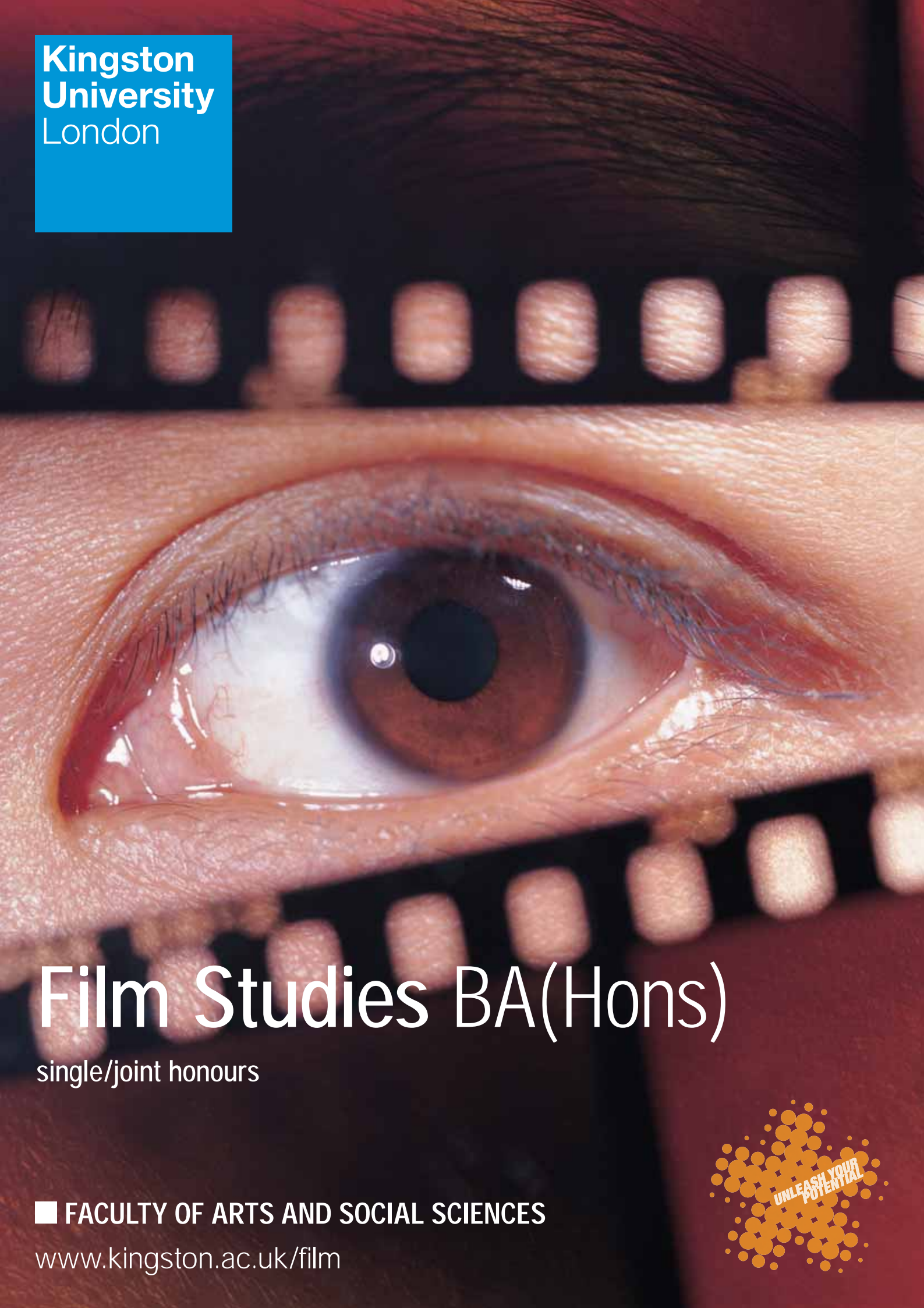


**Kingston  
University**  
London



# Film Studies BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

[www.kingston.ac.uk/film](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/film)



# Film Studies BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

Film Studies at Kingston covers the historical development of cinema across a range of national and cultural contexts, from German, French and British, to South American and East Asian. It investigates key concepts such as genre, stardom and authorship, and examines both the Hollywood mainstream and the various alternatives to this dominant system, from the earliest experiments through revolutionary world cinema, to cult underground movies.

Our full-field (single honours) Film Studies degree integrates theory with practical work. Twenty-five per cent of your modules will involve hands-on filmmaking or screenwriting in both fiction and non-fiction forms. Your study of film theory will inform your own creative work, while your hands-on experience gives you new insights into the critical study of cinema.

## Our programme

Central to the Film Studies programme are three strands that appear in each year of study.

- **Hollywood cinema** modules investigate the world's dominant system of film production.
- **alt.cinema** modules explore alternatives to the dominant Hollywood system, eg different national cinemas, experimental forms, early films or cult, 'trash' movies.
- **Filmmaking** modules give full-field (single honours) students the chance to integrate theory with practice and participate in all stages of film production, from scripting to producing a variety of short films.

## Teaching and support

Film Studies staff have backgrounds in film studies, sociology, languages and production, and are all actively engaged in research. Teaching comprises lectures, seminars and workshops, film presentations and tutorial support. Assessment is by essay, seminar presentation, study logs, dissertation and examination. If you take Film Studies as a full field, practical video production will constitute a further part of your assessment.

Our links with universities in Europe and America mean that you also have the opportunity to study abroad for a semester.

## Resources

The practical filmmaking courses are supported by a range of digital video equipment and suites of iMacs for editing. Our teaching rooms use state-of-the-art video and digital projection, with digital whiteboard. The Library holds a dedicated cinema collection for your independent research and study.

## Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies. We help both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts; and
- referencing.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

## Careers

Film Studies trains you in a range of transferable skills, all of which are welcomed by employers. A degree in Film Studies demonstrates that you can work successfully both independently and in a team, deliver a professional-quality presentation to a group, structure and express an argument, and carry out original research. The degree is particularly useful for a career in film, media and other communications industries, but the critical and analytical capabilities and communication skills you will develop on the course are relevant to a range of other careers. This degree also provides you with an excellent basis for postgraduate study. Former film students from Kingston now work in a range of different areas within the industry, including film production, post-production, film archiving and programming.

## Student feedback

We constantly evaluate course modules with the help of student feedback. Here is what some of our students had to say:

*"I liked that the teacher respected us and had confidence in us."*

*"[The best aspect of this module was] applying film experiences and techniques to our own project and learning new things, such as how to write scripts."*

*"[The best aspect of this module was] the relaxed teaching style, as it helped with my understanding and learning. The tutor is very helpful and enthusiastic."*



## Why study Film Studies at Kingston University?

- The degree encourages you to explore the historical development of cinema, with a particular focus on films in their various national contexts.
- You will examine key concepts such as authorship, stardom and genre, and study both the Hollywood mainstream and alternatives to this dominant form.
- You will learn key skills for the study of film through our focus upon independent research and textual analysis.
- Full-field students spend 25 per cent of their degree on practical filmmaking, which is informed by and relates back to the theoretical modules.
- Practical filmmaking students have access to the latest technology for digital video production and editing. We do ask all practical filmmaking students to purchase their own portable hard drive for storage, but everything else you need, from cameras, microphones and tripods to editing software, is available through our loans system.
- The degree offers you a solid basis in theory and trains you in key transferable skills that are valuable for a range of careers.
- Talks from industry professionals and former students working in the industry will help you to understand the skills and experience you need to break into film.
- Our close links with both the British Film Institute South Bank (formerly the National Film Theatre) and the BFI National Library (one of the largest collections of film and TV-related books, journals and magazines in the world) will enable you to experience a whole new world of cinema.

## What you will study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study Film Studies as a full field (single honours) or as a major, half or minor field (joint honours). The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

### Year 1

Modules in Year 1 offer a broad introduction and cover Hollywood and its alternatives.

#### Approaches to Cinema 1: Film Language and Form

This module will concentrate on developing an understanding of the formal and technical aspects of the medium through an analysis of the emergence of film style. It will explore key areas, such as mise-en-scène, camerawork, editing and sound to give you a thorough grounding in the expressive possibilities of film.

#### The Hollywood Cinema, 1927–97

This module examines the world's dominant cinema from its establishment to the present. It looks at the 'studio system' set up in the 1930s and 1940s and at the 'new Hollywood cinema' of today. It studies the institutional arrangements that underpinned this history and the film genres it produced.

#### Approaches to Cinema 2: Film Context and History

This module centres on an exploration of the issues and debates that have shaped film studies. It focuses upon key movements in cinema history, including expressionism, montage, realism and documentary, as well as the avant-garde, political cinema and New Waves.

#### Introduction to the Process of Digital Video Production

This is the first in the series of practical modules and is designed to introduce you to the skills, roles and responsibilities involved in the production of a short video film, including pre-production planning, filming and editing.

#### Silent Cinema

Many histories of cinema start with the coming of sound in 1927, barely touching upon the 30 years of global silent cinema that came before it. This module will open up the rich world of silent cinema, from the earliest experiments in capturing movement, through early special effects to the comic genius of Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd. It will also look at the rich tapestry of the silent avant garde and the unequalled spectacle of the silent blockbuster.

#### Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS). This scheme provides a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree.

### Year 2

Modules in Years 2 and 3 are more specialised and in-depth. Each year, a range of option modules is offered, enabling you to explore a wider range of topics and pursue your personal interests.

#### Core theoretical modules

##### Realism and Representation

This module explores the notion of 'realism', suggesting that what we accept as 'real' in films is just a set of conventions that varies across different approaches to cinema.

##### Investigating Cinema and Film

Research is at the heart of academic study and this module gives you the opportunity to carry out independent research working with other students under the guidance of a specialist tutor. You will choose a topic related to film studies research and develop it. The result is a substantial piece of original work, backed up with your own personal report.

##### Case Studies in Contemporary European Cinema

This module encourages you to apply the skills from Year 1 modules to a range of films from European countries, analysing specific films and understanding them within their cultural and historical contexts. Key films studied on this module include *Run Lola Run* (1998), *Amelie* (2001) and *Let the Right One In* (2008).

#### Core practical modules

Full-field students only will take the following practical modules.

##### Screenwriting

This module will develop your scriptwriting skills, and has both an analytical and a creative component.

##### Production of a Short Documentary

This module is designed to provide you with the skills to produce a documentary video.

#### Option modules include:

- British Cinema
- Introduction to French Cinema
- International Politics on Film
- Post-1945 German History and Film
- Case Studies in World Cinema (including Chinese, Korean, Iranian, Israeli and Palestinian cinema)
- Popular Genres: Ideology, Archetype, Myth

### Year 3

#### Core theoretical modules

##### Identity and Difference

This module provides an account of feminist and post-colonial theories and the practices of women, ethnic minority and gay filmmakers.

#### Core practical modules

Full-field students only will take the following practical modules.

##### Advanced Pre-Production

This module will enable you to gain a thorough understanding of the pre-production demands of a short fiction film, including scripting, scheduling, budgeting, props, costumes, talent search and try-outs, and directing and rehearsing.

##### Advanced Film Production

This module develops the work begun in the Advanced Pre-Production module but allows you to take on the various roles of director, cinematographer, editor and post-production producer and gain a thorough understanding of the production and post-production of a short fiction film.

#### Optional modules

There is also a number of option modules that consider theories and practices beyond the cinematic mainstream. They survey important recent work in film studies.

Examples may include:

- Special Study (a small-group focus on a specific topic)
- French New Wave Cinema
- Spanish and Latin American Cinema
- Cult Films, Trash Aesthetics and Exploitation
- Vamps, Divas, Tramps, Lolitas



"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan  
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



Want to know more?  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/film](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/film)

## Film Studies staff

**Dr Simon Brown** is the director of studies with overall responsibility for the Film Studies programme. He teaches on the core first-year modules as well as teaching on the second year Case Studies in World Cinema and British Cinema modules. His main research interests are early cinema, British cinema and cult television.

**Dr Will Brooker** is the Director of Research for Film and Television. His research interests lie in audience interpretation and reception, with a particular focus on media fandom around science-fiction cinema. He has published widely on the Star Wars saga and its followers.

**Mata Ayoub** is a filmmaker who teaches across the field's practical modules and is also the director of the University's Centre for Academic Support and Employability (CASE).

**Fiona Curran** is a professional sound designer who teaches sound design in the field's practical modules. She is an ex-industry professional with 21 years of experience in all areas of post-production across a wide variety of film genres and TV formats.

**Dr Corin Depper** teaches the core modules on film theory. He also teaches the history of Hollywood Cinema and World Cinema. His research interests focus in particular on film, philosophy and the visual arts.

**Nelson Douglas** is a professional photographer and cinematographer who teaches cinematography across the field's practical modules.

**Abbe Fletcher** is a filmmaker who teaches on the practical modules, Advanced Pre-Production, Advanced Production, and Cult Films, Trash Aesthetics and Exploitation. Her current research interests include documentary filmmaking, experimental film and video, and editing practices.

**Dr Mick Kennedy** teaches the field's practical modules. He has a background in cultural production, largely with disadvantaged communities. Mick is part of an independent dance-music recording label and an audiovisual production company. His research interests include Italian, Iranian and ghetto cinemas, and the use of non-professional actors in film and video production.

**Dr Matt Melia** teaches both in Film and the Television and New Broadcasting Media degree programme. He teaches modules on World Cinema and on Science Fiction Film and TV.

**Professor John Mullarkey** teaches across the core first-year modules. His research focuses upon film and philosophy, and practice as research.

**Dr Cathy O'Brien** teaches modules on French and European cinema and on Christianity and film. Her research interests are in French cinema and the area of film and gender studies. Her recent work has focused upon the intersections between religion and film.

**Professor Matthew Pateman** teaches across the core-first year modules. His main area of research is contemporary American serial television, with a particular focus on the works of Joss Whedon.

**Mark Penson** teaches two of the modules on Hollywood cinema and exploitation film. He is currently developing research on cinema audiences and film reception.

**Carmen Rabalska** teaches across the range of first-year modules. In the second and third years she teaches on the core theory modules alongside specialist modules in Spanish and Latin American Cinema.

**Dr Andrea Rinke** teaches modules on German and European film, on women in the film industry and on screen, and on the representation of drug addiction in the cinema. Her recent research has been on films and filmmaking in the former East Germany (the GDR), with particular focus on the representation of women.

## Entry requirements

### Typical offer

- Single honours: 240 points
- Joint honours: 240–360 points, depending on combination
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent
- Subjects: A-level: General Studies accepted as one of three A-levels or equivalent
- Key Skills: points not accepted in tariff
- Plus GCSE: Maths and English (grade A–C preferred). Key Skills Level 2/3 may be used in lieu of poor GCSEs, depending on combination.

### Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

### International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

### Other entry routes

- Access course
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

## Joint honours combinations

Film Studies can be taken as a major field or a minor field in combination with the following fields (subjects):

- Business
- Creative Music Technologies
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Design
- Drama
- English Language & Communication
- English Literature
- French
- History
- History of Art, Design & Film
- Journalism
- Law
- Media & Cultural Studies
- Media Technology
- Music
- Sociology
- Spanish
- TV & New Broadcasting Media

## UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

## Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays)

## Contact details

### Course enquiries

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Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Kingston University  
Penrhyn Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey KT1 2EE  
T: +44 (0)20 8417 2378/2361  
F: +44 (0)20 8417 2292  
E: [fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk)

### Accommodation

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3829  
E: [accommodation@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@kingston.ac.uk)  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation)

### Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding)

### Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252  
Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447  
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia)

### International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/international](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/international)