

**SOLENT**  
UNIVERSITY  
SOUTHAMPTON

www.solent.ac.uk  
20  
24



# Film, TV, media production and technology

2024 undergraduate courses





# Gold-standard teaching and opportunities

Our focus on practical knowledge and employment opportunities is just one of the reasons we're rated gold in the latest Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) review from the UK government Office for Students.

TEF recognises excellence in teaching, learning and achieving positive outcomes for students - with gold status awarded only to universities offering outstanding student experience and career outcomes.

**TEF**  
2023

Overall: **Gold**

Student experience: **Gold**

Student outcomes: **Gold**

Teaching Excellence Framework



The creative media industries are huge and growing – home to everything from international corporations to in-house media teams to independent producers and content creators. From film to TV, sports commentary to viral videos, there's something for everyone.

Directors, cinematographers, journalists, screenwriters, editors, sound designers, studio managers, technical specialists, content creators for social media – there's a huge range of roles available to suit your passion and your skills, giving you the chance to carve out a great career in this exciting industry.

With the expansion of media streaming for TV and mobile devices, the explosion of online channels and news sites, and a strong film industry, the entertainment, marketing and journalism industries need highly skilled content producers in every media.

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## Why Solent

Director? Cinematographer? Sound engineer? Journalist? Producer? Multi-skilled media professional? Or are you looking for a career in independent filmmaking, post-production, screenwriting or art direction?

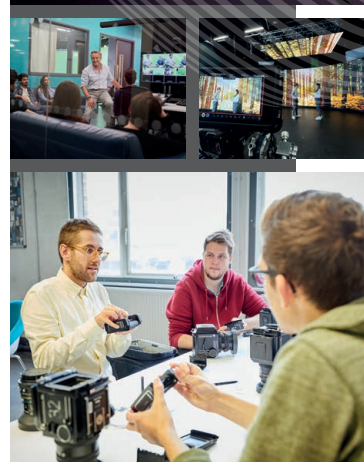
Our graduates get jobs like these because they have the right skills, experience, qualifications and opportunities.

Our TV production courses are ScreenSkills accredited, meaning we offer real-world opportunities and professional experiences.

Through Solent Productions and Solent Creatives you can work with clients on indie film productions, live briefs and projects.

And our professional connections offer plenty of other opportunities. You could be managing media for a local sport team, creatively producing work to support the NHS, filming sporting events, livestreaming festivals or specialising in content creation.

You will also have the opportunity to use our professional newsroom and radio studios, HD performance studio, mo-cap technology and HD broadcast vehicle, as well as our networked studios.



BA (Hons)

## Film and Television

UCAS tariff: 112–128

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/P303](http://www.solent.ac.uk/P303)

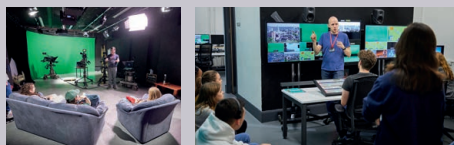
**Offering a unique blend of creative practice and critical studies, this degree equips you with production experience, creative and critical thinking skills, and a well-rounded understanding of the global film and television industries – as well as your place within it.**

It's a great choice if you're passionate about film and TV, providing the essential training and education for roles anywhere in the industry, from production to distribution or exhibition.

You'll learn from industry experts and practicing professionals, using industry-quality equipment and facilities, so when you graduate, you'll be

ready to join the professional networks of the film and TV industry.

**Top 3** in the UK for teaching for media studies (NSS 2023)



BA (Hons)

## Film Production

UCAS tariff: 112–128

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/313P](http://www.solent.ac.uk/313P)

**Develop your talent and build the core skills and knowledge to be a better filmmaker. Learn to understand cinema critically and creatively. And assemble the portfolio that will help you break into the film industry.**

With a wide range of high-end film equipment, a passionate teaching team and a reputation for producing well-rounded graduates, this is the perfect course for you – whatever area of film production you're interested in.

You'll have the chance to explore and develop your skills in all the key roles, from writing to directing, from cinematography and sound to editing and post-production, as well as in production, marketing and distribution.

Working in groups and as an individual, you'll explore and specialise in various roles, and develop a comprehensive portfolio of short films that showcase your talents.

**Top 3** in the UK for learning opportunities for cinematography and photography studies (NSS 2023)



BSc (Hons)

## Live Event Technology

UCAS tariff: 112–128

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/LET1](http://www.solent.ac.uk/LET1)

**Get hands-on with the technology behind modern entertainment, building a fantastic career as a highly skilled technician behind the scenes of today's biggest shows. Learn to engineer and manage audio, lighting, or broadcast systems, to bring events to dazzling life.**

The degree will help you develop a high level of working knowledge across various areas, leaving you well placed to install, operate and customise audio, video and lighting systems and pursue a range of careers in the music, broadcasting, and live events industry.

And you'll build up first-hand experience through our industry connections and work experience opportunities, ensuring you'll be a seasoned professional by the time you graduate.



BA (Hons)

## Media Production

UCAS tariff: 104–120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/P310](http://www.solent.ac.uk/P310)

**Learn to bring stories to life through the latest media platforms, sharpening your content creation skills and become the multi-skilled media professional that industry employers are looking for.**

Our cutting-edge curriculum explores traditional video, audio, photography and online media, as well as exciting emerging media practices to help you tell your stories in new and increasingly immersive ways.

With industry-standard facilities, a highly experienced teaching team, and an emphasis on real-world learning, you'll become an expert storyteller – collaborating with other media creators, working to real-world challenges and building essential experience, with a minimum

100 hours work experience built into the course. On graduating, you'll be perfectly placed to pursue hands-on work in media content creation in photography, video production, podcasting and social media marketing.

**2nd** in the UK for learning resources for media studies (NSS 2023)



BA (Hons)

## Post Production for Film and Television

UCAS tariff: 104-120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/PPF1](http://www.solent.ac.uk/PPF1)

**Become an essential post-production specialist, lending your talents, creativity and technical skills to cinema and prime-time television content. Whether you're editing video to shape the story, creating motion graphics to dazzle and amaze, or crafting the perfect soundscape, this ScreenSkills accredited degree is the ideal place to start.**

You'll build a broad range of expertise using our state-of-the-art post-production facilities, complete with professional-grade software such as Adobe Creative Suite, Final Cut Pro, DaVinci Resolve, Avid Media Composer with Baselight,

and Avid Pro-Tools – plus professional-grade post-production sound and colour grading facilities.

You will learn to create and edit for high-end drama and factual film and TV, to work collaboratively on a range of short fiction and documentary productions. This will help you to understand your creative role, as well as the practical techniques suitable for different forms of media. This fundamental experience means that when you graduate, you'll have an essential understanding of the production process to work across many areas of the industry.

BA (Hons)

## Television Production

UCAS tariff: 104-120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/TP01](http://www.solent.ac.uk/TP01)

**Build the experience to produce or direct on primetime TV with this ScreenSkills-accredited degree; course graduates have a track record of producing award-winning and broadcast-quality work, and have gone on to work on at Strictly, The Repair Shop, Sky News and more.**

The course is taught by experienced and passionate industry professionals, with an emphasis on 'learning by doing' that gives you plenty of opportunities to produce, shoot and edit your own original programmes – working collaboratively on everything from dramas and documentaries, to sports and music programmes, entertainment and reality TV.

And thanks to our well-developed network of professional contacts, you'll have fantastic chances to build your work experience and industry connections – recent students have got work experience at the BBC, the Royal Television Society, Camp Bestival, Boardmasters, the Society of American Cinema Editors, Southampton Football Club, the NHS and more.

We're also the official University media partner for Glastonbury Music Festival, sending our professional-grade outdoor broadcast vehicle and a crew of students to the festival each year to record interviews, gig footage, behind-the-scenes material and much more, often for use on BBC, Sky and other international broadcasters.

**Ranked 7th** in the UK for learning resources for cinematography and photography studies (NSS 2023)

## Foundation Year in Media

UCAS tariff: 48

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/fdn-media](http://www.solent.ac.uk/fdn-media)

**Designed to give you the essential knowledge, understanding and academic skills to excel in your film, TV, media or sports journalism degree, this one-year introduction to the broader subject area is a great way to access degree-level study – even if you don't have the relevant qualifications or experience you'd need to follow a traditional route into uni.**

BA (Hons)

## Sports Journalism

UCAS tariff: 104-120

Course page and UCAS code: [www.solent.ac.uk/SJ01](http://www.solent.ac.uk/SJ01)

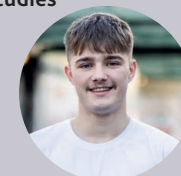
**Dive straight into the action and gain hands-on experience as a sports journalist on this fantastic, practical degree. You'll be a practising journalist from day one, developing your skills across print, broadcast, online and social media. You'll work with local and national sports clubs and teams, using industry-standard broadcast facilities such as our television and radio studios, and editing and production facilities – as well as professional grade camera, audio and lighting equipment.**

Benefiting from our outstanding teaching, facilities and contacts, you'll have plenty of opportunities to build the essential skills of a modern multimedia journalist, and to develop the professional habits that meet the needs of the modern sports journalism industry.

**Top 10** in the UK for academic support for journalism studies (NSS 2023)

**Coming to university has changed my life; it's made me realise who I want to be. There's something for everyone at Solent."**

**Jamie Hale**  
BA (Hons) Sports Journalism, student



## Specialist facilities

Professional equipment, studios and more

At Solent we invest around £1 million a year on maintaining and developing our student-facing specialist facilities – and our team of experienced technical instructors provide support and extensive training on the latest equipment and techniques, ensuring you have all the skills you'll need.



## Media production and technology

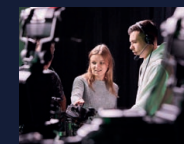
- Analogue and digital live sound desks
- Audio isolation booths for professional Foley and sound recording
- Audio post-production and dubbing theatres
- Electronics lab
- Five multi-track music recording studios
- Four radio studios
- Full 5.1 equipped, high-definition, multi-camera outside broadcast vehicle
- Location equipment for recording and live events

- ProTools|HD digital audio workstations for audio production tasks
- Three multi-camera TV green-screen studios
- 3D acoustics modelling software
- 5.1 surround-sound video dubbing studio
- 5.1 post-production suite



## TV and film

- Three high-definition TV studios – the largest capable of seating 64 people and running up to 10 cameras
- Over 70 Apple Mac workstations running Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro, Avid Media Composer and Avid Pro Tools, along with high quality post-production sound
- Extensive outside broadcast and live events equipment
- Colour grading suite – fully equipped digital lab enabling film grading before the final export
- Film studio – a dedicated acoustically treated space for set building and filming
- High-end professional camera equipment from Arri, Sony, Panasonic and Canon
- 5.2 surround sound audio post-production facilities



## Journalism

- Professional-style newsroom equipped with 40 iMacs running iNews, Final Cut and the Adobe CC suite, the industry-reflective newsroom acts as a centralised collaborative space for video, radio, web and print.
- Dedicated on-location mini studio for live news bulletins, linked to the main TV studios for larger projects and news events.
- Eight individual radio studios, featuring Sonifex S-1 mixing desks, Rode broadcaster microphones with Sennheiser headphones, Adobe Audition and Audacity for recording/editing and Q-Card for playback.
- Live on-location reporting via a LiveU backpack system, live-linking to the TV studio systems.
- A huge range of cameras and mics for photography, videography and audio recording.

**Solent sets you up to achieve not just after you graduate but during your course too!**

**Saj Rahman**  
BA (Hons) Sports Journalism, 2023

# New virtual production stage

## Training for the future of film and TV

Virtual production (VP) is the latest innovation in film and TV, made famous by Disney's hit Star Wars show *The Mandalorian* and since featured in blockbusters like *The Batman*. And our latest addition to the media facilities at Solent puts this cutting-edge technology straight into the hands of our students.



### What's virtual production?

Combining real actors and cameras with large LED backdrop screens displaying a virtual location, the system uses high-spec computers running Unreal Engine 5 (game engine software by Epic) to update the background display in real-time as the cameras move – providing a near-flawless illusion of depth and motion.

By removing a lot of the post-production work, VP offers advantages in speed of production – as well as more realistic, real-time lighting, and a more immersive, 'real' environment for actors, that allows them to engage and interact with their scene more authentically.

### Our new VP stage

Costing close to a million pounds, our new virtual production stage is one of the first in the country available for student teaching, and features:

- A 10m x 3m curved LED wall.
- A 4x2m LED ceiling display, for realistic overhead lighting effects.
- High-spec computers running Unreal Engine 5.
- Integrated camera systems.

### Bringing film, TV and digital arts together

Our virtual production studio provides film and TV students with fantastic new ways to bring their ideas to life – and valuable opportunities for collaboration with CGI, digital arts and computer games students in creating assets and scenes using Unreal Engine 5.

This cross-disciplinary, highly collaborative technology is opening up new potential career paths within virtual art departments – carving out a whole new sector within the industry, creating virtual worlds.

And thanks to our new virtual studio, you'll graduate with essential hands-on experience using these cutting-edge technologies – opening up new creative avenues and really boosting your employability.





### Multi-award-winning cinema, run by student volunteers

Solent is home to the only student-run cinema in Europe to feature a full active-3D digital projection system and a Dolby Atmos sound system, providing students with exceptional sound and mixing facilities.

The Dolby Atmos technology allows sounds to be placed and moved anywhere in the cinema –

including overhead – to make audiences feel as if they are inside the movie, not just watching it.

As well as presenting films in the new surround sound format, the system will allow students to mix content in a studio that has been equipped with industry-standard sound technology.

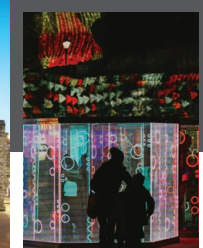
### Outside Broadcast (OB) vehicle

Our outside broadcast capabilities are based around a bespoke mobile broadcast vehicle, providing students with the facility to hone their craft outside of the classroom environment. The vehicle is equipped with industry-standard broadcast ENG cameras and relevant signal analysis, audio mixing capabilities up to 64 channels, flexible signal routing and distribution, and highly configurable communications systems.

The vehicle is regularly put through its paces across the south, and our students get unique access to festivals such as: Glastonbury, Teddy Rocks and Boardmasters; various broadcast events with the BBC, including the live national transmission of Children in Need; various sporting events including the Hampshire FA Cup finals; and corporate events such as politics shows and conferences. But it's not just about access to the vehicle – the staff work tirelessly to maintain links with the industry to bring in more diverse and interesting events each year.



# Our great city



With a population of almost 250,000 – including 46,000 students – Southampton is a thriving city that enjoys Championship football, international and county cricket and world-class sailing. Calshot Activity Centre hosts watersports, snowsports, rock climbing and the south's only indoor velodrome, while the neighbouring New Forest is a major draw for cycling, running and riding. Solent University enjoys partnerships with many sports organisations, including the Southampton Sports Centre and Gleneagles Equestrian Centre.

Shortlisted for UK City of Culture 2025, Southampton has great shopping and independent and state-of-the-art cinemas and theatres. And it's a city of live music; renowned venue The Joiners has launched many bands, stadium acts come to the Ageas Bowl, the O2 Guildhall hosts the mainstream, and festivals and street music thrive.

We're a major hub for film and media, too – part of the BFI's Film Hub South West, and home to an annual film festival, Southampton Film Week, run by regional film education charity City Eye and supported by Solent Uni over ten days of events in multiple venues across the city, including our own campus-based cinema. It's a great opportunity for our student film-makers to network, to make connections, and get their films in front of an audience.



## Dean Massey

Camera Operator/Editor, Sky News

Camera Operator of the Year, Royal Television Society Journalism Awards 2022

- BA (Hons) Television and Video Production, 2017
- – see BA (Hons) Television Production

### Did you always know you wanted to be a camera operator?

I decided I wanted to do camera work while I was at uni. Originally I wanted to do video production and was doing lots of work through Solent Creatives, making promo videos for businesses and filming live events through Solent Productions, such as Glastonbury. From those experiences I decided that behind the camera in TV was really where I wanted to be.

### How did you get your role with Sky?

In the December before I graduated, I managed to secure a job in a trainee position at Sky News which was part of a bursary scheme. That was to start in the July, so I graduated and went straight into the job, where I had the opportunity to go round all the different departments at Sky News getting training in sound, editing, lighting, camera work and building up a general skillset. I did that role for a year, and then a job came up in what we call 'shoot edit', which is a camera operator/editor – I managed to get that and that's what I've been doing since.

### Tell us a bit more about what life as a camera operator is like.

My job is so spontaneous that I often don't know what I'm doing until the day. I've done some really interesting projects with Sky – at the start of 2020 I was in London and had a call from work at 9am, asking me to go to Australia at midday! Four hours later I was sat on a plane flying direct to Sydney to cover the Australian bush fires. Overall it was an incredible experience – we went into the exclusion zone and filmed all the heroic people that were helping save neighbours who couldn't get out. Technically it was also really challenging because of the ash flying everywhere, the light, and of the course the danger aspect of it.

While we were flying home I had a notification on my phone that our next job was in Iraq, so when we stopped in Dubai we changed course and flew straight there.

Early in the pandemic I even filmed one of the UK Prime Minister's daily briefings; a different broadcaster films every day and takes turns to supply it to enable it to be fair for all of the stations- so when it was Sky's turn, my role was to go in, set the camera up and basically start filming as they came in.

It was really nerve-wracking – probably the most nervous I've been about filming anything ever. The sheer amount of people watching it there and then, and it was just me that was filming the head-on shot – it was a lot of pressure.

I also worked on the Queen's Christmas speech a few years ago, and I was in Washington in December for Trump's impeachment. That's what I love about this job – that I just don't know what I'll be doing next!

### How do you feel your studies at Solent helped prepare you for your role?

Solent gave me so many opportunities for work experience through Solent Creatives and at events such as Glastonbury – it seemed like every week I was able to do something new, which really helped to push me further. Also, having all of the equipment loans was incredible to build upon my skills – I made big use of it and had the most loans out of the hatch in my year! Without the opportunity to do that, I don't think I'd be where I am now.

### What advice would you give to those wanting to follow in your footsteps?

Keep creating videos as much as you can, and experiment as much as you can. Take every opportunity that Solent offers through Solent Creatives and Solent Productions, and fill your free time at university by being creative – making your own videos and getting feedback.

# Research at Solent

**At Solent, research isn't just for academics, or for postgrads and PhDs. Research is for everyone, from undergrad up.**

Studying with us, you're part of an active research community – not just learning from researchers in every field, but incorporating that research into your studies.

The way we teach, the practical projects and applied theory you'll be studying? It's informed by the latest research, inspiring and encouraging you to ask questions, investigate problems, propose solutions and create new knowledge. And ensuring you'll be at the forefront of industry thinking when you graduate.

Along with the habits, thinking processes, and curiosity to become a learner for life – evaluating research and industry developments throughout your career – you'll have plenty of opportunities to develop your own research as well, or become a part of a larger project.

Solent students have co-authored papers, worked hand-in-hand with industry on knowledge exchange projects, crewed research films, and even presented their work at the UK parliament.

It's a chance to deliver real-world impact in our communities and our society – and it's open to everyone.

## Our areas of focus

Across all of our courses we deliver a unique curriculum shaped around inspiring industrial partnerships, ground-breaking professional insights, knowledge exchange and research, divided into four key areas of focus:

- **Environment and engineering**  
Safe and sustainable energy, transport and material systems.
- **Social research and policy**  
Improving individual and community wellbeing through practice, provision and policy.
- **Human function and health**  
The evaluation of human function, health and the social context.
- **Media, culture and the arts**  
Communication, cultural and media studies, creative arts and practice.

## Screening Sexual Violence: Silence Breaking and Performance Activism Post #MeToo

Dr Donna Peberdy  
Research Lead for Media, Culture and the Arts

- Sexual violence is an urgent global health and
- human rights issue with serious social and
- economic implications. Disproportionately affecting women and girls, sexual violence is vastly underreported, its victims and survivors silenced by stigma, prevailing myths, systemic and structural inequalities.

Supported by a prestigious Mid-Career Fellowship by the British Academy, this ambitious interdisciplinary research project explores how sexual violence is represented on screen, assessing the role and potential of film and television in shaping public understanding.

Analysing 80 short films from six countries, along with filmmaker interviews, the project aims to connect and inform local, national and international communities and educational groups.

Through varied public engagement activities and resources – including workshops, an online short film repository, parent/teacher screening materials and filmmaker guidelines – the project will fuel discussion and understanding, helping create a wider, better-informed collaborative network to end violence against women and girls.



## Alice Stansfield

In-house Creative, Celebrity Cruises

BA (Hons) Film and Television, 2016

### How did university prepare you for your career?

It was the outside-of-university activities in particular that helped prepare me for the world of media. Our course tutors often encouraged us to take advantage of what the University had to offer in terms of connections, so I worked closely with Solent Creatives throughout my course to start my own freelancing company and make contacts in the media industry. The course provided me with the knowledge, whereas the University provided me with the on-set experience.

### What have you learned has been most valuable to you in your career?

My studies fuelled my passion and curiosity for film and television. I wrote for Diegesis magazine alongside my studies and this allowed me to understand my thought process when observing media and see a new level to all the media we consume.

In terms of career it really was the hands-on university experience that helped pave my way throughout the industry. At Solent I was lucky to earn a place at Glastonbury Festival which led me to work as a graphics operator and vision mixer onboard cruise ships and for NBC's Peacock show, *LIT* during the pandemic.

### Tell us a little about your career story so far.

I freelanced for a while and thoroughly enjoyed it, but I wanted to learn more from other people. I had worked in other production companies – such as Southpoint Films and Woodcut Media – while still at university. Then in the week of graduation I found out I had a job with Royal Caribbean International, sailing the world, working as a broadcast technician.

I did this for roughly five years moving up from a Broadcast Technician to Head Broadcast and even winning Employee of the Month on Anthem of the Seas, my last ship before the pandemic.

On hold like so many of us, I started working remotely on *LIT*. The team, although remote, was a group of like-minded individuals ready to find the best feel-good celebrity stories out there. I worked as a script writer, researcher and a graphics operator, which I loved.

When sadly the show closed, I began working at Celebrity Cruises - but this time shoreside! I am the UK's in-house creative, working on all aspects of graphic design and video editing for the company.

### Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves.

We work closely with our office in Miami to understand the brand needs and then I create deliverable assets for our EMEA market. A corporate job is certainly different from a life at sea or in the television studio, but everyday I get to storyboard, video edit, work with the social team and improve my graphic design skills with magazine print work or website assets.

It's certainly stretching my creative abilities since I joined in January 2022. I've been part of the newest ship launch in Southampton, Celebrity Beyond, bringing me full circle with where it all started at university.

### What's your career highlight?

Everything I've seen and done on my travels.

### What is film?

Creating, capturing and sharing stories to inspire, entertain and enjoy.



### What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

- If you want to work in any capacity of creativity - from film and television to graphic design - my biggest advice is never stop creating. Whenever applying for jobs or work experience everyone just wants to see what you do, and your work can speak for yourself but you have to create it. And it's okay to keep reworking and updating your work.

So create every day, even if you are just experimenting. Getting on social media to share your video work is a great way to get attention.



## Daniel Sheldon

Football News Reporter, *The Athletic*

BA (Hons) Sport Journalism, 2018



“ I have had many pinch-yourself moments so far. Interviewing Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho and Jürgen Klopp all stand out.”

### How did university prepare you for your career?

University helped me prepare for my career by giving me the platform to go out and get real-life work experience. Not only that, the lecturers on the course have a plethora of contacts who they are more than happy to let you use if you ask them. Because of these contacts, I managed to get myself freelancing opportunities at M & Y News Agency.

### Tell us a little about your career story so far.

My freelance career started at the beginning of my second year when I started covering Swindon Town's matches for M & Y News Agency. That continued throughout the season, and I remember seeing the course leader at Fratton Park for one of Portsmouth's fixtures and saying that hopefully covering Swindon would lead to bigger and better things. After proving myself at Swindon, I was given the opportunity to cover Bournemouth and Southampton in the Premier League for the national newspapers. To be reporting on Premier League games before the start of my final year at Solent is something that I am immensely proud of.

### Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves.

A typical match day involves me arriving at the stadium two hours before the game starts. This gives me time to chat to other journalists, eat some lunch and then do any final preparation for the match, if I need to. I then watch the match at the same time as writing my report, which is normally sent once the referee blows the final whistle. After that, I sit down in the press conference to speak to the managers. I then rewrite my

match report but base it on what the managers have said. From there, I go into the mixed zone to try and grab a player to interview for a follow-up piece which will appear in the newspapers on Monday.

### What's your career highlight so far?

I have had many pinch-yourself moments so far. Interviewing Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho and Jürgen Klopp all stand out. But my current highlight is having an article published in *The Times*. It is my dream to one day work there, so when I saw my name written above the story I had written, it was a moment I won't forget.

### What is your area of study to you?

Sports journalism isn't just watching Premier League football and writing about it. It's about being inquisitive, having a natural flair to your writing, having the confidence to ask questions, and ultimately picking up a telephone to ring someone. As a generation that spends a lot of time playing on our phones, all too often we are too scared to use it to call someone.

### What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

If I were to give one tip to students looking for a career in this industry, it would be to put yourself out there. Had I not volunteered at M & Y News Agency in my first year, I wouldn't have been covering Premier League football in my final year. Don't just expect opportunities to fall into your lap – you have to make them happen for yourself.

# Real-world work experience

Our unique relationships within the industry have led to our students covering international sport, filming headline acts at Glastonbury and Bestival, and distributing content globally for the BBC and festival clients.

Through Solent Productions, our students provide multi-camera coverage at music and sports festivals including Glastonbury, Boardmasters, Bestival and NASS, as well as working on projects with organisations such as the BBC, *NME*, Sky Sports and Radio 1Xtra.

Solent TV provides a web broadcasting platform for students to showcase their video content and experience programme commissioning and promotion.

Solent Creatives takes advantage of growing demand, matching students with clients on freelance opportunities.

Do more with your downtime through the Students' Union societies, including Solent DJ and Production Society, Sonar Film and Solent Live Events, as well as Sonar TV, Magazine and Radio.



Real-world opportunities is a huge part of what we offer at Solent Uni – take a look at just some of the experience our recent students have built up.



NHS Recruitment, Solent University Student Film



NHS Recruitment Solent University Student Film

## Student films to raise mental health awareness

Second-year TV production students worked with NHS staff and patients from Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust to deliver a set of videos to raise awareness of mental health for Mental Health Awareness Week 2023.

Working in teams, the student produced seven highly creative videos on subjects such as gambling, men's mental health, transgender, international nurses, young carers, mental health employment case studies and consent to share.

As well as providing real-world learning opportunities for the students, the creative films formed part of Southern Health's Mental Awareness Week campaign, and gave students an insight in mental health and the services available for people in Southampton and across Hampshire.



“Embedding this kind of real-world learning within the curriculum empowers the students to take ownership over their work, engages them with the wider community, and accelerates their professional learning.”

Kate O'Driscoll, Senior Lecturer,  
TV Production

BA (Hons) Post Production for Film and Television student, Ida Ronning, who worked on the international nurses video, said, “This project has been a great way for us to gain experience and understand what it's like to work with real clients. I've learnt how to work professionally with clients, how to communicate and plan effectively and how to work together as a team to overcome any challenges. This project has been a great learning experience.”

## Providing media support to local football teams



Saj Rahman  
BA (Hons) Sports Journalism, 2023

The course is tailor-made for work experience, as for the most part sports takes place on the weekend. I lose track exactly what I've done because the lecturers email out so many opportunities!

Some of the work experiences I've had are running the Eastleigh FC social media output for two years; I had full reign on creativity and access, mixing with the players and managers, as well as some loanees at the greatest clubs in the world!

One of my pieces on Ramadan had Exeter City in League One reach out to me to do the same with their players, so the contacts I made were huge.

On top of that I've commentated on football for Guernsey FC and made contacts with several Sky Sports, ITV and BBC colleagues through that; I've even got the opportunity to commentate on the Island Games 2023 football final, broadcast across the world.

I genuinely don't believe these opportunities can be boasted about so consistently by any other university course, and that's thanks to the lecturers and the huge list of people they know. Solent sets you up to achieve not just after you graduate but during your course too!



Chloe Boyne  
BA (Hons) Sports Journalism, first year

During last season, I was a social media officer at North Leigh FC (in Oxfordshire) and the head of media at a local club in Southampton; I've now joined the media team at Eastleigh FC in the National League. That opportunity was encouraged by my lecturers and facilitated by the course team.

I was able to put my skills learned in seminars into practice at the football clubs, especially in the audio and video modules. I enjoyed the social media side, putting together Twitter updates, video packages, even live commentary of the games. And for my assessment in the video module, I centred it around the captain of the team and included clips and interviews from a training evening, using the professional equipment from Solent's media equipment store!

I've really learned to push myself outside of my comfort zone by trying new ideas and testing myself at every opportunity.

I'll always be grateful for the opportunities at these football clubs in building up my experience and allowing me to develop my skills.





## James Williams

Live Video Systems Engineer, Amazon

BSc (Hons) Broadcast Systems Engineering, 2014  
– see BSc (Hons) Live Event Technology

### How did university prepare you for your career?

The vast number of work experience opportunities combined with highly relevant teaching units, as well as access to industry-standard facilities, made finding my first job remarkably straightforward for me.

Being able to walk into an interview and have a grounding in the terminology and fundamental principles that underpin the technology used gives an instant leg-up on the competition. Combine that with the industry work experience – which I would encourage every student to take up when offered – and your potential employer will recognise that they have a well-rounded starting point in you as a candidate.

No other university I looked at was able to offer the same level of support in setting me up for a job in the industry at the end of my studies.

- **What is your favourite Solent memory?**
- Working at Glastonbury in 2014 as the OB unit manager was a stand-out highlight. We had a complicated rig to put in place for the headline Saturday night act (Fat Boy Slim) which was a triumph for all involved when we pulled it off. We operated with such professionalism, as well as having an absolute blast – truly awesome. The previous year we also had our Rudimental footage played on BBC3, which was another personal highlight of mine.

### Tell us a little about your career story so far.

I was lucky enough to secure a place at Arqiva – the UK infrastructure company that operates the terrestrial TV network Freeview – on its graduate programme, where I quickly worked my way up to become a platform developer working on OTT (over the top) products and services – live streaming and Video on Demand (VoD). I have recently made the hop to a new position working at Amazon Video.

### What's your career highlight?

Live streaming the FIFA Club World Cup and building a live to VoD system (from scratch) in two weeks flat!

### What is media to you?

Media is a word commonly overused, but in the context of media technology it is TV and broadcasting technology.

### What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

Be open to new things. Work hard at your studies, but enjoy Southampton too, and ALWAYS get involved in the work experience that comes your way. You won't know you love something until you try it, and what you think you like you might end up hating in reality – so find out now what it is that gets you out of bed in the morning!





## Amazing work experience at the UK's top festivals

Whether you want to be part of the programme and website production team at a major venue or create media content for smaller events, Solent has unparalleled links with some of the UK's best-known music festivals.

The University has been making waves on the festival scene for some time. Its track record stretches back over 10 years when it started working at Glastonbury as one of the festival's major broadcast media providers. Since then, Solent's network has expanded to include a unique relationship with Bestival and Camp Bestival that provides our students with enviable work experience opportunities. Boutique events such as Boardmasters, NASS and Teddy Rocks also feature on our list of clients.

As the festival scene continues to grow, Solent's exclusive agreement with the Association of Independent Festivals (AIF) will provide students with access to professional developments in music festival environments throughout the UK and Europe.



SOUTH COAST

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## Part of the South Coast Institute of Technology

Solent University is a leading member of the South Coast Institute of Technology (IoT), a partnership of education providers and industry-leading employers that are working together to develop opportunities for education and employment in the local maritime, engineering, and digital industries.

The Solent region is going through a new wave of growth and innovation focused on the maritime, engineering and digital industries – some of the biggest and most exciting sectors in our region. And that expansion is opening up plenty of career opportunities for talented, highly skilled people like you.

Our highly supported and practical higher technical qualifications, apprenticeships, professional qualifications, and university degrees are developed and taught in collaboration with employers, offering high-quality training, expert teachers, and state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, alongside real-world experience to prepare you for a fantastic career in the maritime, engineering or digital industries.

So if you're looking to live, study and work in the Solent region, explore our range of IoT courses – to unlock your full potential, pursue your dream job and make a positive impact on the world.

We work with well-known employers to deliver the courses the maritime, engineering and digital industries are looking for – industries which are hungry for new, talented leaders, engineers, technologists, technicians and creatives.

Find out more about the South Coast IoT at [www.solent.ac.uk/IoT](http://www.solent.ac.uk/IoT)





## Craig McDougall, Emma Lieghio

Founders, Neck of the Woods Films

BA (Hons) Film and Television Studies, 2013  
– see BA (Hons) Film and Television

### How did university prepare you for your career?

University was really important for us – it taught us a lot of the skills that we've needed to run a business. We learned a lot about what makes a successful and impactful film, about the technical process – and we learnt a lot from the mistakes we were able to make safely. More than that though, it taught us a lot about how to communicate with people and work in a team to meet a creative goal. Those skills have been vital for us – they help us start and maintain the relationships that allow us to continue our careers.

### Favourite Solent memory?

It's difficult to pick a single memory from our time at university as being our favourite. The moment that probably defined us most as professionals was when our lecturers had a meeting with us to discuss our futures and opened up the possibility of pursuing a more practical career. We didn't necessarily have the confidence to fully take the leap ourselves, but this moment solidified things for us and has launched our careers. We owe our lecturers a lot for that.

### Tell us a little about your career story so far.

We started a video production company after graduating from Solent in 2013. Over seven years of working in the video production industry we learned a lot about ourselves, the kinds of work we wanted to do and how we wanted to be perceived – so when the pandemic happened, it was an opportunity to do a bit of a hard reset. A total rebrand was something that had been on the cards for a while but we just never had the time to do it so this seemed like the perfect opportunity.

Our company, Neck of the Woods Films, is a story-focused video production and animation company working with charities, nonprofits and businesses with a socially positive mission – we wanted to focus on working with people who were trying to do good in the world.

### Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves.

A typical day is so hard to describe because we're usually working on so many different projects at once. It's fair to say that every day we're working on film, animation and illustration projects simultaneously.

For the production side of things, we're usually pretty split. Some of us will be out on shoots, while others are in the office either working on concepts for projects, proposals, logistics and editing. We have a real mix of skills, so we're able to split our time between all of this, which is great.

For our illustration and animation team, they'll usually be working on creating assets for projects and then creating the final projects.

### What challenges have you faced? How have you dealt with them?

One of the biggest challenges that we've faced recently is growth and how to manage that. We've hired four people (two of which are Solent alumni!) since 2021 – growing to a team of six.

Increasing the number of people at the company has been really positive but also a real learning experience. Not only are we now having to manage the logistics of organising people across lots of projects, but we're also having to find ways to make the dynamic between us as smooth as possible.

We're a remote team, so we're having to find ways that we can stay connected as people. We regularly catch up online and in person (as often as we can), and we try to give our team ownership in what we do and how we do it. In some senses we're almost more like a collective, which makes for a better work environment and keeps us all working together well.

### What's been your greatest achievement in your career so far?

There's been so many over the years! Winning our first professional job was a great feeling. Knowing that we were beginning a career where we get to be our own bosses and create the types of films we wanted to make will always be a great moment for us.

More recently it would be our social enterprise work. As part of our social mission we want to support young and emerging filmmakers as much as possible. We do this through our annual Young Filmmakers Fund – where we support two young filmmakers with financial support, mentoring and the opportunity to screen their film to their friends, family and peers.

We've also done this through talks at schools and colleges across Hampshire and Somerset, including with the BBCs 'Share Your Story' tour. And we also had the opportunity to sponsor a student at the recent Solent Film and TV Awards which was fantastic and we are excited to play a part in this event going forward.

### What is film?

For us, film is everything – it's our livelihood and our way of expressing ourselves. It's also a really great way of telling stories that really reach and connect with people. It's so packed with meaning and has the potential for discussion and deeper understanding. We genuinely think that film has the potential to change the world for the better.

### What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?


Use your time at university well. It's a great opportunity to make mistakes, meet like-minded people and network.

Value yourself. If you're doing unpaid work experience, make sure it's for a company you can really learn something from or in an industry you're keen to work in. If not, your time is better spent creating your own spec pieces where you can show off your unique style and start building your ideal portfolio.



## Links with industry

- Taught by an experienced teaching team of experts and industry practitioners, our courses are regularly revised to keep up-to-date with the latest industry developments.
- Our content is kept current through our industry connections and links with the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Audio Engineering Society and UK:Music.
- You'll gain insights through inspiring guest lectures delivered by experts from the film, TV, special effects and creative industries, including Oscar and BAFTA award-winning directors, producers, actors and cinematographers, giving you a unique insight into the industry.
- Guest speakers – including Oscar-winning sound designers and editors of films and TV series such as *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Baby Driver*, *Apocalypse Now*, *The Pianist*, *Frozen Planet*, *The Godfather*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, as well as special effects artist Neill Gorton (*Saving Private Ryan*, *Children of Men*, *Doctor Who*) – will give you valuable insight, career advice and networking opportunities.
- Previous students have benefitted from visits by editors Mick Audsley (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Murder on the Orient Express*) and Mark Sanger ACE (*Jurassic World Dominion*, *Pokémon Detective Pikachu*).

 Our BA (Hons) Television Production and BA (Hons) Post-Production for Film and Television degrees are ScreenSkills accredited.



## Hannah Wales

Content Director/Business Owner, Fandango Digital

BA (Hons) Media with Cultural Studies, 1996  
– see BA (Hons) Media Production

### What were the best bits of your course?

All of it! I really enjoyed the practical elements (radio editing, filming around town with those massive old BBC cameras!) and, in particular, writing in different styles. The lectures were interesting and thought-provoking, and the tutors engaging.

### Tell us about your career story so far.

After 18 years as a writer, editor, researcher and then marketing manager at an international publishing company, I worked a short stint at a marketing agency. Learning new skills and broadening my traditional marketing portfolio, a year later, in April 2016, a colleague and I set up our own digital marketing agency, Fandango Digital. We have an office in Chichester and work closely with other local marketing and branding agencies, filling the gaps in projects that they cannot service themselves.

### What does a typical working day look like for you?

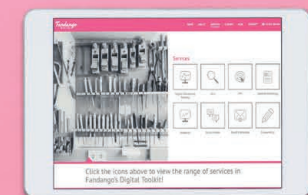
Content writing takes the bulk of my time when I am not growing the business through networking or doing day-to-day business tasks. This is content for websites, paid ads, blogs, social media and email marketing.

### What were the top three things you learnt at Solent?

- Learning to write in different styles.
- Thinking outside of the box – questioning normal concepts and seeing things from different perspectives.
- Presentation skills – I hated it at the time, but it is something I look back on now when I need to and remember that if I could do it then, I can do it now! I grew in confidence, both around other people and in my abilities.

- Any advice you'd give to those thinking of studying at Solent?
- Do it! It is a fantastic place to study, with excellent facilities, great staff and a beautiful city to explore. It really did shape my career and enabled me to do what I love most ... write!

“Do it! It is a fantastic place to study, with excellent facilities, great staff and a beautiful city to explore. It really did shape my career and enabled me to do what I love most ... write!”



## Andy Taylor

Freelance producer/director

BA (Hons) Television and Video Production, 2016  
– see BA (Hons) Television Production

### How did university prepare you for your career?

I gained a huge amount of practical experience in professional environments working at music festivals and on real client work with Solent Productions, alongside the support and freedom to experiment on my own projects. I also learnt how to network and build a base of contacts which helped hugely – after all, the TV industry is heavily based on networking!

### Favourite Solent memory?

Directing and editing my final major project film was the most stressful, most fun and most rewarding thing I've ever done. I learnt such a huge amount and had some amazing experiences with some incredible friends, and in the end we came out with something that we were all really proud of.

### Tell us a little about your career story so far.

I started full-time as an edit assistant at Sunset+Vine on the Monday after my final hand-in back in May 2016. Since then I've worked in Middle Eastern deserts, Australian beaches, tropical islands, Chinese city centres and everything in between. I started off doing a very technical job, but before long it was noticed that I could edit. Six months to the day after I started at the company I gained my first broadcast editor credit. Soon after that I was editing pretty much full-time, and then it wasn't long before the powers that be noticed that I could shoot.

Then, after a few years working for other people, I set up my own company with the aim of making content that people are excited to see, and creating an environment where people are excited to do their best work.

### What are you working on at the moment?

I'm working with Warner Brothers Discovery on the UCI Mountain Bike World Series and also a lot of projects with Formula E. I'm also building a service for sports teams to maximise the usage of their existing media on social channels.

### What's your career highlight?

Spending five weeks in Bermuda shooting news coverage at the 35th America's Cup. I had two days off out of 36 in total, but it's quite hard to have a bad time in Bermuda! I also shot my first ever live links for the BBC, which was good fun if you like a bit of pressure!

### What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

Work hard, grab every opportunity you can with both hands, and make sure you leave every job having been a positive influence.

“Working in TV is hard work and long hours, but incredibly rewarding.”



## Course list

Course	UCAS tariff points	Placement year available	Foundation Year available
BA (Hons) Film and Television	112–128	-	Y
BA (Hons) Film Production	112–128	-	Y
BSc (Hons) Live Event Technology	112–128	-	-
BA (Hons) Media Production	104–120	-	Y
BA (Hons) Post Production for Film and Television	104–120	-	Y
BA (Hons) Sports Journalism	104 - 120	Y	Y
BA (Hons) Television Production	104–120	-	Y
Foundation Year in Media	48	-	-

## Postgraduate study at Solent

Solent University also offers a range of postgraduate courses, meaning that if you decide to continue your studies after your undergraduate degree, there are many options available to you.

Whether you are looking to progress in your current career or enter a new area, we offer a variety of courses to help you reach your goals.

Course	Course length	URL
MA Film Production	1 year full-time/2 years part-time	<a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/ma-film-production">www.solent.ac.uk/ma-film-production</a>
MA Post Production in Film and Television	1 year full-time/2 years part-time	<a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/ma-post-film-tv">www.solent.ac.uk/ma-post-film-tv</a>
MA Sports Broadcast Journalism	1 year full-time/2 years part-time	<a href="http://www.solent.ac.uk/ma-sports-broadcast-journalism">www.solent.ac.uk/ma-sports-broadcast-journalism</a>

# How to apply

Solent University code name: **SOLNT**  
Solent University UCAS code: **S30**



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