

University of Sussex
School of Media, Film and Music

Postgraduate Studies in Media and Film

Further information about:

- MA in Film Studies:
Global Film Cultures
- MA in Media and
Cultural Studies
- MA in Digital Media
- MA in Gender and Media

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University of Sussex

Welcome to Media and Film

Welcome to postgraduate study in the school of Media, Film and Music at the University of Sussex. As Head of School I'd like to thank you for your interest in our Masters degrees and hope that you find the information helpful as you consider your opportunities for further study.



Postgraduate study is an exciting opportunity that attracts both recent graduates and those returning to higher education after several years away from university. For some, it offers an opportunity to learn new skills in research, analysis and critique while engaging with subjects that really matter to them. For others, it offers the chance to explore recent changes in the global mediascape from a critically-informed perspective. Still others come to us looking to refocus their careers and consider new avenues for learning and personal development. Whatever your reason for applying to study with us, we seek to offer you an intellectually fulfilling experience set within a diverse, creative and friendly environment here on the University of Sussex campus.

The flexibility of our MA courses allow you to study on a full-time or part-time basis and to tailor your degree according to your specific research interests. You will be joining a thriving postgraduate community that includes research students, postdoctoral researchers and our own faculty members. In addition to your weekly seminars, lectures, workshops and tutorials you will have the opportunity to attend our school-wide MA Masterclasses featuring external speakers from across the full range of media industries. You will also have access to our programme of research seminars, which attract notable international scholars to present their current research.

Over the next few pages you will have the opportunity to learn a bit more about the structure of some of our postgraduate courses. We are constantly updating and developing our modules and full details of our current array of core and option courses can be found online. And remember, if you are interested in pursuing a programme of study that includes a practical element (such as documentary making) or one of our Journalism courses please also see our companion brochures dedicated to these degrees. Details of how to contact us for further information can be found on the back page of this brochure.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Sue Thornham

Head of School, Media, Film and Music



Film Studies: Global Film Cultures (MA)

Welcome to the MA in Film Studies: Global Film Cultures at Sussex! We offer an opportunity to explore one of the most exciting, most vital and most diverse of contemporary world media.



This MA will introduce you to films from a range of cinema cultures and cinema histories, which you will examine in relation to the approaches and debates that have shaped Film Studies as an academic discipline. The course aims to develop critical analysis, knowledge of textual and contextual approaches to film study, and advanced research methods.

In their first semester all students take the core module *Film Studies: Theories and Methods*, offering a grounding in key concepts in and approaches to the subject. This is complemented by *Global Cinemas*, which centres on a variety of non-Anglophone cinemas. In the second semester you will choose two from a range of optional modules, which explore more specific historical or conceptual contexts within Film Studies.

The precise array of modules on offer varies from year to year, but will be drawn from the following: *Approaches to Film Noir*, *The Cinematic Body*, *Curating Film Culture*, *Feminism and Film*, *Inside Hollywood*, *Latin American Cinema*, and *Rethinking European Cinema*. You can also broaden your field of study by selecting approved optional modules from other MAs within the School of Media, Film and Music, as well as from other courses at Sussex. The degree culminates in the writing of a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choosing.

At Sussex, you will be joining a community of active and internationally renowned Film Studies researchers, who have interests and expertise in a wide range of films, cinemas, and other media. They are complimented by a large cohort of postgraduate students within the School who are researching film and media topics, and by highly popular and successful undergraduate programmes.

Rosalind Galt

Convenor, Film Studies: Global Film Cultures



Life beyond your Masters degree

Recent graduates from the MA courses featured in this brochure have been successful in gaining full-time posts in a range of UK and foreign media organizations, as well as within a variety of other industries.

These roles include:

- Foreign Press Consultant for a Presidential Office
- Copy writing for an international television channel
- Account Manager for a Public Relations Firm
- Press Agent for the Civil Service
- Senior Manager within a digital marketing company
- Project Manager for an Internet Company
- Radio Host for a national radio station
- Magazine Features Writer
- Parliamentary Assistant for Central Government
- Creative Director of a Video production company
- Assistant TV Producer for an advertising company

Media and Cultural Studies (MA)

The MA in Media and Cultural Studies is a highly-regarded degree in a top-rated department that attracts students from all over the world. A rich mix of students, taught by active researchers makes for a very stimulating study environment.



The media in all their forms have helped shape the cultures we live in, and it is the way media figure in almost every aspect of modern life that makes questions about their production, meanings and impacts so important - and challenging. We will guide you through a wide range of theoretical and critical approaches, and introduce you to a great variety of material, helping you to enhance your knowledge about media and culture and to develop your critical, analytical and presentational skills. With our supervision and support, the MA will give you the vocabulary, the skills, the knowledge and the confidence to set your own research agenda about contemporary media culture.

You'll take core modules that will give you the grounding you need in the most influential critical and methodological approaches to doing media and cultural research, combined with two specialised options. All students also undertake a supervised dissertation. There will be workshops throughout the year to support you in defining a project, culminating in individual tutorials to guide you through the research. We also organize a conference at the end of the academic year where you will present your work-in-progress to your fellow students and faculty across the School. There is always an amazing range of hugely interesting work produced; for example last year we had papers on topics like cosmopolitanism and social media, journalism in new media environments, feminism and advertising, sport and sexuality, music and everyday life.

You will graduate with valuable transferable skills in critical thinking, research and analysis, and a sophisticated understanding of contemporary media and culture that many employers will find very attractive.

Kate Lacey

Convenor, Media and Cultural Studies



why us

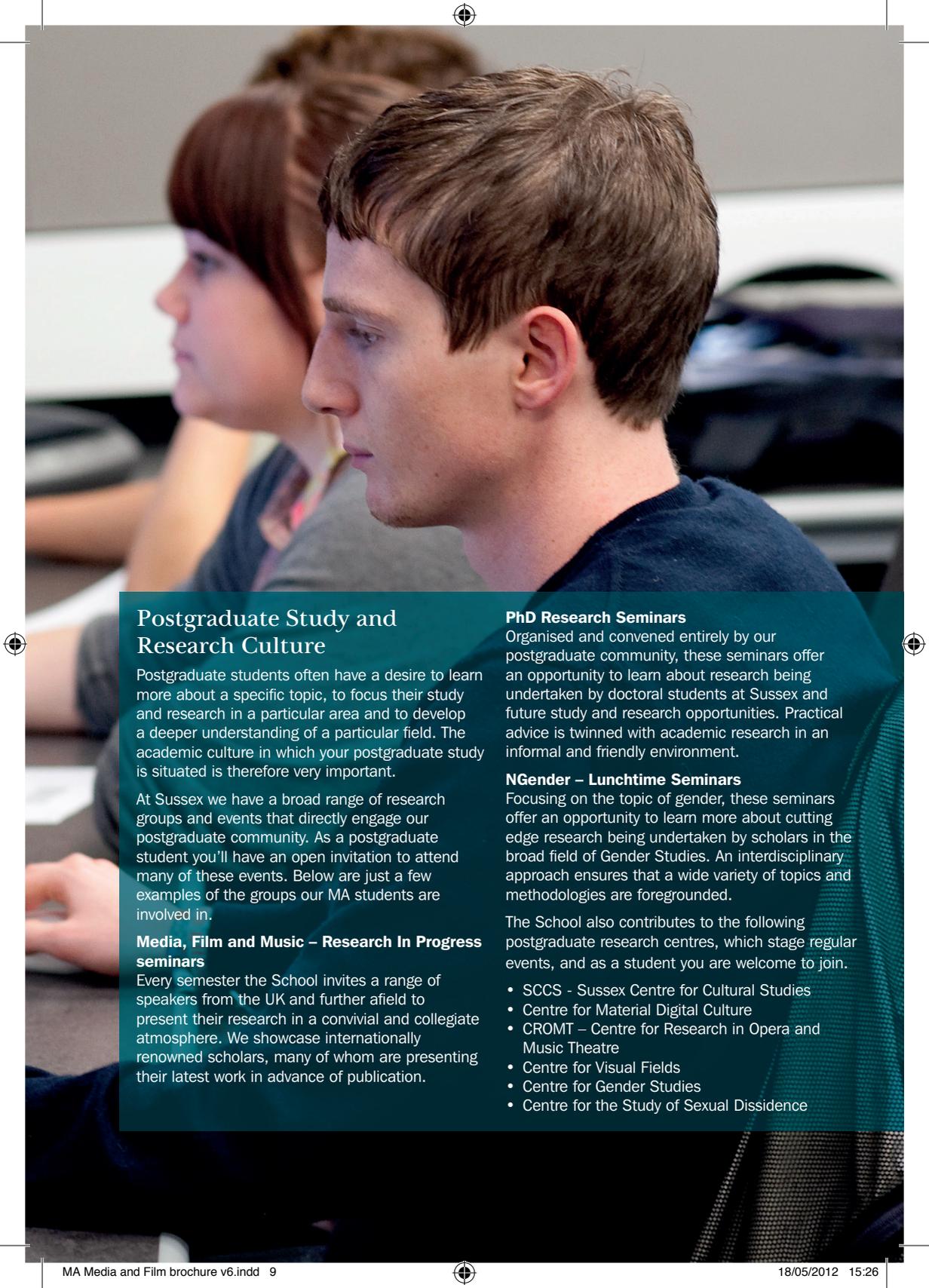
As a former English and Media Studies undergraduate, I chose the MA in Media and Cultural Studies because of the dynamic programme and interesting course options on offer.

So far the MA has matched my expectations - the diverse range of topics has helped me to think critically about various aspects of media and culture, as well as to develop my own interests in the field. Throughout my MA, the Media and Film department has provided me with a supportive and challenging work environment, and I hope to further my academic career by completing a PhD at Sussex.

Tanya Kant
Media and Cultural Studies (MA) student







Postgraduate Study and Research Culture

Postgraduate students often have a desire to learn more about a specific topic, to focus their study and research in a particular area and to develop a deeper understanding of a particular field. The academic culture in which your postgraduate study is situated is therefore very important.

At Sussex we have a broad range of research groups and events that directly engage our postgraduate community. As a postgraduate student you'll have an open invitation to attend many of these events. Below are just a few examples of the groups our MA students are involved in.

Media, Film and Music – Research In Progress seminars

Every semester the School invites a range of speakers from the UK and further afield to present their research in a convivial and collegiate atmosphere. We showcase internationally renowned scholars, many of whom are presenting their latest work in advance of publication.

PhD Research Seminars

Organised and convened entirely by our postgraduate community, these seminars offer an opportunity to learn about research being undertaken by doctoral students at Sussex and future study and research opportunities. Practical advice is twinned with academic research in an informal and friendly environment.

NGender – Lunchtime Seminars

Focusing on the topic of gender, these seminars offer an opportunity to learn more about cutting edge research being undertaken by scholars in the broad field of Gender Studies. An interdisciplinary approach ensures that a wide variety of topics and methodologies are foregrounded.

The School also contributes to the following postgraduate research centres, which stage regular events, and as a student you are welcome to join.

- SCCS - Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies
- Centre for Material Digital Culture
- CROMT – Centre for Research in Opera and Music Theatre
- Centre for Visual Fields
- Centre for Gender Studies
- Centre for the Study of Sexual Dissidence

Digital Media (MA)

Welcome to the MA in Digital Media at Sussex. We offer one of most established and innovative courses in the UK. We believe that digital media is an exciting and crucial area of study because it is the language of our time.



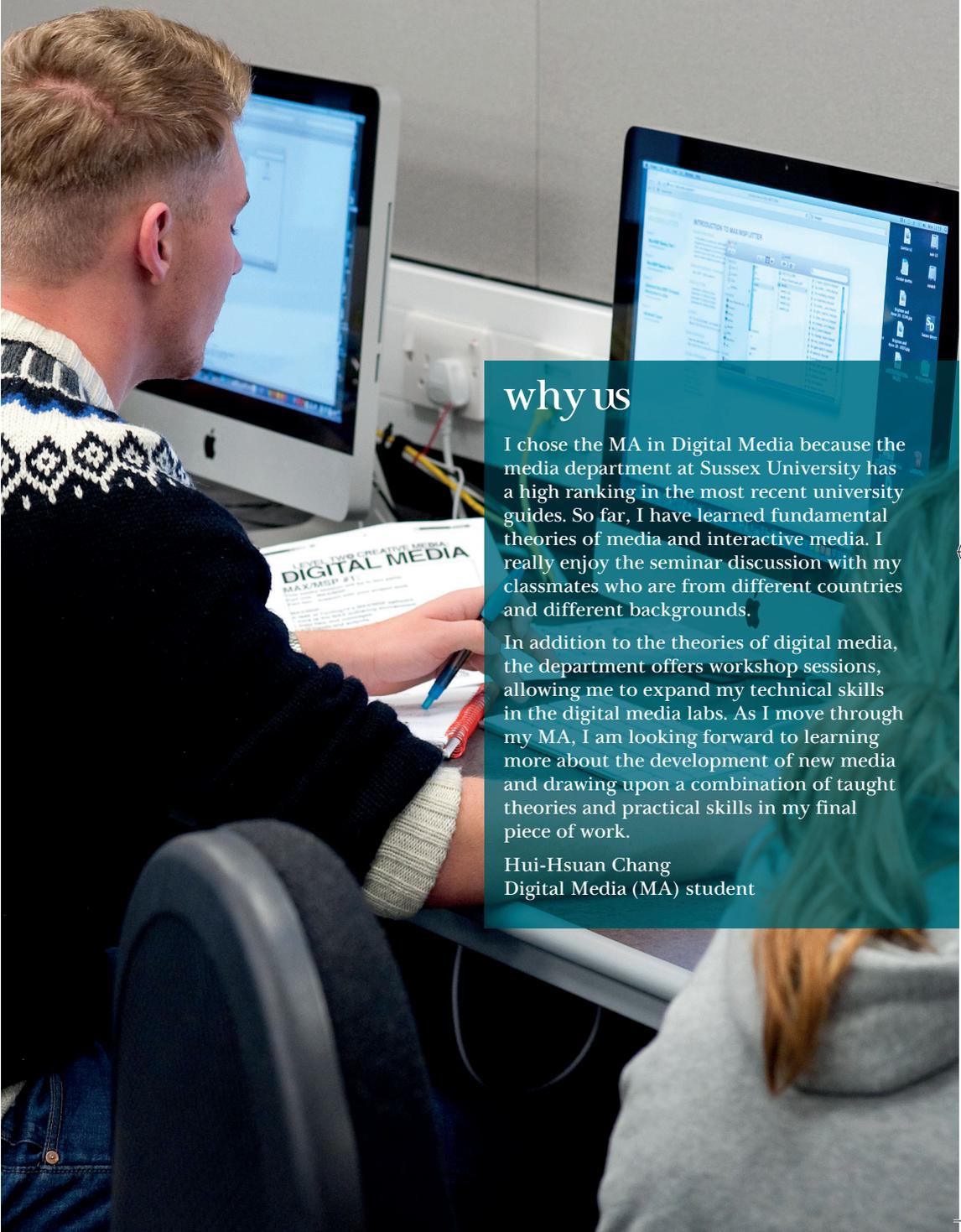
We aim to provide students with an advanced knowledge of the real-world challenges of digital media. At the same time the degree allows you to explore a wide variety of contemporary and theoretical debates, as well as the social and historical context of digital culture.

Our unique theory-practice mix is flexible and can be designed to suit your own pathway through the degree. You can decide whether to pursue a more theoretical research route, a practice route, or a work placement. Individual tutorials are offered in the first term to guide you through the combination that best meets your interests. The course aims to develop critical analysis, digital media practice, industry knowledge and advanced research methods. You can also broaden your field of study by selecting approved optional modules from other MAs at Sussex. For example, you could focus on the politics of social media, or examine digital sound environments, or gender issues as guided routes. Workshops exploring digital media practice are offered as a space for experimenting, informed by theory and guided by expert tutors but practice experience is not a requirement.

All students take the core module in Theory and Practice of Interactive Media, which explores the context and history of contemporary debates. This is complemented by New Developments in Digital Media, which examines new and emerging forms. Alongside your core and option modules, you will develop an independent research project of your own which allows you the freedom to use this material and all this support for your own interests.

You will join a community of researchers and practitioners in a top-rated department. We have a critical mass of faculty and postgraduate students researching and practicing in the Research Centre in Material Digital Culture, and the research theme of Digital and Social Media. These contribute to a vibrant and exciting research environment in this area, which is complemented by the digital culture of Brighton.

Kate O'Riordan
Convenor, Digital Media



why us

I chose the MA in Digital Media because the media department at Sussex University has a high ranking in the most recent university guides. So far, I have learned fundamental theories of media and interactive media. I really enjoy the seminar discussion with my classmates who are from different countries and different backgrounds.

In addition to the theories of digital media, the department offers workshop sessions, allowing me to expand my technical skills in the digital media labs. As I move through my MA, I am looking forward to learning more about the development of new media and drawing upon a combination of taught theories and practical skills in my final piece of work.

Hui-Hsuan Chang
Digital Media (MA) student



Gender and Media (MA)

Welcome to the MA in Gender and Media at the University of Sussex. This is one of the few degrees in the UK devoted to this specific area of critical debate and draws upon Sussex's internationally recognised expertise in both Gender Studies and Media Studies.

Undoubtedly, the media have had an influential role of shaping of identifications of masculinity, femininity and sexuality and continually impact upon gendered discourses in contemporary culture. The MA Gender and Media gives you the opportunity to explore these issues in detail and develop your own specific interests in these exciting debates.

Like all of Sussex's MA courses, MA Gender and Media is flexible and can be designed to suit your own pathway through the degree. You can decide whether to focus on film, media or specific cultural practices in your critical analyses. You can also broaden your field of study by selecting approved optional modules from other MAs within the School of Media, Film and Music as well as from other programmes at Sussex. For example, you could focus on the politics of postfeminism in contemporary culture, masculinities, body image issues or sexualities.

All students take the core module Gender and Representation, which introduces students to the debates within representation studies and the gendered nature of media images. Depending on your own media interest you can then choose between either Media Theory and Research or Film Studies: Theories and Methods.

You then have a wide choice of option modules to choose from including Feminism and Film, The Cinematic Body, Queering Popular Culture and Promotional Culture to name just a few.

You will join a community of researchers in a department that is ranked in the top ten in the UK. Both our faculty and our postgraduate students are active in publishing research in gender related areas. Postgraduate students also organize the weekly 'NGender' research seminars on campus and enjoy living and studying in the famously liberal and welcoming city of Brighton.

Niall Richardson

Convenor, Gender and Media



why us

Graduates from the School of Media Film and Music were recently asked to reflect on their time at the University of Sussex. Here is what they had to say:

- I'd recommend Sussex as a great place to learn and a great place to live.
- Immerse yourself in media - if you don't know what Twitter is, learn.
- The film course gives an all-round insight into every aspect of film-making.
- Try and think about where you see your career heading and tailor your course choices accordingly.
- Be curious and ask questions.
- Read!
- Enjoy the film screenings and make the most of the seminars
- You'll enjoy new ways of looking at media
- Cinema affects the whole world and different cultures, studying this broadens your views
- Aim high and enjoy it!



Course overviews

Film Studies: Global Film Cultures

Semester 1	Semester 2	Assessment period + Vacation
<p>Core Film Studies: Theories and Methods</p> <p>Choose one from: Global Cinemas; Activist Media Practice; Cultural Identities: Social Practices; Expanded Media: Forms and Practices; Media Theory and Research; Theory & Practice of Interactive Media; and others as available</p>	<p>Choose two from a range of options, such as: Approaches to Film Noir; Curating Film Cultures; Feminism and Film; Inside Hollywood; Latin American Cinema; Media Audiences, Rethinking European Cinema; The Cinematic Body</p>	<p>Core Dissertation</p>
<p>Part-time route</p> <p>Year 1 students take the core module and one option plus Dissertation preparation Year 2 students take two option modules plus Dissertation</p>		

Media and Cultural Studies

Semester 1	Semester 2	Assessment period + Vacation
<p>Core Media, Theory and Research</p> <p>Choose one from: Cultural Identities: Social Practices; Gender & Representation; Promotional Culture; Journalism in Transition; Film Studies option and others options as available</p>	<p>Media, Culture and Communication</p> <p>And choose one from: Feminism and Film; Science, Communication and Culture; Global Journalism; Media Histories and Political Change; Media Technology and Everyday Life; Queering Popular Culture; The Cinematic Body and others as available</p>	<p>Core Dissertation</p>
<p>Part-time route</p> <p>Year 1 students take the core module and one option option plus Dissertation preparation Year 2 students take the core module and one option plus Dissertation</p>		

Details of the course modules, including indicative content and assessments can be found online at:
<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg/2012/taught/3591>

Digital Media

Semester 1	Semester 2	Assessment period + Vacation
<p>Core Theory and Practice of Interactive Media</p>	<p>Core New Developments in Digital Media</p>	<p>Core Dissertation or Software Project or Placement</p>
<p>Choose one from: Media Theory and Research Or Expanded Media: Forms and Practices</p>	<p>Choose one from: New Moving Screens (new course); Media Technology and Everyday Life; or others as available</p>	

Part-time route

Year 1 students take the core module and one option plus Dissertation preparation
 Year 2 students take an option in semester 1 and core module in semester 2 plus Dissertation or Software Project or Placement

Gender and Media

Semester 1	Semester 2	Assessment period + Vacation
<p>Core Gender and Representation</p>	<p>Choose one from: Feminism and Film or The Cinematic Body</p>	<p>Core Dissertation</p>
<p>Choose one from: Media Theory and Research; Film Studies: Theories and Methods; Cultural Identities and Social Practices</p>	<p>Choose one Film/Media option from: Approaches to Film Noir; Media, Culture and Communication; Queering Popular Culture; Or choose one Gender Studies option from: Gender, Nation and Identity; Women and Human Rights</p>	

Part-time route

Year 1 students take the core module and one option plus Dissertation preparation
 Year 2 students take two option modules plus Dissertation

Faculty

For an up-to-date list of people in Media, Film & Music and their research interests, please see our School website.

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm/>

Find out more about by visiting us online:

Our School website

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm/index>

Learn about recent work published by our Faculty

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm/showcase/publications>

Find out about how to apply to the degree programme at: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg/applying/>

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The logo consists of the letters 'US' in a large, white, serif font.

University of Sussex