



Media Studies

We live in an age of rapid technological development, where every digital advance brings us closer to the creative practitioners on neighbouring continents. At SOAS, our focus is to examine the media in all its forms, old and new, challenging the Eurocentric view and encouraging you to think more dynamically about a myriad of perspectives.

In a reflection of the SOAS ethos, we are dedicated to widening horizons, fostering cross-cultural exchanges and critically engaging with urgent issues. Great emphasis is placed on critical theoretical skills, in-depth regional, linguistic and cultural knowledge of media and film forms and practices. Our teaching and research is grounded in the fact we live in a multi-platform and multi-centred media world. That is why our unique focus on the contemporary and historical trends across Asia, the Middle East and Africa is essential to anyone interested in the media.

Our central London location allows our students to connect directly with the one of the world's greatest concentration of media, from broadcast to international newspapers, film venues and libraries to radio industries – everything is right on our doorstep. We are also a member of the University of London Screen Studies Group and enjoy a close relationship with the International Association

for Media and Communication Research.

Structure and assessment

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits and complete a dissertation (60 credits) – unless stated otherwise

Entry requirements

Minimum upper second-class honours degree (or equivalent) – unless stated otherwise

English language requirement

Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in reading and listening. Visit www.soas.ac.uk/english-requirements for alternative acceptable qualifications

Duration

One calendar year (full-time); two, three years (part-time, daytime only)



Taught Masters Programmes

- MA Critical Media and Cultural Studies
- MA Global Digital Cultures
- MA Global Media and Postnational Communication
- MA International Journalisms
- MA Media in Development



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/media-studies

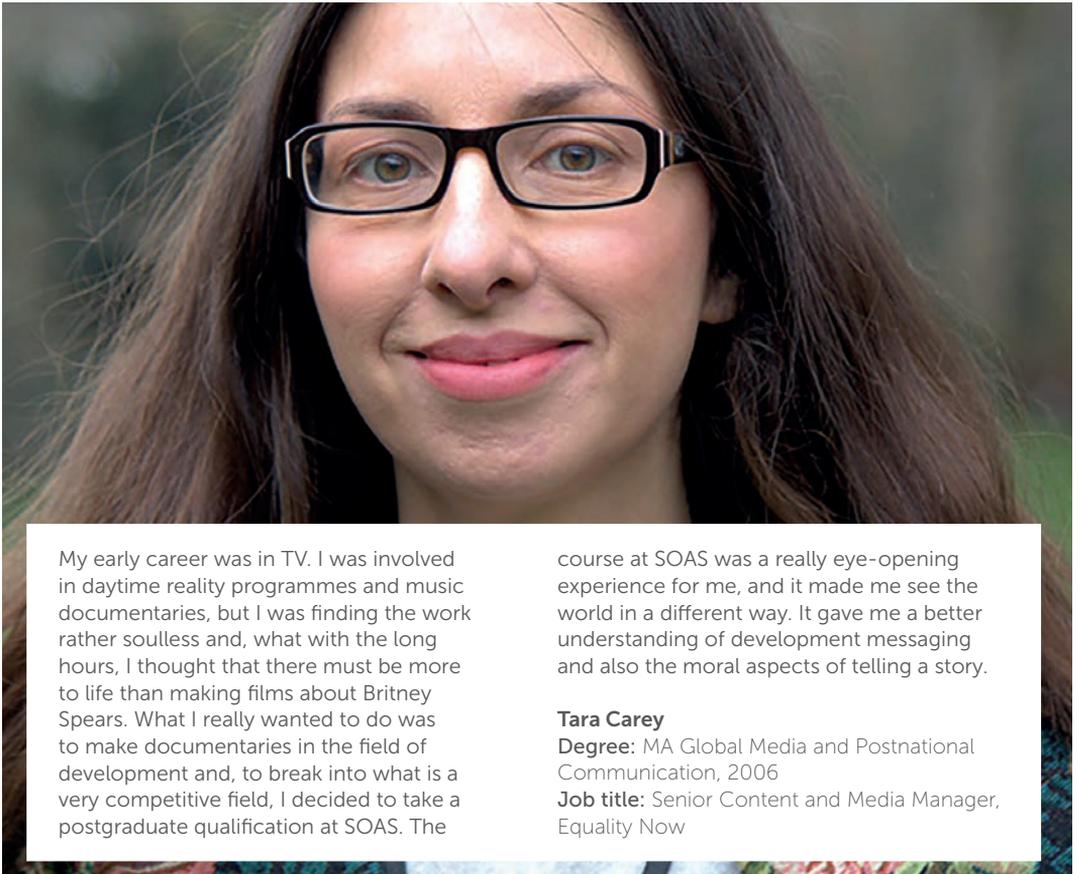


Examining anime and its Western audience

After studying Film Studies, I wrote my MA dissertation on the globalisation of Pokemon as a multi-platform franchise. I found myself increasingly specialising in topics looking at transnationalism, cross-cultural translation and globalisation, and the subject of my PhD is 'Going Global: Studio Ghibli, Anime and the Popularisation of a Global Genre.' I am looking at the global phenomenon of anime and the manner in which it is marketed to Western audiences. By analysing my chosen case study of Studio Ghibli films directed by Hayao Miyazaki, I shall be dissecting anime in terms of stardom, authorship, promotion and distribution. In joining these critical fields together, my thesis shall track a trajectory of globalisation from a text's genesis to its consumption.

Lawrence Carter

Project title: 'Going Global: Studio Ghibli, Anime and the Popularisation of a Global Genre'.



My early career was in TV. I was involved in daytime reality programmes and music documentaries, but I was finding the work rather soulless and, what with the long hours, I thought that there must be more to life than making films about Britney Spears. What I really wanted to do was to make documentaries in the field of development and, to break into what is a very competitive field, I decided to take a postgraduate qualification at SOAS. The

course at SOAS was a really eye-opening experience for me, and it made me see the world in a different way. It gave me a better understanding of development messaging and also the moral aspects of telling a story.

Tara Carey

Degree: MA Global Media and Postnational Communication, 2006

Job title: Senior Content and Media Manager, Equality Now



MA Critical Media and Cultural Studies

Convenor: Dr Simon Webster-Kogen

At SOAS we celebrate the fact that we live in a multi-centred world, which is why this is the only place you will find a programme that addresses the full complexity of the media in a truly global sense.

Asia, Africa and Latin America are home to some of the world's largest film, television, music and print industries. The teaching and research opportunities here will allow you to explore these through a critical analysis of various discourses, covering music, comparative literature, art and archaeology, and religion and gender.

Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

Structure

Students must take two core modules totalling 45 credits and write a dissertation on a relevant topic. Students choose a minimum of 30 credits from options in Media Studies (List A). Up to 45 credits may be selected from the list of recommended modules outside of Media Studies (List B) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor.

Core modules

- Theoretical and Contemporary Issues in Media and Cultural Studies (30 credits)
- Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits)

Optional modules

List A - Media Studies

- International Political Communication (15 credits)
- Media Spectacle and Urban Space in East Asia (15 credits)
- Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Studies in Media, Information Communication Technologies and Development (15 credits)
- Theoretical Approaches to International Journalisms (15 credits)
- Theoretical and Contemporary Issues in Global Media and Post-National Communication (15 credits)
- Topics in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity (15 credits)

List B - recommended modules in other departments

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments.

MA Global Digital Cultures

Convenor: Dr Matti Pohjonen

The emergence of the internet and digital technologies has affected all societies, albeit unevenly. At SOAS, we are at the forefront of investigating those challenges and what they mean for the Global South.

Whether you are curious about how the Internet came to be and how it is now appropriated in the Global South, how Chinese instant messaging is creating a global grass-root commerce network, how digital technologies are used by states and by popular movements as a new, powerful political tool, this innovative programme will help you find the answers.

Through lectures, expert talks, hand-on experience, and field visits, you will learn the historical development of digital technologies and explore the impact and meaning of such technologies in different economic, political and cultural realms. Engaging with main theoretical debates around the Information Society, you will consider their adequacy for understanding the non-Western world, while developing knowledge of a range of research tools.

The MA is designed for those interested in the growing digital culture markets in the Global South, be it the private sector, NGOs and other organisations involved in new media and development; for policymakers curious about digital innovation; and for diplomats faced with new digital diplomacy.

Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

Structure

Students must take three core modules totalling 45 credits and write a dissertation on a relevant topic. They choose a minimum of 30 further credits from options in Media Studies (List A). Up to 45 credits may be taken from the list of recommended modules outside of Media Studies (List B) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor.

Core modules

- Studies in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Topics in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits)

Optional modules

List A - Media Studies

- International Political Communication (15 credits)
- Media Spectacle and Urban Space in East Asia (15 credits)

- Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Media and Post-National Communication (15 credits)
- Studies in Media, Information Communication Technologies and Development (15 credits)
- The Transnational News Environment: Production, Representation and Use (15 credits)
- Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity (15 credits)

List B - recommended modules in other departments:

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments.

MA Global Media and Postnational Communication

Convenor: Dr Dina Matar

Whether you are a journalist eager to develop a critical perspective on the global impact of Western and non-Western media, or an NGO professional interested in how communications shape political, economic and social change, this programme is for you.

Our fundamental premise reflects the fact that the movement of peoples is intertwined with globalisation in all its guises, encompassing communications technologies as much as political, financial and cultural change. In particular, we examine the growing significance of Asia, Africa and the Middle East as the locations of new media players and new cultural genres, of complex audience involvements with mediated communication and as the sites of critical and creative responses to globalisation processes.

The degree offers a wide range of optional modules offered by experts within the Centre for Media Studies and outside, thus allowing you to tailor the programme to your specific needs, irrespective of whether you want to pursue further research or go into practice.

Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

Structure

Students must take three core modules totalling 45 credits and write a dissertation on a relevant topic. They choose a minimum of 30 further credits from options in Media Studies (List A). Up to 45 credits may be taken from the list of recommended modules outside of Media Studies (List B) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor.

Core modules

- Theoretical Issues in Global Media and Postnational Communication (15 credits)
- Topics in Global Media and Postnational Communication (15 credits)
- Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits)

Optional modules

List A - Media Studies

- International Political Communication (15 credits)
- Media Spectacle and Urban Space in East Asia (15 credits)
- Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Media and Post-National Communication (15 credits)
- Studies in Media, Information Communication Technologies and Development (15 credits)
- Theoretical Approaches to International Journalisms (15 credits)
- Theoretical Issues in Media and Cultural Studies (15 credits)
- Topics in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity (15 credits)

List B - recommended modules in other departments

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments.



MA International Journalisms

Convenor: Dr Somnath Batabyal

Understanding journalism is crucial in today's mediated world. The spread of the Internet, social media and the advent of comparatively cheap communications technology holds out the promise of enabling a more diverse range of actors to shape journalism than ever before. However, widespread cost-cutting in mainstream journalism and the speeded-up journalistic practices used to service multiple-delivery platforms, threaten to further entrench the norms and definitional advantages of the wealthy and powerful because of their greater ability to subsidise journalism through public relations material.

This programme examines how such tensions affect contemporary journalistic representations of the Global South and how they relate to different cultural, political, technological and historical contexts. It contrasts strongly with other Journalism MAs taught in the UK, which are usually constrained by the norms and priorities of British professional accreditation bodies.

Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

Structure

Students must take two core modules totalling 45 credits and write a dissertation on a relevant

topic. They choose a minimum of 30 further credits from options in Media Studies (List A). Up to 45 credits may be taken from the list of recommended modules outside of Media Studies (List B) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor.

Core modules

- Theoretical Approaches to International Journalisms (30 credits)
- Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits)

Optional modules

List A - Media Studies

- International Political Communication (15 credits)
- Media Spectacle and Urban Space in East Asia (15 credits)
- Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Media and Post-National Communication (15 credits)
- Studies in Media, Information Communication Technologies and Development (15 credits)
- The Transnational News Environment: Production, Representation and Use (15 credits)
- Topics in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity (15 credits)

List B - recommended modules in other departments

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments.



MA Media in Development

Convenor: Dr Somnath Batabyal

The media has long been used as a platform for social, political and economic development, employed by organisations and communities to different ends. This programme challenges the presuppositions about the power of the media, encouraging you to see how it can legitimise one opinion and exclude another.

Drawing on media theory, practical knowledge and experience, you will explore some of the contemporaneous debates about development practices, alongside critical issues in the media. You will also learn to apply theoretical skills to different types of media materials and practices, including within specific development fields, such as health, education and gender.

Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

Structure

Students must take two core modules totalling 45 credits and write a dissertation on a relevant topic. They choose a minimum of 30 further credits from options in Media Studies (List A). Up to 45 credits may be taken from the list of recommended modules outside of Media

Studies (List B) or from other modules at SOAS if approved by the programme convenor.

Core modules

- Theoretical and Contemporary Issues in Media, Information Communication Technologies and Development (30 credits)
- Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits)

Optional modules

List A - Media Studies

- International Political Communication (15 credits)
- Media Spectacle and Urban Space in East Asia (15 credits)
- Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Media and Post-National Communication (15 credits)
- Studies in Media, Information Communication Technologies and Development (15 credits)
- The Transnational News Environment: Production, Representation and Use (15 credits)
- Topics in Global Digital Cultures (15 credits)
- Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity (15 credits)

List B - recommended modules in other departments

Please refer to the Programme page on the SOAS website for an up-to-date list of modules on offer from other departments