%	1.6%
Year 3 (Level 6)	15.9%	81.7%	2.3%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. University 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/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

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?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

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.

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration. Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) 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: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

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 an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress in Film Studies and on their other Principal programme.
- Academic Mentors 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 Services.

- Students for whom English is not their first language are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. 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 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 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.
- 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 programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

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 who meet external eligibility criteria 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 in the Annex for the International Year.

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]'.

18. Additional Costs

There are potential additional costs for students on the Combined Honours Film Studies programme, depending on module choices (see below).

Optional costs

There may be optional costs that students can choose to incur to enhance their learning experience. These are not required to complete the course. Details of these optional costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Students who opt to take our work-based placement modules at level 5 and 6 may be expected to pay travel costs (usually one day weekly) to their placement.

Students who take one of our optional Work Placement modules may need to apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, if they plan to work with e.g. schools and charities. The current costs for a DBS check are detailed on the additional costs webpage:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts>

Optional 4-week US Summer School trip:

Estimated maximum total cost (after taking into account Turing scheme funding): £820 for Widening Access students; £1675 for other students. (Estimated maximum cost of £2220 (£950 for flights; £1250 for accommodation; £20 for visa waiver application) to be sourced by student, in addition to usual subsistence costs. Based on 2025 figures, Turing funding is expected to reimburse student costs to a value of approximately £1400 for Widening Access students, and approximately £545 for other students.)

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

Students may also incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake a placement may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the [additional costs](#) information.

19. Quality management and enhancement

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

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the 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.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every 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 annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme 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 programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice 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/ga/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

20. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has 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/quality-code>

b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Communication, media, film and cultural studies (2016)

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements?indexCatalogue=document-search&searchQuery=film&wordsMode=AllWords>

c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

21. Annex - International Year

Film Studies 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

Students registered for this Combined Honours programme 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.

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.

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 the International Year option.

International Year Programme Aims

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:

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 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- 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 Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

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

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutors, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring 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:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. 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 International Year are subject to the programme-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 module with significant overlap to the 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 who meet external eligibility criteria 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.

22. Annex - Work Placement Year

Film Studies with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students are responsible for securing their placement to enable complete flexibility in terms of when and where the placement is conducted, taking into consideration potential living and travel expenses which may be incurred, for which the student is responsible. However, students are supported throughout the process by the School, Keele Careers and Employability team, and various other departments across the university.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme 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 document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

1. The opportunity to carry out a long-term, placement-based learning experience between Years 2 and 3 of their degree programme
2. Enhanced employability
3. A professional CV and portfolio that they can use when applying for employment (see below)

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at any point prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Work Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist and/or training prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based. International students are permitted to undertake a placement, however due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

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

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student or contact them virtually in their placement organization at around the 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again or contact them virtually at around 15 weeks into the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. Understand the variety of ways in which skills developed during the study of Humanities subjects can be deployed in non-academic contexts
2. Assess their own strengths and weaknesses in an employment context through a SWOT analysis, design learning outcomes, and reflect on their own progress throughout the module
3. Articulate their placement experiences effectively and reflect on their enhanced skill set in front of an audience, using visual aids
4. Understand the aims and priorities, as well as the strengths and possible limitations, of an external organisation and design and complete activities/projects/materials that recognise and support these
5. Reflect on and critically evaluate their learning from the work placement, showing evidence that they have researched their sector and evaluated the effectiveness of their activities with this in mind

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (ENG-30090) which involves:

1. Supporting students in locating and securing a relevant work placement in any workplace where the research, analytical, and communication skills as a developed part of a Humanities degree can be used
2. Students completing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) at the beginning of the placement, reflecting on their employability skills in terms of their assessment of sector skill demands. This will be used to create Intended Placement Outcomes and contribute to Continuing Professional Development. The action plan will be negotiated and agreed by the student, module convenor and employer.
3. Students creating a professional CV and portfolio that can be used when seeking employment after graduation
4. Students completing a 15-20 minute presentation in June/July, critically reflecting on the activities/projects they have completed so far, and the skills they have learned/developed. The audience will primarily be other students on this module, to ensure shared experiences and to create connections in preparation for returning to Keele for third year (Level 6)
5. Students developing a heightened awareness of the various ways in which their knowledge and skills can be utilised in real-world situations

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Work Placement Year' module (ENG-30090)
- In order to ensure a high-quality placement experience, each Placement is required to satisfy an approval process including a Health & Safety Checklist completed by the Placement Provider. Each party (Placement Provider, Student and University) will agree and sign a Learning Agreement outlining the rights and responsibilities associated with their participation in the Placement Year.
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will inform the University as soon as possible. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; for more information please contact Student Services.

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks. Whilst on Placement students are still classed as full-time students and so eligible for Council Tax exemption, student discounts for travel etc

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 31 March 2026

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.3	2024/25	NEIL ARCHER	01 October 2025	Optional module changes: SOC-20034 (SEM1) and SOC-30025 (SEM2) added.
1.2	2024/25	BECKY YEARLING	11 June 2025	FIL-30019 British Social Realism added as optional module (SEM1)
1.1	2024/25	NEIL ARCHER	09 May 2025	Some module changes at level 5 and level 6: one FIL- module withdrawn at level 6 and replaced by alternative FIL- module. Some change responding to withdrawn modules from other programmes or change of delivery semester
1	2024/25	NEIL ARCHER	31 May 2024	MUS-20084 moved from Semester 1 to Semester 2. Now moved back to Semester 1 Added ENG-30090 to LV4 SEM2
1.1	2023/24	NEIL ARCHER	12 May 2023	Change of FIL-20011 to SEM1
1	2023/24	NEIL ARCHER	03 April 2023	
1.1	2022/23	NEIL ARCHER	05 July 2022	Update to optional modules at Levels 5 and 6 - removal of AMS-20061; addition of ENG-30094 and ENG-30070.
1	2022/23	NEIL ARCHER	27 January 2022	
1	2021/22	MARIA FLOOD	23 March 2021	
1	2020/21	NEIL ARCHER	18 December 2019	
1	2019/20	NEIL ARCHER	18 December 2019	