



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Administrative Board of the College of Arts & Sciences
Office of General Education
CB #3510
300 Steele Building
UNC-CH

Pittsburgh-London Film Program

Dear Colleagues:

The Study Abroad Office and the Global Cinema Studies program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature are submitting a proposal to approve University of Pittsburgh's **Pittsburgh-London Film Program**.

Program Overview

The Pittsburgh-London Film Program is a semester study abroad program offering four courses and two master-classes taught by University of Pittsburgh faculty and local faculty. The program, which blends critical theory and creative practice, takes advantage of connections with the University of Birbeck and the Derek Jarman Lab.

The Pittsburgh-London Film Program is new, having launched in 2016. It is an off-shoot of the long-standing Pitt in London program.

More information about the program can be found online: <http://www.abroad.pitt.edu/plfp>

Rationale

To enhance the undergraduate experience of their majors, Global Cinema Studies wishes to improve and expand its offerings in the area of media production. The Pittsburgh-London Film Program is especially well suited to this aim in that its curriculum innovatively fuses critical and creative work. Students learn the craft of filmmaking within an intellectual environment that also stresses scholarly investigation, informed by film history, theory, and criticism. Moreover, students are immersed in the vibrant multicultural atmosphere of London, with the city serving as a focus in each of their courses, which are taught by professionals and world-renown film scholars.

At UNC, Global Cinema Studies currently administers a popular interdisciplinary film minor and a major film track in Comparative Literature. As part of an extensive redesign of the English major, the film track in Comparative Literature will be replaced by a Film and Media Studies major concentration within English, effective Fall 2018. Responding to student needs and demands, one of the initiatives of this new major concentration will be a stress on audiovisual production, teaching students transferable skills suited to a variety of possible media-related careers.

At present, most production-oriented courses at UNC are taught in the Department of Communications, but those courses are often reserved primarily for that department's majors, and their more advanced courses have prerequisites that prevent non-Communications majors from entry. Film majors in the Department of English and Comparative Literature sometimes take film production courses through the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. The Pittsburgh-London Film program would offer another, far more enticing and valuable alternative, fulfilling a critical need that our current curriculum does not.

In short, the Film in London program complies with the goals of Global Cinema Studies at UNC, filling a void by catering to the growing student demand for courses that involve training in media production. The new Film and Media Studies major concentration will preserve a focus on comparative investigation across different cultures. This London-based study-abroad experience also lends itself to that end. The new major concentration enables students to become critical and creative thinkers, keen observers, and eloquent writers attuned to an increasingly media-saturated, multicultural world. Moreover, it aims to offer students practical skills and forms of expertise, including firsthand, experiential knowledge of film and media production craft and technology. The Pittsburgh-London Film program dovetails with all of these aims. The opportunity to spend a semester in London, learning film production in connection with film studies, should help recruit students considering our new major concentration.

In September 2017, the Director of the Film in London program, Sarah Joshi, visited campus at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her striking presentation appealed to many UNC undergraduate students who were in attendance and who asked enthusiastic questions. Joshi plans to return to UNC in September 2018 to offer another presentation to students in Dr. Rick Warner's CMPL 144 Film Culture course, which will likely have an enrollment of 150.

Academics

The Pittsburgh-London Film program is composed of four courses, and two masterclasses. Each course provides students with an inventive and rich configuration of seminars, weekly screenings, and practical film production.

- Masterclass: Understanding How a Film Gets Made – Colin MacCabe and Laura Mulvey
- Masterclass: Written in Disappearing Ink: Writing for the Screen(s) – Adam Simon
- Urban Scavenger – Bartek Dziadosz
- City Symphony – Bartek Dziadosz and Lily Ford
- The City Made Strange – Sarah Joshi and Francis Gooding
- Political Media – Lee Grieveson and Francis Gooding

Syllabi and CVs are enclosed.

The new Film and Media Studies major concentration within English will be comprised of ten courses: three core and seven electives. Of the above Pittsburgh-London Film Program courses, Urban Scavenger, City Symphony, The City Made Strange, and Political Media will all be able to count as transfer credit toward the Film and Media Studies major concentration, in the capacity of electives. The two masterclasses do not meet frequently enough to count, although students will doubtless benefit from the quality of instruction in those masterclasses.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the program, applicants must have a 2.75 GPA at time of application and must be at least a sophomore at time of participation.

Though this program is intended primarily for Global Cinema Studies students, applications from students in other disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences would be considered, in particular students in Communication Studies. Students need not be Film majors, but they should have a background in film production or critical studies. Applicants need to have writing skills and practical abilities in order to be successful in the theoretical and practical aspects of the program.

Student Services

On-site support is provided by CAPA, a study abroad program provider based in Boston with educational centers in cities around the world, including London. As CAPA has done for the Pitt in London program for 25 years, CAPA provides housing, insurance, travel cards, excursions, and classroom space for the Pittsburgh-London Film Program. More information about CAPA can be found online: <https://www.capa.org/>

CAPA, as well as faculty and staff from the Derek Jarman Lab, provide an on-site orientation, introducing students to London.

Students live in shared apartments sourced by CAPA through Anglo-American, a housing agency in London. Apartments include shared bedrooms, bathrooms, living space, equipped kitchens, and laundry access. Students have a 45-60 minute commute from their apartment to the Derek Jarman Lab, which is covered by their unlimited zones 1 and 2 London Underground pass.

Program participants have ample opportunity for cultural engagement. Activities are regularly arranged in collaboration with the students and faculty on the MA in Film Curating at Birkbeck-University of London, thus giving them the chance to interact with British and international students. CAPA provides students with a tremendous amount of cultural activities such as tours of Stonehenge and Stratford-Upon-Avon, to local activities like tours of the Globe Theatre and walking tours of London's East End. All students will have access to My Global Education, CAPA's co-curricular program, which has been intentionally designed to enhance the student learning experience. The program is a rich and varied calendar of events, lectures, walking tours, reflective sessions, and other activities that are thematically linked to CAPA's student learning and development outcomes of globalization, urban environments, social dynamics and diversity. Global Education events are intended to be fun and social, empowering students to analyze and explore London in ways that are relevant to their studies and personal interests. Sample activities include: exploring the famous Borough Market, a walking tour of Abbey Road, visiting the London Transport Museum, and attending a guest performance at CAPA's theater, The Street. The My Global Education program is constantly updated to take advantage of local events and festivals.

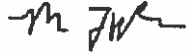
Health and Safety

The University of Pittsburgh enrolls program participants in international insurance coverage through Cigna. Janet Hoernke, UNC Risk Management Specialist, reviewed the insurance policy and deemed coverage comparable to GeoBlue.

According to the US State Department website, the UK shares with the rest of the world an increased threat of terrorist incidents. In particular, extremists have targeted transport sectors in cities such as London. Additionally, the US State Department website states that the overall crime rate in the UK has decreased in the past ten years, however, serious crime in many London boroughs has increased. As in other large European cities, the most common issue Americans face in London is that of pickpocketing and mugging, especially in areas frequented by tourists. The US State Department urges US citizens to be cautious and aware of their surroundings, as they should in any major metropolitan city.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely,



2/13/18

Mary Floyd-Wilson, Department of English and Comparative Literature

Date



2/14/18

Jason Kinnear, Interim Associate Dean of Study Abroad

Date