

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



FILM STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER OFFER HOLDER GUIDE





**1st in the UK for Drama
and Cinematics**

*Complete University
Guide, 2026*



**35th best university in
the world**

QS World Rankings, 2026



**22nd most international
university in the world**

*Times Higher Education,
2026*

CONTENTS

- 3 Course at a Glance
- 4 Facilities
- 5 Societies
- 6 Film in the City
- 7 Career Support & Postgraduate Study
- 8 Graduate Destinations



COURSE AT A GLANCE

At Manchester, you'll study classic and contemporary films, both mainstream and non-mainstream, from around the world. The course focuses on historical and theoretical approaches to studying a wide range of film and screen media, while integrating opportunities to study film practice.

Course Flexibility and Staff Specialisms

Our award-winning teachers have a wide range of specialisms including documentary, horror, global TV, fantasy and science fiction film as well as American, British, French, German, Spanish language and transnational Chinese cinemas.

First year Study three compulsory modules intended to build the foundations for your conceptual, analytical and historical understanding of film.

Second year onwards Optional choices increase to allow you to tailor your degree to suit your interests and embed film within your chosen joint honours subject.

Third year Optionality continues and you choose a specialist dissertation topic of your own design and receive 1:1 supervision from a dedicated member of teaching staff.

Click [here](#) for more detailed information on our course page, including the syllabus for each module

Historical and Theoretical Approaches

You will gain a deeper understanding of the history of film and the debates and issues around current practice in film and screen media, as well as explore how film engages with historical contexts, production cultures and socio-cultural and political concerns.

Practical Filmmaking and Creative Assessment

Whilst the focus of this course is study-based, there are lots of opportunities to get **hands-on experience in filmmaking**. From 2nd year onwards, you have the option to take modules in film production, including in documentary, screenwriting and docufiction practice. You'll be able to use our **industry-standard production and post-production facilities**. You can read more about our impressive facilities on page 4.

As well as our practice-based modules, several other modules enable you to explore the theoretical and historical aspects of film through **practice-based creative assignments** in addition to written essays, such as writing a screenplay, creating a video essay or making a short film. You can also complete an **individual extended practice-based dissertation project**.

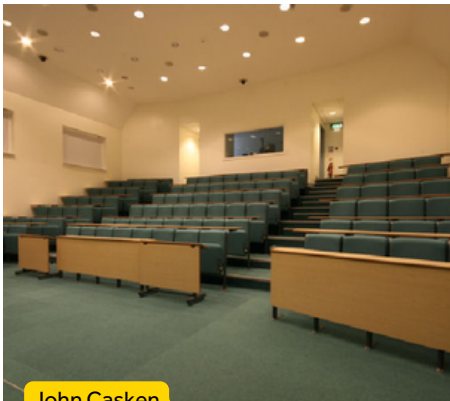
You can also join the **Filmmaking Society**, created for aspiring filmmakers to exchange ideas and create their own cinematic productions. Read more about the Filmmaking Society and other societies you can join to gain practical experience on page 5.

FACILITIES

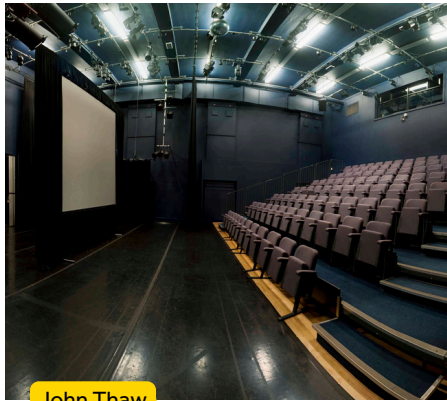
Extensive Film Collection

You'll have access to thousands of world cinema titles on DVD as well as a free subscription to the BFI Player (through our partnership with the British Film Institute Player), BoB (Box of Broadcasts) and Kanopy. This provides you with a rich library of classic and cult films, documentaries and broadcast TV recordings for course content and your own use.

You can watch these at home or on campus in screening booths and lecture theatres like the John Casken Lecture Theatre, which has a cinema standard 7.1 surround sound system and John Thaw Studio Theatre with a 7-metre-wide cinema-scale screen with 4K-compatible projector.



John Casken
Lecture Theatre



John Thaw
Studio Theatre

Production and Post-Production

You'll be supported by skilled technical staff to use our industry-standard production and post-production facilities including Sony, Canon and Black Magic cameras, sound recording equipment and a brand new bespoke multi-suite edit facility with Adobe Premier, in addition to our existing in editing suites and digital lab for teaching editing.

Renowned Libraries and Archives

The university's John Rylands Research Institute and Library (which includes the British Pop Archive) holds the archives of significant artists who have worked in film, including actor Robert Donat and composer Delia Derbyshire, who realised the original version of the Doctor Who theme.

Our library is one of five National Research Libraries in the UK and one of the best resourced academic libraries in the country.

Off campus, the distinguished Manchester Central Library contains the North West Film Archive, home to moving images of the North West from the mid-1890s to present.

SOCIETIES

With nearly 700 societies at the university, there's plenty of arts and creative groups you can join to connect with like-minded people, develop your skills and take part in fun events. Explore just a few below:

Filmmaking Society

Whether you are interested in directing, producing, screenwriting, editing, composing, lighting, sound, running or screen acting, joining will improve your on-set skills and gain valuable experience to get your foot in the door in the film industry. Watch some of our short films [here](#).

Film Society

We are a welcoming community for film lovers! We host weekly events, screenings and socials, and host informal discussions after each screening.

Below The Line

We are a film club with seasonal screening programmes, grouping together films that offer both a contribution to and critique of the art of cinema and curation. These seasons aim to engage with films as part of a wider sphere relating to their political, social and artistic factors to promote new perspectives.

Drama Society

We bring together actors, writers, directors, producers and creatives to create some of Manchester's most vibrant fringe theatre. We have links with award-winning theatrical venues, including the Contact Theatre and the Royal Exchange Theatre, and showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Fuse TV

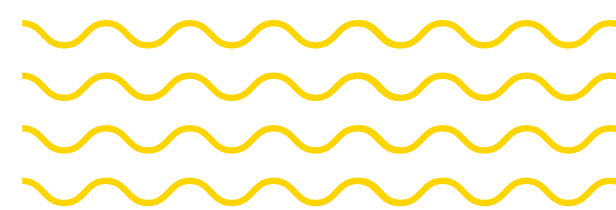
We're the university's student TV station, available to watch on YouTube and social media! We create original, student-made news, drama, entertainment, documentaries, and more!

Queer Film Society

Queer Film Society is a welcoming place for anyone interested in queer cinema, with weekly film screenings and many socials and events.

Britcom Society

We bring together everyone who treasures the nation's favourite Britcoms, such as The Inbetweeners, Peep Show, Fresh Meat, Friday Night Dinner and many others.



FILM IN THE CITY

Click [here](#) to find out which British dramas and Hollywood films were shot in Manchester

Beyond the facilities on campus, take advantage of the city's thriving film culture, with Manchester's characterful independent cinemas and diverse film festivals.

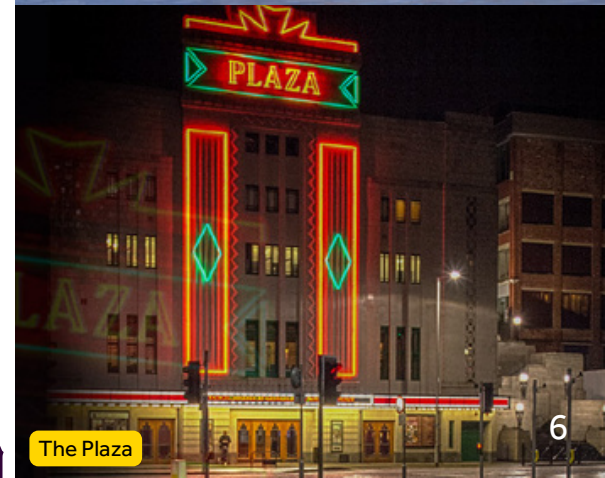
Cinemas

- HOME Manchester - an arts centre with five cinema screens showing the best in contemporary and classic cinema from the UK and around the world
- CULTPLEX – an independent cinema giving a big screen to cult classics and genre masterpieces
- The Plaza - a 1930s cinema where you can watch classic films the way they were meant to be seen, in their proper ratio and format

Film Festivals

- Manchester Film Festival – celebrating the best new and independent films
- GRIMMFEST – a horror and genre film festival
- Scene Festival – an LGBTQ+ film and TV festival
- Kinofilm Manchester Short Film Festival – our staff have links to this festival which showcases diverse and ground-breaking short films and debut features from around the world
- Manchester Animation Festival - the UK's largest animation festival

We're also home to Film Hub North and Factory International (host of the biennial Manchester International Festival), supporters of film and creativity across the city.



CAREER SUPPORT & POSTGRADUATE STUDY



We will provide you with opportunities and guidance to develop your employability and start your career.

Hear from Industry Professionals

The department organises events throughout the year with alumni talking to current students about their work and getting started in the industry. Speakers in recent years have included the director Vicky Featherstone, actor Toby Jones, director Euros Lyn and the broadcaster and historian David Olusoga.

The Careers Service runs the Media Club, in which leading industry practitioners visit the university to speak to students about getting into the media industry, including the screen sector.

Work Placements

Gain real-world experience in the industry, build networks and boost your employability through an optional year-long work placement in your third year.

We will help you find, apply and interview for placements, with subject-specific support from the Placements Office and Careers' Service. You can also undertake a work placement abroad, with support from our Residence Abroad team.

Our Careers Service

You'll have access to dedicated, subject-specific support from our Careers Service throughout your studies and for up to two years after graduation. They can provide guidance on improving your CV and interview skills, as well as help you find jobs, placements and internships.

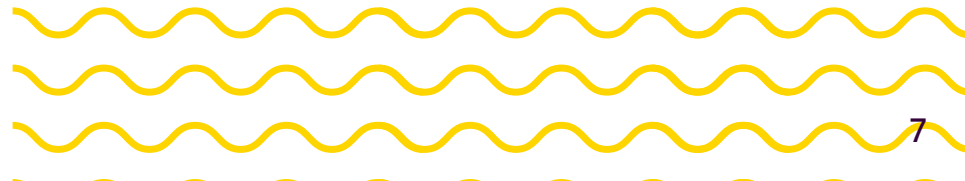
Postgraduate Study

For students wanting to continue their studies and specialise in a particular area, we offer MA programmes in Film Studies, Playwriting and Screenwriting.



We are the most targeted university by the UK's leading graduate employers

(The Graduate Market 2026 study conducted by High Fliers)



GRADUATE DESTINATIONS

Skills

A film degree from Manchester provides valuable transferable skills and experiences that will prepare you for a career in or outside of the creative industries.

Our film graduates are skilled at critical analysis and interpretation, leadership and group work, presentation and research. A joint honours degree shows adaptability and aptitude for collaborative work, effective communication and creative problem-solving.

Career Pathways

Some of our graduates have gone into...

- **Television, film, radio and broadcast** (production, research, scriptwriting, script editing, acting, directing, presenting and compiling programmes)
- **Theatre** (directing, writing, design, agents)
- **Applied theatre** (education, museums, development, the criminal justice system and community theatre)
- **Journalism**
- **Teaching**
- **Community arts and arts administration** (managing arts centres and theatres, museum design and exhibition administration)
- **Law and business management**

Graduate Spotlight

Monet Page

BA Drama and Film Studies
(2023)

Talent and Contracting
Assistant - ITV Studios



“ I graduated from my degree in 2023, where I had discovered a love for the television industry, especially production. Taking this passion, I decided to pursue a master’s in Production Management.

Now my role involves the facilitation of crewing, with my primary focus being the recruitment of staff for Emmerdale and Coronation Street. I often help out the other labels on our ITV Studios North team. I have a real passion for both Northern and entry-level talent, so being in this role is very rewarding.

My course helped me develop many key skills which have aided me throughout my career so far. One of the most valuable skills was effective time management. The research skills I honed during my course have also been incredibly beneficial in my career. I learned to systematically gather, evaluate, and synthesise information. ”



Contact: ug.filmstudies@manchester.ac.uk



Explore more on our website

The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
United Kingdom

Royal Charter Number RC000797
08.21

Follow us

