



UNDERGRADUATE  
Visual and  
Performing  
Arts



School of  
Arts & Social Sciences

[www.northumbria.ac.uk/sass](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/sass)

# Department of Arts

**The Department of Arts is a leading centre for supporting and energising creative practice and academic study, informed by cultural partnerships and inter-disciplinary collaborations and through national and international networks. Located in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne, a vibrant city with a flourishing visual and performing arts scene and home to numerous creative and cultural venues, the aim of the Department is to make a difference to the artistic and cultural landscape through excellence in learning and teaching, student support, dedicated research and scholarly activity, reflective professional practice, knowledge exchange and enterprise.**

We have an established track record for producing highly skilled visual and performing arts graduates pursuing careers in art practice, arts development, museum and gallery curatorship and administration, theatre management, community engagement, cultural enterprise, art conservation, theatre and performance, as well as in education and academic research – and many of our graduates remain professionally active in the North East region.

Our range of undergraduate programmes in contemporary photographic practice, fine art, drama, drama and scriptwriting, film and television studies and performance are contemporary, challenging and focused on the acquisition of new skills, expertise and professionalism, offering students the opportunity to share the expertise of subject specialists from both within and outside of the University.

We have long established relationships with cultural and creative organisations including The National Trust, Tyne and Wear Museums, Vane, Tate Modern, Globe Gallery and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.

The quality and depth of the curriculum is reinforced by a dynamic research and enterprise culture, covering all aspects of the work of staff and students. The Department is home to 44 academic staff who are renowned specialists in their particular fields, and includes fine artists, choreographers, performing artists and photographers whose work is exhibited at venues across the world and research active staff who publish widely and collaborate with the cultural sector and creative organisations internationally.

As a student at Northumbria University you will benefit from excellent resources, including the Department's own professional exhibition space, Gallery North, a new theatre, and our centre for professional practice, Graduate Studio Northumbria. In addition, you will have access to outstanding art and design collections in the University Library, thousands of online resources through the University's e-learning platform, audio and visual resources, dedicated facilities for drama, digital media, performance, photography, printmaking, sculpture and designated studio spaces.

You will be taught by a community of enthusiastic and talented performers, artists, scholars and educators complemented by high-calibre visiting artists, performers, academics, researchers, directors, actors, choreographers and musicians, including many with an international reputation as experts in their field.

In addition the Department supports 34 doctoral students who make a significant contribution to research and knowledge exchange and the Department is supported by three experienced administrators.



# Why study Visual or Performing Arts?

A degree in the arts will provide excellent training and personal and professional development for a range of careers. During your studies you will be encouraged to be active participants in the learning process. You will develop a portfolio of subject-specific and technical skills that are highly valued, as well as a range of transferable skills which all types of employers are looking for including: excellent communication; creativity; teamwork, negotiation and persuasiveness; time management and organisation; and analytical, critical and research skills.

Not only do our students learn in dynamic and challenging cultural contexts, they also play an active role in shaping and determining them. Employers recognise the value that creative people bring to an organisation, and graduates who are entrepreneurial and self-motivated, and can think laterally and innovatively, are highly attractive in the employment market.

Our graduates have gone on to contribute greatly to the contemporary arts, practising and showing their work in venues across the country, publishing in reputable journals and periodicals and working in senior posts across the cultural and creative industries. There could not be a better time to study arts and culture, and no better place to do so than at Northumbria University.

***“Newcastle Gateshead is unarguably one of the UK’s leading lights when it comes to the arts.”***

*(The Guardian, 2010)*



## BA (Hons) Contemporary Photographic Practice

**UCAS code: W640 Duration: Three years**

## BA (Hons) Fine Art

**UCAS code: W100 Duration: Three years**

The overarching aim of these two distinct degree programmes is to produce graduates who are critical and reflective practitioners, who are well equipped to apply their acquired practical and theoretical skills in a range of career paths, and who will make significant contributions in their chosen fields. The programmes are designed to guide students towards establishing an independent contemporary fine art practice that is critically informed and technically proficient. This means developing high levels of self-motivation, intellectual curiosity, speculative enquiry, imagination and divergent thinking skills.

You will work within a lively studio environment that supports a wide range of different media and creative practices and in which you will specialise in a particular area of practice from photography, painting, sculpture and printmaking to video, installation and performance. The programmes embrace the broad spectrum of contemporary art practice. The 'independent studio space' forms a critical part of the learning experience, where creative skills and subject knowledge is tested and reflected upon and where progress is effectively discussed with staff and student peers.

The programmes are taught by internationally recognised practising artists, academic researchers, subject specialists and visiting artists, and offer an atmosphere of involved study, creative practice and lively debate. A professional practice module is included in each year that progressively enhances career awareness and personal and professional development.



*Nat Quinn winner of the New Lights Prize 2011, Graduated BA (Hons) Fine Art 2011; member of Graduate Studio Northumbria (GSN)*

- In Year 1 the learning experience is focused upon the acquisition of fundamental techniques and processes, combined with an introduction to essential aesthetic and philosophic perspectives that inform artistic practice.
- In Year 2 there is an emphasis on equipping you with research skills through which you can situate personal practice within a wider historical and contemporary context.
- In Year 3 you produce a body of self-directed work that will sustain a critical dialogue and that incorporates a convincing personal standpoint for your art practice.

## Career opportunities

Through a structured programme of learning, these two programmes equip you with a range of intellectual, practical and transferable skills that enable you to achieve your artistic ambitions, and to become lifelong learners. The increasing degree of specialisation and self-direction received as you progress through the course ensures that you develop a level of expertise in the subject that builds confidence and critical awareness.

Many of our graduates continue their practice as artists and achieve critical acclaim; including supporting their practice through the showing and sale of work, commissions, grants and residencies. Others have chosen to further their learning through postgraduate study, or have gone on to teach or work within the cultural sector including: community arts work; curating; arts management and administration; web design; artists' assistants; gallery or exhibition organisation.

## Selection criteria and process

Following the submission of an application form selected candidates will be invited to attend a portfolio day at which they will submit a portfolio and discuss their work with a member of the teaching team.

The completion of a Diploma in foundation studies (Art and Design) is also considered for entry. International applicants will usually be asked to submit examples of work on CD.

## Modules studied include:

### Year 1

- Visual Enquiry
- Methods and Materials
- Professional Practice
- History and Theory of Visual Arts
- Locating Practice

### Year 2

- History and Theory of Visual Arts
- Professional Practice
- Research into Practice
- Studio Practice

### Year 3

- History and Theory of Visual Arts
- Professional Practice
- Synthesis
- Negotiation and Production

# BA (Hons) Film and Television Studies

**UCAS code: P391**

**Duration: Three years**

The BA (Hons) Film and Television Studies programme provides you with a wide-ranging knowledge of film and television and a sophisticated awareness of critical debates and issues associated with these media.

The programme explores the historical development of cinema and television and the social contexts within which this takes place as well as analysing in detail particular films and television programmes.

In addition to acquiring an understanding of the cultural, institutional and historical significance of film and television, you will be encouraged to develop your own critical skills of description, analysis and evaluation.

## Coursework and assessment

The programme is taught through a combination of lectures and seminars. Modules are assessed by a range of written and oral assessments including essays, projects, examinations, seminar presentations and a dissertation.

## Career opportunities

Graduates from BA (Hons) Film and Television Studies will be well-suited for a range of careers including: distribution and exhibition, arts administration and management, museum work, teaching, lecturing and research.





## Modules you may study include:

### Year 1

- Film History
- Film Aesthetics
- Introduction to Film Theory
- Television Studies: Genres
- Television Studies: Institutions

### Year 2

- Film and Television Research Project
- Film Theory: Concepts and Applications
- National Cinemas
- Cultural Identities in British Television
- Documentary in Film and TV

### Year 3

- Popular Music and Film
- The Horror Film
- Contemporary European Cinema
- Contemporary British and Irish Cinema
- Dissertation
- Art History and Visual Culture: Professional Practice
- A History of Film Noir
- Popular East Asian Cinema
- Adaptations on Film and Television
- Cult Film and TV

*Please note: All option modules are subject to availability and/or change on an annual basis.*

## BA (Hons) Drama

**UCAS code: W400**

**Duration: Three years**

This is a unique practice-based programme, concerned with the uses of drama in community contexts, and integrated with the theoretical study of culture and the arts. We aim to develop your creative skills to a professional level and to deepen your theoretical understanding of the different roles that drama and other performing arts can play in peoples' lives.

The programme develops two main strands of professional practice for a variety of contexts and communities. These are performance and facilitation. The main aim of this is to ensure you will graduate with the ability to be critically reflective and socially aware theatre practitioners.

We seek to produce graduates who will have a head start in the contemporary applied theatre field, and ensure you are able to adapt to changes, be resourceful and reflective. A distinctive feature of the course is our extensive network of external agencies such as Prisons and Probation, Social Services and Youth Services. Drawing on these links you will develop your abilities to collaborate with different organisations and across disciplines.



*Third year Drama workshop 2011*



## Coursework and assessment

Teaching and learning on the programme is carried out through practical workshops, seminars (both staff and student-led), lectures, tutorials, rehearsals, devising sessions and performance as well as through your own independent study. The programme is primarily practice-based and contextualised with the appropriate theory. Assessment is by seminar, performance, presentation and essays.

## Selection criteria and process

Following the submission of an application form selected candidates will be invited to attend a portfolio day at which they will submit a portfolio and discuss their work with a member of the teaching team.

## Career opportunities

Graduates may follow careers as performers, directors, enablers, facilitators, drama workers, drama therapists, teachers/lecturers, arts development officers and community workers. Northumbria has an excellent track record of producing highly skilled employable Performing Arts graduates who go on to pursue successful careers as performers, directors, choreographers, musicians, teachers, community artists, drama, dance and music therapists and arts development officers.

## Modules you may study include:

### Year 1

- Reading Performance
- Approaches to Performance
- The Physical Actor
- Movement
- Devising
- Studentship and Inspiration

### Year 2

- Analysing Performance
- Theatre Production and Design\*
- Directing for the Theatre\*
- Film Writing\*
- Contemporary Performance\*
- Arts and Entrepreneurship
- Devising Social Theatre
- Facilitation
- Performance for Film and TV\*
- Staging Philosophy\*

### Year 3

- Professional Directions
- Performance in Context
- Professional Practice
- Analysing Practice
- Performance Research

*\*Please note: Option modules are subject to availability and/or change on an annual basis.*

# BA (Hons) Drama and Scriptwriting

**UCAS code: WW84 Duration: Three years**

**The aim of the degree is to produce graduates who are creative writers, critical thinkers and reflective practitioners who are well prepared for the world of work. On this programme students will be involved in creating work collaboratively from the outset, both as a writer and a performer. Imaginative, challenging work is encouraged by a creative team of staff who can work to enhance your artistic vision.**

The degree introduces you to a variety of scriptwriting forms and different critical perspectives. Year 1 provides the skills and understanding of the performing arts, introducing a range of ideas and creative writing techniques for writing and performing drama. Year 2 consolidates the skills you acquire in the first year and extends writing skills. By third year, you will develop an area of expertise based on your own interests and apply skills you have in a number of student-led independent learning projects. Modules are defined by a high degree of choice and are designed to maximise employability by enabling students to graduate with a well developed writing portfolio. Your studies culminate in an extended portfolio writing project which enables you to produce a significant script in a medium of your choice and kick-start your professional writer's portfolio.

## Coursework and assessment

Teaching and learning on the programme is carried out through practical workshops, seminars (both staff and student-led), lectures, tutorials, rehearsals, devising sessions and performance as well as through your own independent study. The programme is primarily practice-based and contextualised with the appropriate theory. Assessment is by seminars, scripts, performances, presentations and essays.

## Selection

Selection is through submission of a short portfolio of written work.

## Career opportunities

Graduates will be equipped with the skills to operate as self-employed practising writers working within the cultural industries. Career opportunities may be found in: professional theatre, theatre in education, the broadcast media, the advertising industry, writing in community contexts, community advocacy, the education sector, the heritage industry and the corporate sector.

## Modules you may study include:

### Year 1

- Reading Performance
- Approaches to Performance
- The Physical Actor
- Story
- Devising
- Studentship and Inspiration

### Year 2

- Analysing Performance
- Theatre Production and Design\*
- Directing for the Theatre\*
- Film Writing\*
- Contemporary Performance\*
- Arts and Entrepreneurship
- Facilitation
- New Writing
- Performance for Film and TV\*
- Staging Philosophy\*

### Year 3

- Professional Directions
- Performance in Context
- Portfolio Project
- Writing for Radio and TV
- Performance Research

*\*Please note: Option modules are subject to availability and/or change on an annual basis.*



*Difficult Loves, Italo Calvino*  
Second year performance students

# BA (Hons) Performance

**UCAS code: W430**

**Duration: Three years**

This course involves the study of performance through the integration of theory and practical exploration.

It is designed to give students a thorough grounding in the skills required for a variety of performance contexts, in order to produce multi-skilled performers who meet the demands of current professional practice. The programme aims to produce graduates who are flexible, enterprising and responsive to the challenges of modern performance.

Performance-based modules studied at all stages, explore new styles and approaches and develop individual commitment to multimedia performances. Students communicate to their audiences through the spoken word, movement, sound, music, song and visual imagery.

## Coursework and assessment

Work undertaken in the majority of practical modules is either continuously assessed or assessed through practical performances. Theory is assessed via seminar presentation and written assignments. The overall assessment ratio is approximately 75% practical work and 25% written. The collaborative nature of the practical work, particularly in the first two years, necessitates students being available for rehearsal/group exploration of work and there will also be group theatre visits outside taught time.

## Selection criteria and process

Following the submission of an application form selected candidates will be invited to attend a portfolio day at which they will submit a portfolio and discuss their work with a member of the teaching team.

## Career opportunities

Career opportunities exist in the following fields: performance with main house and touring theatre companies, acting for film and TV, music theatre, directing, teaching and lecturing in

theatre and performing arts. Northumbria has an excellent track record of producing highly skilled employable Performing Arts graduates who go on to pursue successful careers as performers, directors, choreographers, musicians, teachers, community artists, drama, dance and music therapists and arts development officers.

## Modules you may study include:

### Year 1

- Reading Performance
- Approaches to Performance
- The Physical Actor
- Movement
- Devising
- Studentship and Inspiration

### Year 2

- Analysing Performance
- Theatre Production and Design\*
- Directing for the Theatre\*
- Film Writing\*
- Contemporary Performance\*
- Arts and Entrepreneurship
- Facilitation
- Performance for Film and TV\*
- Staging Philosophy\*
- Performance and Technique

### Year 3

- Professional Directions
- Platform Performance
- Production
- Performance Research

*\*Please note: Option modules are subject to availability and/or change on an annual basis.*



*Difficult Loves, Italo Calvino*  
Second year performance students

# How to apply

Applications should be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS) [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

## Course Enquiries

Tel: 0191 227 4444 Email: [ar.admissions@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:ar.admissions@northumbria.ac.uk)

*While the University endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure, it is intended for guidance only and details (e.g. modules and entry requirements) may be subject to amendment. Please visit the University's website for up-to-date information [www.northumbria.ac.uk](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk)*

## International Students

Not only is Northumbria University the largest university in the North East of England, but we are also a truly international university and welcome students from all over the world on our programmes. Northumbria has a 'Meet and Greet' service as well as offering students support on a range of issues which may include settling into the local area, visas, immigration and working in the UK.

Further information is available at:

## International Admissions

Tel: +44 (0)191 227 4274 Fax: +44 (0)191 261 1264  
Email: [international@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:international@northumbria.ac.uk)

## Return to Learning

We welcome applications from mature students and will consider on an individual basis, those who do not meet traditional entry criteria but have an appropriate level of relevant experience. We are supportive of the University's Access to HE course, the HEFC, which provides an excellent basis for preparing adult students for entry into Higher Education. More details are available from the Return to Learning Service.

Tel: 0191 227 4323 Email: [er.rtl@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:er.rtl@northumbria.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.northumbria.ac.uk/rtl](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/rtl)

# Living and studying in Newcastle

The Quayside is at the cultural heart of the city, attracting many visitors to the numerous cafés, bars and restaurants. Here, the skyline is dominated by the iconic Tyne Bridge, the award-winning Gateshead Millennium Bridge, the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, and The Sage Gateshead international concert hall. Although modern and vibrant, Newcastle also has its own fascinating history and heritage right in the city centre and is regarded as one of Europe's finest classical cities, with many buildings of major architectural and historical significance.

When it comes to art and culture, you are spoiled for choice, since Newcastle offers you several theatres, including the Theatre Royal (home to the Royal Shakespeare Company for a season every year) as well as Live Theatre, The People's Theatre, The Journal Tyne Theatre, Northern Stage, Newcastle's newest theatre The Round and a range of cinemas from mainstream to arthouse. The Tyneside Cinema has earned its national reputation as a leading venue for both mainstream, international and arthouse cinema. The Side Cinema and The Star and Shadow also offer a range of screenings and opportunities for film-makers.

If you're into your music you'll be pleased to hear that artists from all over the world come to play in our top venues including: Newcastle City Hall; the O<sub>2</sub> Academy; the Metro Radio Arena as well as the Sage Gateshead, an outstanding international facility for all kinds of live music.

As well as having our own art gallery, there are countless museums and art galleries spanning the city, offering something for everyone. Public art such as the Angel of the North, Glow, the Riverside Sculpture Park, and the Blue Carpet also contributes to the city's thriving cultural scene making sure that art is not just confined to the galleries.  
[www.visitnewcastlegateshead.com](http://www.visitnewcastlegateshead.com)



## Campus life

Located in the heart of Newcastle, Northumbria University benefits from being in the middle of a lively city where one in six people are students. The size and compactness of Newcastle means you can be anywhere you want within a few minutes, and with the legendary friendliness and hospitality of the Geordies, you can expect a warm welcome wherever you go.

The University is the largest and most diverse in the region with over 30,000 students from all over the world. An ambitious estates programme has seen over £160m being invested in new teaching, sports and social facilities, including a new £30m sports centre. The University is committed to making sure our students have access to world-class facilities, and an attractive and safe place to study.

## Escape the hustle and bustle

If you ever feel like escaping the hustle of the city, Newcastle is perfectly placed. Just 30 minutes travel by car or Metro and you can be lying on one of our blue flag beaches watching some of the best surfing in the UK, or exploring some of our wonderful countryside and world heritage sites.

If you're still not convinced, then bear in mind *Lonely Planet* recently placed North East England amongst the top 30 must see destinations in the world and named it as "the most exciting, beautiful and friendly region in the whole of England." [www.visitnortheastengland.com/discover](http://www.visitnortheastengland.com/discover)



*The BALTIC*



*'Attempts on her life' by Martin Crimp  
2011*



*Theatre Royal*



*Nat Quinn, winner of the New Lights  
Prize 2011*

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