Film and Television

Undergraduate study
Courses

Why study film and television at Bristol?

The University of Bristol has a long-standing reputation for innovation and excellence in the study of film and television, being the first university in the UK to introduce film and television studies to its drama curriculum in the 1960s.

As a student in our Department of Film and Television, you will explore the history and aesthetics of film and television through an exciting mixture of traditional academic study and practical film-making exercises, guided by leading scholars and practitioners.

Bristol is distinctive for the way in which we blend historical and theoretical study with practice-based investigations of film and television. You will have the opportunity to develop and extend your interests across a broad spectrum of subjects and approaches and through a variety of teaching methods.

You will benefit from our high-specification 214-seat cinema – the Winston Theatre – and from access to our digital film-making equipment, production studio, animation suites, design workshop, sound rooms and edit suites. In your final year you will have the chance to undertake a supervised independent practical project and a work placement or industrial study in the creative industries.

We have a lively postgraduate community and our undergraduate students frequently benefit from the experience of collaborating with their film-making projects. A number of our BA students have gone on to study on our MA programmes and research degrees.

Besides the core focus on film and television you will also have the opportunity during your time here to contextualise your studies by taking options beyond your department. You may choose to take units in related or broader subject areas or in a foreign language. You will also take part in the Bristol Futures programme, which builds knowledge and experience in the fields of innovation and enterprise, global citizenship and sustainable development.

'I moved to London after graduating. I wanted to work in the film industry and was very lucky to be offered an unpaid internship. Then I became assistant to a producer, organising meetings and looking after the producer’s diary. I get the chance to read and provide feedback on scripts and attend test screenings, as well as having a solid understanding of the day-to-day working life of someone at the top of the film industry.'

Charlotte (BA Drama)
The film and television curriculum progresses from introductory units that use specific topics to teach you how to analyse film and television, to more advanced units that cover significant historical movements, contemporary practices and the theoretical concepts that underpin, inform and shape film and television.

First-year units equip you with the key skills and approaches you will need in order to specialise in later years. Core units introduce key aspects of form in film and television, and develop analytical and essay-writing skills. Production skills units develop your practical skills in film production, equipping you for practice-based option units.

Students are introduced to key concepts of cinematography, sound and editing by using production resources that include Premiere Pro edit suites and digital HD cameras. Units such as Filmmaking through Hitchcock and Filmmaking Fundamentals allow for the application of these skills and provide an introduction to learning through practice. Tutorial sessions allow you to explore key issues raised by creative work in a small-group setting and develop presentation skills.

In the second year, core units focus on histories of film and television. You will also choose from a variety of optional units, some of which are practice-based, some of which are seminar-based. Other units offer a mixture of both approaches. Indicative units include Film and TV Comedy, British Cinema and Television and Animated Film.

In the final year, options are more specialised, allowing you to deepen your critical expertise and extend your skills in film-making. For the final independent study units you will produce, under the supervision of an assigned tutor, a ten-minute screen work, a written dissertation and undertake a work placement or industrial study in the creative industries.

Joint honours students spend half their time in the Department of Film and Television and the other half in the partner department. Students studying film and a modern language spend their third year abroad and return to Bristol for their fourth and final year of study.

Teaching and learning in film and television at Bristol are geared to an education at the forefront of the subject, closely integrated with the acquisition of the key skills and attributes sought by employers for a very wide range of careers. Our diverse range of assessments ensure that you gain a thorough training in advanced research, analysis and sharing your findings in a number of ways.

We will ensure that you graduate with experience in formal writing, presentation skills, and in using digital formats and other media to present knowledge, ideas and arguments. You will be experienced in working individually and in groups, and in making connections with and communicating to audiences beyond the University.

Teaching is delivered by a mixture of small-group tutorials, lectures, seminars and practical workshops. Film and television production resources are extensive and enable the practical exploration of the medium at an advanced level. Assessment is carried out through a combination of essays, seminar presentations, creative practice, industrial placement or study, and critical reflection on practical work.

Please give close consideration to the choice between the Single and Joint Honours degree courses; both offer a distinct degree and student experience. The Joint Honours degrees with English or a modern language include some opportunities for practical work, although these are less extensive than Single Honours Film and Television. You will take mandatory units but your choice of options will depend on the schedules of your partner department.
The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are valued in every part of the employment market. Our students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the subjects they study here – commerce, tech start-ups, law, accountancy, theatre, museums, publishing, the charity sector, journalism, politics, education and international relations, as well as sectors not immediately associated with arts disciplines, such as engineering and IT.

The Bristol Skills Framework enables our students to recognise their development in academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

Careers and graduate destinations

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).

Making your application

Typical offer for BA Film and Television*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-film for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels AAB (contextual BBB†).

IB Diploma 34 overall (contextual 31†) to include 17 points at Higher Level (contextual 15†).

English Language profile B††

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Our courses are suitable for those with an interest in both practice and theory in film, television or related media. Successful candidates will clearly demonstrate a commitment to the study of film in an academic context, for example providing evidence of reading beyond the A-level syllabus, or the development of a specialised interest within the subject area.

You should also be able to provide evidence of motivation and achievement in the fields of media-related arts beyond the formal syllabus. You may have written regular film reviews, for example, or attended a summer school. The appropriateness of the course to your own interests and ambitions should also be in evidence.

Further information

Find out more about the Department of Film and Television: bristol.ac.uk/film.

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study
Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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