
BAFTSS

British Association of
Film, Television and
Screen Studies

Provost and Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Christine Bovis-Crossen
Chair of Council, Vice-Chancellor's Office Dr. Sally Howes, OBE.

BAFTSS <https://www.baftss.org>
23rd March 2023

Dear Professor Christine Bovis-Crossen and Dr Sally Howes,

Investing in the Future of the University of East Anglia.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Executive Committee of the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies. BAFTSS is a national subject association, which represents the interests of academic staff and students in its fields in UK Higher Education. The BAFTSS Executive Committee is extremely concerned to learn that compulsory redundancies are being considered at the University of East Anglia. The BAFTSS Executive Committee urges the Council and Vice-Chancellor's Office to reconsider these measures and to better secure the future of its staff and students in all subject areas.

In the broader financial context of UEA, the BAFTSS EC asks that you recognise and work to protect the vital contribution of the Film, Television and Media Studies programmes and the East Anglian Film Archive as they are integral to the reputation of the University of East Anglia. UEA was among the first UK universities to invest in Film Studies as an emerging discipline as supported by the British Film Institute. The East Anglian Film Archive is the longest-running regional film and media archive in the UK with close links the Norwich Film Festival and Norfolk Screen. The collective resources for film, media and television at UEA must be protected.

We draw your attention to the consistently high performance of the Film, Television and Media Studies programmes in successive REF exercises. For example, the REF2021 ranked 94% of the outputs as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent' and ranked an exceptional 100% of the research environment as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

The Film, Television and Media Studies programmes operate within the School of Art, Media, and American Studies to lead major research projects, publications and conferences considered foundational to British cinema, celebrity studies and the work of women in media. Alumni include film industry specialists, archive professionals and academics at universities in the UK, USA and around the world: an established network of students and staff connected to the School of Art, Media and American Studies extends to cultural institutions including the British Film Commission, BFI, Shanghai Film Museum, and the U.S. Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The history and future of these students, academic staff, curators, archivists and creative practitioners at all levels of media industries is integral to the reputation of University of East Anglia.

The Executive Committee of the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies urges you to recognise the pedagogical and intellectual successes of staff and students across UEA. We encourage you to work with your staff and students across the university to identify a way forward that avoids compulsory redundancies and that protects and invests in the future of Film, Television and Media Studies and the East Anglian Film Archive as integral to the continuing reputation of UEA.

Your sincerely

Dr E I Watkins
Chair of BAFTSS on behalf of the BAFTSS Executive Committee