

# Creative Courses, the Real Data

---

Film, Media, Drama, Fine Art and Photography,  
how hard to get in, what they pay and the joint-honours hedge

*Real offer rates from UCAS data, for parents weighing a creative degree.*

**@EduStrategyCaroline**

# Joint creative courses at the top 50 UK unis

Pair a creative subject with English, History, Philosophy or a language at a QS top-50 uni. Sorted by QS UK rank.

COURSE (PROVIDER)	QS UK	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	OFFER RATE
Philosophy & History of Art (UCL)	4	AAA	73%
French & History of Art (UCL)	4	AAA	95%
English with Film Studies (KCL)	5	AAA	85%
Film and Television (Edinburgh)	6	AAA	11%
History of Art & English Lit (Edinburgh)	6	AAB	70%
Drama and Film Studies (Manchester)	7	BBB	54%
Film Studies & English Lit (Manchester)	7	AAB	79%
Film and English (Bristol)	8	A*AA	79%
Theatre and English (Bristol)	8	AAA	88%
Film and Literature (Warwick)	10	AAB	62%
English & Theatre Studies (Warwick)	10	ABB	81%
Drama and Film (Birmingham)	11	AAB	82%
Film & TV Studies / Politics (Glasgow)	12	AAB	83%
English and Film Studies (Leeds)	13	AAB	84%
Film and English (Southampton)	14	BBC	72%
Visual Arts and Film (Durham)	16	AAA	99%
English and Film Studies (St Andrews)	19	A*AA	26%
Art History and Philosophy (St Andrews)	19	A*A*A	34%
Film and Television Production (York)	25	AAA	30%
Drama and English (Sussex)	33	BCC	96%
Drama with Film (Royal Holloway)	45	ABB	92%
History of Art and Politics (SOAS)	47	BBC	99%

The spread is the point. Same subject runs from 11% (Edinburgh Film & TV) to 99%. Maroon = the selective pinch points.

# Single honours, by creative subject

A spread from selective to accessible, hardest first. Offer rate is offers per application, not a difficulty score.

COURSE (PROVIDER)	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	HISTORIC ACHIEVED GRADE	OFFER RATE
<b>Film Studies (theory, suits essay A-levels)</b>			
Film Studies (Essex)	BCC	AAA-CDD	44%
Film (Westminster)	AAB	A*AA-CCD	56%
Film Studies (Warwick)	BBB	A*A*A-BBB	62%
Film Studies (KCL)	AAB	A*A*A-BBC	76%
<b>Film / TV Production (practical, portfolio or interview)</b>			
Film Practices (Newcastle)	AAB	A*A*A-BBC	33%
Film Practice (UAL)	BBC	A*A*A-CCD	44%
Filmmaking (Man Met)	BBC	A*AA-CCD	47%
Filmmaking (UWE Bristol)	ABB	A*AA-CCD	53%
<b>Media / Communications</b>			
Communication Design (Glasgow Sch of Art)	AAB	A*A*A*-CCD	19%
Graphic Comm Design (UAL)	AAA	A*A*A-CCC	25%
Media (UCL)	ABB	A*A*A-BCC	37%
Creative Media Arts (Westminster)	BBB	A*AA-DDD	56%
<b>Drama / Theatre / Acting (often audition)</b>			
Acting (Surrey)	BBB	A*A*A-CCD	11%
Acting (Man Met)	BBC	A*AA-CCD	19%
Acting (Rose Bruford)	BBC	A*AA-DDD	24%
Drama (Essex)	BCC	AAA-CCD	39%
<b>Fine Art (portfolio)</b>			
Fine Art (UCL)	AAA	A*A*A*-BBC	12%
Fine Art (Newcastle)	AAB	A*A*A-BBC	15%
Fine Art (Edinburgh)	A*A*A	A*A*A-BBB	25%
Fine Art (Oxford)	A*AA	A*A*A*-AAB	36%
<b>Photography (mostly art-school or London)</b>			
Fine Art-Photography (Glasgow Sch of Art)	AAB	A*A*A*-CCD	19%
Fashion Photography (UAL)	BBC	A*A*A-CCD	44%

## Single honours (continued)

COURSE (PROVIDER)	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	HISTORIC ACHIEVED GRADE	OFFER RATE
Photography (UEL)	BBC	A*AA-DDD	44%
Photography (Westminster)	AAB	A*AA-CCD	56%

# What the data really says

## 1. 'Soft' is a myth at the top

Acting at Surrey offers 11%, Fine Art at UCL 12% and Edinburgh's Film and Television just 11%. These are among the hardest places to win in the whole country.

## 2. But the spread is enormous

The same subject can run from an 11% offer rate to 99%. So there is almost always a realistic route for a keen student, the skill is matching the child to the right rung of the ladder.

## 3. The joint-honours hedge

Pairing a creative subject with English, History or Philosophy at a top-50 uni keeps the creativity and anchors the degree in something that travels further. Often the smartest move if a family is torn.

## 4. Go in eyes open on pay

Earnings are below most degrees. History of Art is the outlier at the top, Fine Art sits at the bottom. Choose for genuine love and a plan, not as a payday.

### Median graduate earnings (LEO)

Subject	5 yrs	10 yrs
History of Art / Design	£29,600	£34,700
Media Studies	£27,000	£32,100
Design Studies	£27,000	£29,600
Music	£24,500	£29,200
Drama	£24,500	£27,700
Film & Photography	£24,500	£27,700
Fine Art	£22,600	£24,100

## Is a creative degree the right call?

An EduStrategy session works out which courses your child can realistically get into, whether a joint degree is the smarter hedge and how to build the application around it. Book a 1:1 at [uniplan.me/shop](https://uniplan.me/shop)

**@EduStrategyCaroline**