Get ready for BA (Hons) Film Studies

We hope that you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leaders, we warmly welcome you onto **BA (Hons) Film Studies**.

We have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us - we're really looking forward to meeting you!

Dr Lies Lanckman and Humberto Perez-Blanco
Programme Leaders

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

The Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practice the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival
You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Registration
Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Registration website.

ID card - upload your photo now
We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to your MYUWE profile. Navigate to the 'My Details' tab where you can find ID Photo facility to upload a suitable photograph and receive your ID card without delay.

Engage with your programme

Read around your subject
A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Below are some suggestions to help you prepare for the modules you will take in your first year…

On film style and meaning:

- Bordwell, David, Kristin Thompson and Jeff Smith. *Film Art: An Introduction*. 12th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2019.
- Gibbs, John. *Mise-en-scene: Film Style and Interpretation*. Wallflower, 2002.

On film production, exhibition and reception:

- Branston, Gill. *Cinema & Cultural Modernity*. Open University Press, 2000.
- Maltby, Richard. *Hollywood Cinema: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2003.
- Stafford, Roy. *Understanding Audiences and the Film Industry*. BFI, 2007.

On realism and cinema:

- Armstrong, Richard. *Understanding Realism*. BFI, 2005.
- Hallam, Julia and Margaret Marshment. *Realism and Popular Cinema*. Manchester University Press, 2000.

On spectacle and action in cinema:

- King, Geoff. S*pectacular Narratives: Hollywood in the Age of the Blockbuster*. I.B. Tauris,2000.
- Purse, Lisa. *Contemporary Action Cinema*. Edinburgh University Press, 2011.

Of course, the other thing you can do is read widely and watch lots of films – particularly things that extend your existing knowledge. Histories and critical overviews such as these will introduce you to lots of new writers, filmmakers, books and films you could explore:

- Chapman, James. *Cinemas of the World*. Reaktion, 2003.
- Nowell-Smith, Geoffery, ed. *The Oxford History of World Cinema*. Oxford University Press,1997.
- Villarejo, Amy. *Film Studies: The Basics*. 2nd edition. Routledge, 2013.

Mark Cousins' documentary series *The Story of Film: An Odyssey* (2011) is worth watching (there is an accompanying book), and there are lots of useful online resources you could browse as well, such as Cineaste, cléo, Critical Studies in Television, Flow, Jump Cut and Senses of Cinema.

Connect with others
You can follow us on Instagram via uwe.filmstudies, and you can also find us at FilmStudies@UWE, our members-only FB group for students and graduates.

Be prepared

Access support

Check information on our Disability webpages so you know what actions you need to take. Alternatively you can use the Disability Service Enquiry and Self-Help Form. Contact Disability Service and your Programme Leaders to let us know if you need any additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

Applications used on the course work on **Windows and Mac** devices but not necessarily on tablets or Chromebooks.

All students have access to Microsoft Office 365 (including Word and PowerPoint apps) and a range of other software. On campus, this includes access to Creative Cloud apps, including Premiere Pro which students use in first year to make a short audio-visual essay (2-3 minutes). We recommend students purchase a **portable hard drive (500GB-1TB)** for backing up editing projects, so you can use any computer on campus.

If you are purchasing a new laptop or computer to bring to university, it's worth mentioning that you want to use it for video editing. Editing software requires high levels of available memory to run and render, so we recommend buying something with **at least 8GB of RAM** (preferably 16GB+), **at least 2GB VRAM** (preferably 4GB) and **plenty of hard disk space** (ideally including an additional high-speed drive for media).

None of this is essential - just recommended. You will have access to everything you need for free on campus.

International students
The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact your Programme leaders:

Lies Lanckman via email at lies.lanckman@uwe.ac.uk

Humberto Perez-Blanco via email at Humberto2.Perez-Blanco@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026