

English, History and Visual Culture at Northumbria

Includes courses in Art Conservation, Art History and Design History, British and American Cultures, English, Film Studies, History, Journalism, Media and Culture and Scriptwriting.

"Culture is everything, Culture is the way we dress, the way we carry our heads, the way we walk, the way we tie our ties – it is not only the fact of writing books or building houses."

Aimé Césaire, Martiniquan writer, speaking to the World Congress of Black Writers and Artists in Paris.

Claire Briston is in her second year. She says, "I am reading, listening and learning about different aspects of visual culture everyday. The subject matter ranges from art, film, filmmaking, fashion, photography, to architecture, which covers a lot of my personal interests. Every lecture is different. The course has been hard work, it'd be boring if it was easy; but I like a challenge and this course gives me the opportunity to learn new things and use new resources."

What makes Northumbria's approach different?

We take these subjects, which are often taught in the most traditional ways, and demonstrate their relevance to the here and now. You can use the many options available within our flexible course structures to further your interests and you can apply what you've learned by working in one of a huge variety of potential workplaces, from galleries and libraries, to arts centres, museums, schools and the media.

Our students don't just study English, or history or film; they use the study of these fascinating subjects, sometimes in smart combinations, to learn how to think, how to analyse, and how to employ their skills in many different circumstances. All of our courses foster a spirit of independence and offer the support of excellent guidance tutors.

We teach you to question the orthodox line and to get to grips with current critical thinking, so it's not surprising that so many of our graduates go on to enjoy rewarding careers in both the private and public sectors. There's no better place in which to explore culture, whether contemporary or historical. It's a region in which mysterious rock carvings, the Roman Wall, medieval castles and Georgian squares rub up against dazzling new works by renowned architects such as Sir Norman Foster and the best of contemporary arts. As one of the UK's European centres of cultural excellence through until 2008, each year sees the opening of major new arts resources, from the international centre for all things to do with music, the Sage Gateshead, to the Centre for the Children's Book in Newcastle and the country's largest new county archive project at Woodhorn, Northumberland.

This is a rich and stimulating context – the best possible environment for the most rewarding learning experience!

Professor Linden Peach

Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences

"Choosing to come to University will be one of the most important and exciting decisions that you will make in your life. In the School of Arts and Social Sciences we understand that and we are committed to providing you with first class teaching and a highly supportive, student-centred environment.

In our School, we are passionate about the contribution of the arts, humanities and social sciences to international development and understanding. We offer a diverse range of subjects including Performing Arts, Journalism, Film and Media, English, Creative Writing and History, Art History and Fine Art, Criminology, Sociology and Public Policy. But they all share our commitment to social and international relevance.

We are renowned for the high quality of our teaching and learning, underpinned by excellent student support and research. I do hope that you will decide to come and join us."



Professor Linden Peach

"Courses can be tailored to suit individuals."

James Hill

"Newcastle is an increasingly cultural city."

Alisia Murphy



"Every lecture is different so you never get bored."

Claire Briston

English, History and Visual Culture Courses

Applicants are welcome from a wide range of backgrounds and are all treated as individuals. Entry requirements are listed as UCAS tariff points for guidance purposes, for details see page 189.

As not all qualifications are yet included in the UCAS tariff, if the qualification you are studying is not listed, visit the website www.northumbria.ac.uk/coursesearch selecting the course you are interested in for more detailed information.

For some courses, the University may ask for specific subjects and grades, which may also include GCSE level or equivalent.

Title	Years	UCAS code	UCAS points
Advertising and Media BA (Joint Hons)	3	NP53 BA/AdM	260
The BA Advertising and Media Studies course addresses the new developments in media communications, offering students the opportunity to engage with the creative process. Students undertake practical and academic work in an exploration of advertising and media as creative and cultural phenomena. During the course of study, students develop strategies, ideas and campaigns across the variety of advertising and media and also gain a thorough awareness of the political contexts and ethical dilemmas of advertising and media in a global marketplace.			
British and American Cultures BA (Hons)	3	QV21 BA/BAC	280
This interdisciplinary degree examines the development of British and American cultures and cultural identities, both separately and in relation to each other, between the early seventeenth century and the present. It draws on British and American literature and history as well as on the history of ideas and on film. It is run in collaboration with Georgia State University in Atlanta, where students spend the second year of their studies.			
Communication BSc (Hons)	3	H645 BSc/Comm	260
This degree provides students with the skills to fill the growing number of vacancies for communication and media officers in commercial, service and charitable sectors. It provides academic grounding in communication theory, balanced with professional competence in areas such as marketing, public relations and event planning. You will learn advanced IT skills, which will allow you to disseminate communication using up-to-date software and communication technologies. This is run by the Information Sciences division, see page 118.			
Creative Writing BA (Hons)	3	W800 BA/CW	280
BA Creative Writing at Northumbria is a new and challenging degree that encourages aspiring writers in the creation of new texts within a supportive but critical writing community. Students will develop their potential across a range of different forms – fiction, poetry, media writing, journalism and drama – and have the opportunity to pursue special interests in a number of genres such as the gothic, the thriller/crime, the monologue and the political article. Throughout the course, students will have regular contact with, and support from, a range of different writers and practitioners.			
Drama and Scriptwriting BA (Hons)	3	WW84	260
Based within Performing Arts, this programme is delivered jointly with the English Division. Collaboration with key North East cultural organisations such as Live Theatre (the 'new' writing company for the region) and Dance City, mean it is envisaged that this innovative new award will involve direct student engagement with professional theatre companies. This course will capitalise on expertise across both Divisions offering students the opportunity to study modules such as dramatic form and structure, textual analysis, realising text, critical theory, analysing performance, theatre history, writing for dramatic performance, comedy scriptwriting, writing for film and television, radio script. The programme forms part of the undergraduate portfolio of the Performing Arts Subject Division which has an established reputation as a leading provider of practice-based degrees.			
English BA (Hons)	3	Q300 BA/EngS	280
This degree aims to provide a detailed understanding of writing in English and a sophisticated awareness of the critical debates in the discipline. Students become familiar with major periods of literary expression and with the principal forms of critical understanding. Students are provided with a thorough grounding in writing in English from each of the modern phases of its development, from the Medieval to the modern.			
English and Art History BA (Hons)	3	VQ33 BA/AHEng	260
This new degree gives students the opportunity to acquire a broad-based understanding of English Literature and Art History. Students will be provided with a knowledge of both disciplines and a framework which will enable them to develop a sophisticated understanding of specific topics in both areas and of the relationships between visual and literary cultural expression.			
English and Creative Writing BA (Joint Hons)	3	QW38 BA/ECW	280
BA English and Creative Writing fully engages literature and writing, encouraging aspiring writers within a supportive but critical writing community in fiction, poetry, media writing, journalism and drama, whilst at the same time covering a broad range of literary material stretching from the Renaissance to the post-modern. Types and definitions of literature and writing are discussed and interrogated, with the intentions of examining key concepts and debates in the disciplines and discussing the methodologies and theories which inform our reading and writing of texts. Throughout the course you will be taught by experts in your chosen options, including a range of different writers.			
English and Film Studies BA (Hons)	3	QW36 BA/EFS	280
This degree introduces students to the study of writing in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and to the study of film history. This is supplemented with modules that provide students with a range of cultural and literary theories to enable critical thinking about writing and film.			
English and History BA (Hons)	3	QV31 BA/EH	280
This degree brings together the areas of English, History and the History of Ideas in to an interdependent study which also trains students in the skills and methodologies of degree study in the humanities.			

Title	Years	UCAS code	UCAS points
English and Sociology BA (Hons)	3	QL33 BA/ES	280
This interdisciplinary programme produces skilled graduates who are flexible, innovative, responsive and reflective, and whose study of English and Sociology has given them a more sophisticated understanding of what is involved in the two disciplines, in particular an appreciation of the roles of ideas and evidence. Students will acquire skills of description, textual and critical analysis and evaluation in both fields and to develop an understanding of the inter-relationship of the two disciplines. Career opportunities exist in areas such as journalism, media and marketing, local and central government and teaching.			
English Language Studies BA (Hons)	3	Q310	260
This programme is designed for students who are interested in taking an in-depth look at the English language. The programme draws on a number of different disciplines, and equips students with the intellectual skills and knowledge to answer questions such as: ■ How does English work? ■ How is it used in a variety of texts? ■ What is its role in society? ■ What is its relationship with the mind and thinking? ■ Where did it come from? ■ Why do different speakers speak the 'same' language differently? Through engaging with such questions, students also develop more general skills, such as collecting and evaluating data, solving problems and thinking critically.			
Film and Television Studies BA (Hons)	3	P391	260
This programme provides students with a wide-ranging knowledge of film and television and a sophisticated awareness of critical debates and issues associated with these media. The programme will explore 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, students will be encouraged to develop their own critical skills of description, analysis and evaluation.			
History BA (Hons)	3	V100 BA/His	260
This degree offers a wide range of approaches to the study of history and provides a thorough training in the skills of the practising historian. It covers world history from the Medieval period to the present day. Students may also study a modern language at a level appropriate to their knowledge.			
History and Politics BA (Hons)	3	LV21 BA/HP	260
This intellectually stimulating and exciting course allows students to gain specialised knowledge of two disciplines and to explore the possible interdisciplinary connections between them, e.g. political theory, the growth of the state, the development of European integration and regional development.			
History and Sociology BA (Hons)	3	LV31 BA/HSS	260
This degree is intended to develop skills and understanding of both past and present. By combining history with sociology, we set out to provide students with the ability to communicate effectively, to analyse oral, visual and written evidence, and to obtain a sound basic knowledge of the sociological approaches to the study of contemporary society and the methods used by sociologists to gain information about the social world.			
History of Modern Art, Design and Film BA (Hons)	3	WW26 BA/HADF	260
This degree, which was the first of its type in the country, gives students a broad-based understanding of the History of Art, Design and Film, in the 'modern' period from the eighteenth century to the present day. This combination of art, design and film is unusual and quite unlike traditional courses, it offers students the opportunity to explore the relationships between different visual areas and examine the social, political and theoretical context of cultural production and consumption.			
Journalism BA (Hons)	3	P500 BA/Jour	280
BA Journalism develops students' knowledge of both the practice and the theory of journalism and covers the main area area of 'news-making'. From the first year onwards students will produce work which engages with all aspects of the process of journalism, including news production, editing, writing and reporting. Various options in journalism are pursued from the second year onwards in areas such as international journalism, new media journalism and broadcasting. The course is one which aims to produce 'industry-standard graduates' and will develop students practical, critical and analytical skills.			
Journalism and English BA (Joint Hons)	3	PQ53 BA/JourE	280
BA Journalism and English fully encourages an engagement with, and the practice of, writing. Working within a critical and creative academic community, students will study and create a range of texts. From the first year student will encounter and produce work which covers all aspects of English and Journalism, including news practice, editing, writing and reporting, fictions, literary history and theory. Various options in both English and Journalism are pursued from the second year onwards in areas such as international journalism, new media journalism and literary practices and histories. The course is one which aims to produce graduates that are employable, critical and creative.			

Continued...

For entry requirements and more detailed course information see www.northumbria.ac.uk/coursesearch,
 Tel 0191 227 4064 or email ar.admissions@northumbria.ac.uk
 (8.30am – 5pm, Mon – Fri, or 24hr voicemail)

English, History and Visual Culture Courses

Title	Years	UCAS code	UCAS points
Media and Journalism BA (Joint Hons) BA Journalism and Media fully encourages an engagement with and the practice of, Journalism and Media. Working within a critical and creative academic community, students will study and create a range of media production and communication. This degree provides an exciting range of production and theory modules. Throughout, students will learn the necessary technical skills to understand and have competence in the different media and journalism processes, as well as knowledge of the codes and practices essential for producing any kind of media or journalism based work.	3	PP35 BA/MJour	280
Mass Communications BA (Hons) The course addresses new developments in mass and media communications, offering students the opportunity to engage with the processes of information movement, production and exchange. Students undertake practical and academic work in an exploration of mass media and media production. During the course of study, students develop products, strategies, ideas and campaigns across the variety of mass communications media, and also gain a thorough awareness of the political contexts and ethical dilemmas of communications and relations in a global marketplace.	3	P900 BA/MC	260
Media, Culture and Society BA (Hons) This innovative 3-year joint degree course in the social sciences and humanities allows students to explore key areas of media and cultural studies, politics and sociology together with a variety of relevant option choices. The core aim is to provide a contemporary understanding of how recent approaches to the mass media, culture and politics affect the contours of society, research and debate.	3	LP33 BA/MSC	260
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages BA (Hons) The rise in status of English as a global language has ensured a constant demand for English teachers in many countries of the world. Simply being fluent in English is not enough, and to be a successful English teacher, students need to have an in-depth understanding of a range of areas, including how people learn a language and how they can best be taught. This programme equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to work as professionals in this exciting and expanding field, whether for the long-term goal of establishing a career in TESOL or for the shorter-term aim of travelling and working abroad.	3	X162 BA/TESO	260
Visual Culture BA (Hons) This degree offers students the opportunity to undertake a course of study that focuses on twentieth century visual culture, including film and television, photography, architecture, design, fashion, advertising and fine art. The course emphasises the interaction between these different areas of cultural practice.	3	P390 BA/VC	260



Tom Evans

Tom Evans
English

"I am a real lover of knowledge."

'I came here as I had heard good things about the University and the English degree. Both have an excellent reputation. I am finding the degree really interesting in the sense of culture and education. It's fascinating to learn what has happened in our culture through English as a subject.'

I am a real lover of knowledge. I am currently looking at American modernism – the work seems easy when you don't mind immersing yourself in the subject.'

Great Learning

Northumbria's English, History and Visual Culture courses are an exciting range of academic subjects. There is a friendly atmosphere which comes from confidence in the high quality of our teaching and research. In fact our English degree courses were rated 'excellent' by the TQA assessment. Academic and creative work is closely integrated with the cultural and socio-economic development of the North East. We offer a wide variety of flexible courses and one of the main strengths is dedication to student support which results in high satisfaction and progression ratings.

Emma Kitching

English and Film Studies

"I am constantly learning about things that interest and inspire me."

'I have always enjoyed studying English and I read for pleasure in my spare time. I also enjoy watching films and thought that the course would be a great opportunity to broaden my knowledge in subjects I enjoy immensely. There's a wide range of option modules to choose from. This year I've opted for World Cinema and have really enjoyed it. We have had access to many different types of cinema including Iranian and African films which I doubt I would have otherwise been given the opportunity to see. I'm working on my dissertation now. It's all about the changing roles of Bond girls through the decades. I have always been a 007 fan, and it gives me the chance to satisfy my love for feminist approaches to film as well. I am constantly learning about things that interest and inspire me.'



Emma Kitching



Avram Taylor

Avram Taylor
History Lecturer

"We have a team of committed and enthusiastic staff, who are constantly trying to improve the student experience."

'I did my first degree at Northumbria as a mature student, which was a really positive experience. So I welcomed the opportunity to come back and teach with some of the people that had taught me while I was here. I enjoy teaching History, and engaging with students in a dialogue about the past and how it should be studied.'

At Northumbria we give a great deal of emphasis to the importance of personal contact with students, and this is reflected in both the system of guidance tutors we operate, and our style of seminar teaching, which encourages students to explore their own ideas about the topics they study. We are a small Division, but we strive to offer our students the broadest choice of options that we can, and we are pleased to be able to say that our options cover a broad chronological and geographical range.

The History degree is also distinctive in having a theoretical element built into each stage of the degree, and this offers students the opportunity to reflect on the nature of the subject, as well as discuss how history should be written in the twenty-first century. We also offer students the opportunity to do a work placement, which does much to build students' confidence, as well as helping with their subsequent employability. The History Division is a good place to work and study, we have a team of committed and enthusiastic staff, who are constantly trying to improve the student experience, and we offer a programme of undergraduate study that contains all of the elements necessary for a great learning experience.'

Great Experience

Our aim is to provide an excellent education in a pleasant and friendly environment which contributes to a great cultural experience. Students find themselves working in an energetic department with staff committed to helping them develop their skills to their maximum potential. We stress small-group teaching in order to enhance the learning experience. At all levels, students can expect guidance in order to meet their specific and individual learning needs.

Situated in Newcastle city centre, much of the English, History and Visual Culture teaching takes place in the newly refurbished Lipman Building, within easy reach of local cinemas, theatres, galleries and transport links.

Michael Lemin

English and History

“The written elements of my degree helped me with... what I’m doing now.”

‘My course was great. For me, I got a lot more out of my degree than a qualification; being elected Deputy President of the SU was an ideal opportunity to put something back into the University. When I graduated I didn’t feel I was ready to move on from Northumbria but I knew I was done with studying for a while!

I help students out but retain my student status. I was responsible for Rag Week this year. I’m really pleased with what we’ve achieved so far, the Exec has really made a difference. We’ve shaken up membership services and we’re making a real attempt to get more students involved – and get the message across to students that the SU is here to help students help themselves.

The written elements of my degree helped me with the writing and communication elements of what I’m doing now. I feel comfortable speaking to people and doing presentations.’



Michael Lemin

Claire Briston



Claire Briston

Visual Culture

“I like a challenge, learning new things and using new resources so this course is perfect for me”

‘It was the broadness of the course that first attracted me. I find that I’m reading, listening and learning about different aspects of visual culture everyday. The subject matter ranges from art, film, filmmaking, fashion, photography, to architecture, which covers a lot of my personal interests. Every lecture is different so you never get bored and information is easy to find with the library, eLearning portal and email support from tutors and with their open door access policy, you can pop in and see them whenever you like.

The course is mainly academic, but learning methods vary. We are currently making a fashion documentary, using specialist equipment, which I am really enjoying. I like a challenge, learning new things and using new resources so this course is perfect for me.’

Adele Aynsley

English

“Last year I went to a street dancing class, which was brilliant but now I’m in my final year there’s a much bigger workload”

‘I’m in my final year, working on my dissertation. I am at the stage of gathering critical sources to back up my own opinions, which includes spending a lot of time in the library looking through mountains of information. The great thing is in the second year and third year of studying you get to pick your own modules therefore get the opportunity to do things you really enjoy. There are options like creative writing and students into schools, which give you a break from all the reading, and there is even an option to go to America for 6 months!

When I’m not studying I’m usually at the gym attempting to get fit, or waitressing at Picasso’s, a local restaurant. I also love dancing and going out for the odd drink. Last year I went to a street dancing class, which was brilliant but now I’m in my final year there’s a much bigger workload... When we find time to go out, we usually find ourselves in Revolution because you simply cannot beat cherry cola vodka cocktails and with a list of different flavoured shots you can’t go wrong!’

Adele Aynsley

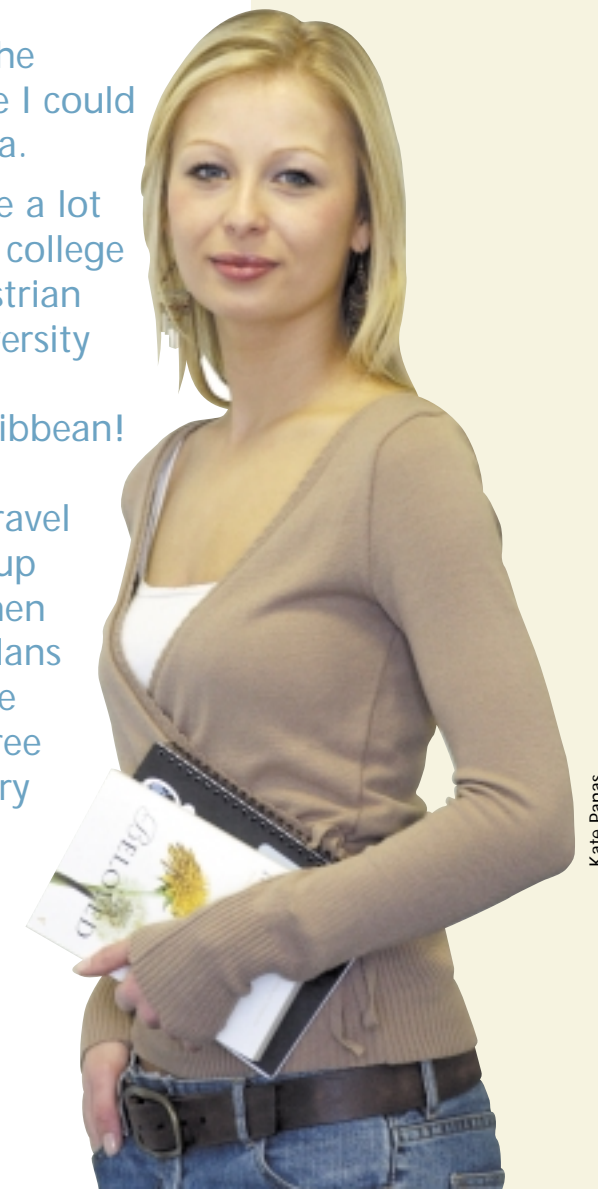


Kate Panas

British and American Cultures

“I chose Northumbria because I liked the structure; it was the only 3-year degree I could find that included a full year in America.

Atlanta is a real student city, and unlike a lot of American colleges it is a downtown college campus, with a city feel, and it’s pedestrian friendly. I worked part-time at the university which gave me enough money to visit Colorado, Texas, New York and the Caribbean! The year I spent abroad was the best experience of my life. It was good to travel with my year group; we’re a small group and I think we’ll be friends for life! When we came back every one of us made plans to go back and visit the new friends we made in America. Throughout my degree I’ve had so many new experiences, every day is an adventure. In the final year, everything comes together, especially with the dissertation, we’re able to bring the British and American experiences together.”



Kate Panas

Great Future

Our students go on to good jobs. Graduates take up careers in many areas including journalism, the media, teaching, librarianship, the Civil Service, writing and administration or they go on to further study.

Tessy Schill



Tessy Schill

Art History

“I have gone on to do an MA in Cultural Management here at Northumbria which I am really enjoying!”

‘I am from Luxembourg but I always wanted to study in the UK. I wanted to go somewhere that was genuinely British. The vast range of courses at Northumbria really appealed to me and when I visited Newcastle for the first time I fell in love. I was instantly impressed by the buildings, especially Grey Street and by the Metro system which brings you out to the coast where you can relax. I was fascinated by the vast amount of shopping opportunities and the nightlife. The whole structure of the city really appealed to me, the people are really friendly and it is a great place to study. It’s hard to decide what my favourite bits are. There is extreme cultural development happening here, with the BALTIC, the Millennium Bridge and the brand new music centre, the Sage, Gateshead. Newcastle is a vibrant city. I love it so much I don’t want to leave. For my dissertation I studied the “female representation of women in surrealism” and I now have gone on to do an MA in Cultural Management here at Northumbria which I am really enjoying!’

Will Ferguson

History

“I’ve found an ideal job working with students; I’m involved with music and culture, and doing something worthwhile.”

‘I chose the course as it was something I was interested in and good at. Plus the idea of being able to study in America really appealed. I relished the opportunity to work with people who encourage and nurture your ideas. What could have been a regular course becomes an exploration of issues you didn’t know existed.’

There are loads of excellent places to go for live music in Newcastle, the Cluny, Cumberland Arms, and the Students’ Union. I have been to see loads of big bands and even got to meet Moby at the Union. Most of all, I enjoy helping people – making a difference for fellow students and when I was a student I was part of Friends International which develops extra curricular activities for international students, getting them involved in social activities and in the culture of the area. It’s all about developing a more integrated student body, having fun and making friends around the world!

I graduated in 2004 and I’m now in the second year of an ideal job working with students, I’m involved with music and culture, and doing something worthwhile. I’m Vice-President for Education and Welfare at the Students’ Union.’

Will Ferguson



Alice Bowerman

English

“What I like most about the course is that it is very diverse and you have a lot of choice. It’s just a case of moulding the option modules to your specific interests.”

‘I had no idea what I wanted to do so I did a career test online and it came up with writing. It made sense because it was one of my better subjects at school. I felt like I was on another planet during my first week. It was very surreal, but really great. You can tell everyone feels the same way because they’ve all got the happily-confused look on their face!’

What I like most about the course is that it is very diverse and you have a lot of choice. It’s just a case of moulding the option modules to your specific interests. The course isn’t a breeze. You’re assessed by essays, usually about two each semester, there is a lot to research in the meantime and you find some interesting facts along the way. Fortunately, the library is the kind of place that you can stay all day without get without getting a bad back or frostbite! If I really need to concentrate, there are comfortable quiet zones, otherwise there is the basement café with sofas, food, drinks and my favourite...the hot mini doughnut machine! There is an entire floor of computers with internet connection to check your e-mails or do research.’

Briony Hanson

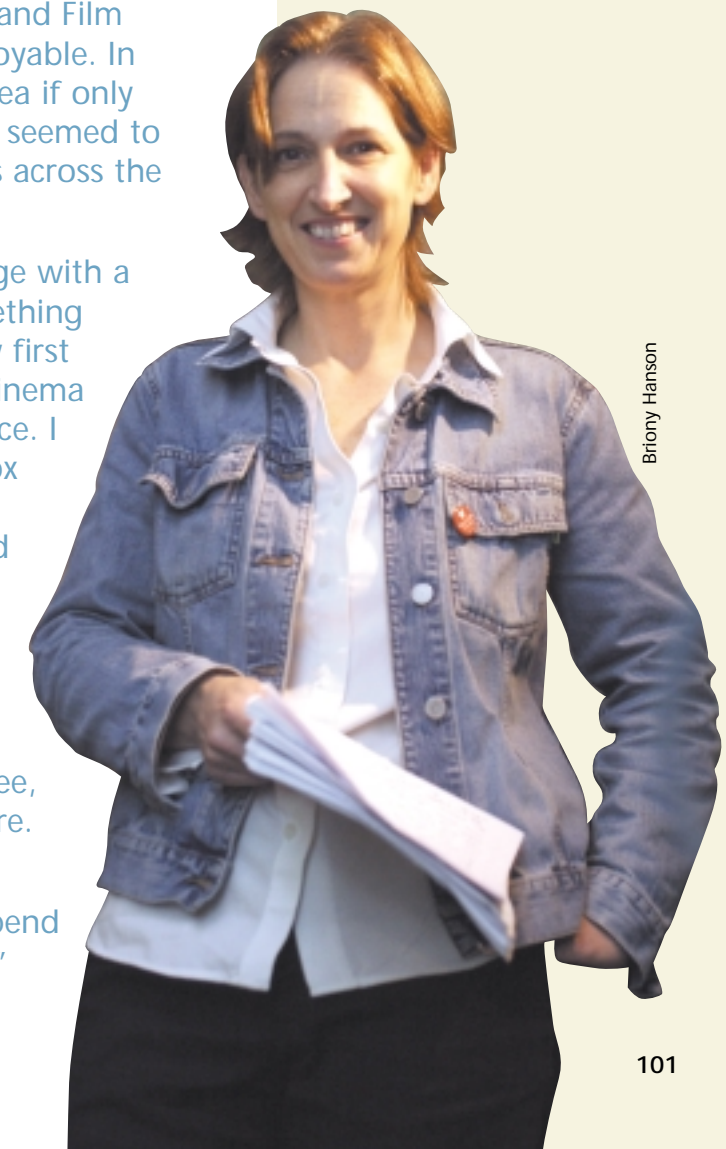
History of Modern Art, Design and Film

“Graduating with a History of Art, Design and Film degree, I never really expected to be employable. In advance the course had seemed a good idea if only because an average Monday morning task seemed to be watching a Bond movie (while students across the hallway struggled over maths or science)!”

Despite my best efforts, I seemed to emerge with a strong grounding in film knowledge, something which carried me over the threshold of my first job (an inauspicious debut as a Tyneside Cinema usherette), and has backed me up ever since. I persevered at the cinema, moving from box office to bookshop to programming, and eventually became director, before I moved on to run the British Film Institute’s Programme Unit. Finally, I joined The Script Factory – a small filmmakers’ organisation with big ideas – where I’m now a director staging live events with filmmakers from Robert Altman to Spike Lee, designed to inspire filmmakers of the future.

The BA Hons tag after my name may be a small thing – but the film knowledge I depend on every day, I owe entirely to my degree.”

Alice Bowerman



Briony Hanson