Liberal Arts at Warwick - Undergraduate Live Chat

An opportunity for you to speak to our tutors and current students about studying Liberal Arts and life at Warwick.



Hello everyone! I'm Gavin, Deputy Head of the School for Cross-faculty Studies and Director of Studies for Liberal Arts. I'm really happy to welcome you to our live chat and to answer any questions you've got. If you can please introduce yourself when you enter the room that'd be great: we'd love to know where you're from and what your main interests are!



Welcome to our Liberal Arts live chat! We're looking forward to speaking to you today. I'm Jess and I'm a Recruitment and Communications Officer in the Liberal Arts Department (and a Warwick grad) This live chat today is a straightforward questions and answers session, so when you're ready please to introduce yourself and ask us your questions. No question is too small! ^(C)



Hi everyone!! Welcome to the chat! My name is Kornelia and I just graduated this month. My pathway was a Specialist Pathway that I named Social Anthropology and Media. I also did a year abroad and went to study in Santiago, Chile and the Netherlands. Feel free to ask any questions and I'll try to answer as best I can!!



And please don't worry about having some question that makes you seem super brilliant--we're a really informal and friendly department, and absolutely no question is silly. Liberal Arts at Warwick is unique, so we don't expect you to already know everything about it!



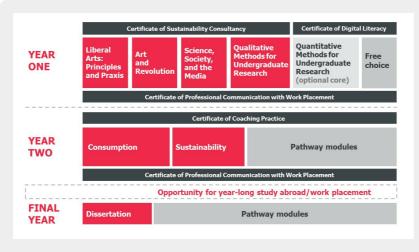
Hi!



I was wondering what the course involves in terms of content?



Welcome folks! Thanks for coming. Will reply as quick as our fingers can go...



Course structure



Have any of you been to SG? I'm wondering how the culture of warwick differs from SG



Hi Nicholas and Yang Wei thanks for joining!



I was wondering what the course involves in terms of content?

So, the course is really built around your interest. So if you're a film fanatic, you can take about half of your modules either in the Film and TV department, or any related modules across the University. Even the Liberal Arts modules are built to allow you to bring your interests right to the center: film is a good example, since we do lots of work with films.



What are your favourite films?



I was wondering what the course involves in terms of content?

For example, in IP103 Art and Revolution we have 3-4 film screenings and a short assessment based on analysis of a film



I was wondering what the course involves in terms of content?

However, we have lots of students with diverse interests: so even if you're into film, you'll be working with students interested in economics, history, sustainability, education--all sorts



I was wondering what the course involves in terms of content?

Gavin just mentioned Art and Revolution which is one of our first-year core Liberal Arts modules. After this live chat, feel free to take a look at the module page for this one:

https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcrossfacultystudies/liberalarts/currentstudents/modules/ liberalartsmodules/art

Art and Revolution - Core Module - BA Liberal Arts

Our first-year core Liberal Arts module, 'Art and Revolution', explores the ways in which art (that is, the things we make) prompts, presages, or responds to revolutionary moments of crisis and change across history.



How would doing a liberal arts module centred around Film and Television differ from simply doing a full degree in film and television?



Have any of you been to SG? I'm wondering how the culture of warwick differs from SG

I personally haven't been to Singapore but have some friends from South East Asia and although I'm sure they encountered some differences they seemed to accommodate themselves well and there's always societies that you can join in case you feel homesick or want to meet people that can relate! I personally grew up in Poland and although it wouldn't be as much off a change Warwick was very welcoming and there are many opportunities in first year to get to know people within and out of the department!



Hi I am Tommaso from Italy. In September I will start my final year of my IB course. Are any specific high or standard subjects that you require?



How would doing a liberal arts module centred around Film and Television differ from simply doing a full degree in film and television?

That's a very good question. Our department is fundamentally based on Problem-Based Learning and real student research, meaning we don't do any lectures at all. Rather than listening just to a lecturer tell you what they think, you'll work in mixed expertise groups to develop problems arising from a range of evidence (including films, for example). So Liberal Arts is really about HOW you approach the things that are of interest to you, rather than being a passive recipient of knowledge.



I was wondering what the course involves in terms of content?

I'm sure we'll continue to chat about course content throughout this live chat, but if you'd like to know more we have an Open Day recording which goes into detail about course content. You can find the video here:

https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcrossfacultystudies/liberalarts/prospectivestudents/usefu lresources

Useful Resources

Our undergraduate brochure provides information about our Department, our course, modules, studying abroad, and professional development opportunities.



Have any of you been to SG? I'm wondering how the culture of warwick differs from SG

I'm not sure if any of us have, but we always have a few students from Singapore! It's a shame: one of our student ambassadors is from Singapore but he's not working today :(



Hi I am Tommaso from Italy. In September I will start my final year of my IB course. Are any specific high or standard subjects that you require?

Welcome! Yes, we have some requirements in English and Math, but beyond that we really like the IB precisely because of the breadth it requires. Are you doing ToK?



What are your favourite films?

A film I've watched recently that I enjoyed was the Imitation Game - I'd like to watch it again, and wish I'd have watched it sooner!



Hi I am Tommaso from Italy. In September I will start my final year of my IB course. Are any specific high or standard subjects that you require?

Hi Tommaso! Good luck in your final year of IB!! I believe you can find entry requirements here https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/ liberalarts/ but when I did my IB programme I did higher level English, Geography and Psychology - as long as it meets the requirements on the site I'm sure you can make it your own!

Liberal Arts BA (UCAS LA99)

Liberal Arts at Warwick is a focused approach to learning what matters to you, unconstrained by the traditional limitations of disciplinary studies. You'll draw on knowledge and methods from across the humanities, social, and natural sciences to address the specific complex problems.



As far as I can see, the course is very research based, if so how is research conducted especially during the pandemic



I am doing history pshy



What are your favourite films?

Ooh, that's a tough question. I'm actually more of a video game person than a film person, but I really like speculative fiction, fantasy, science fiction, that kind of thing. How about yourself?



My favourite films are 8 1/2 and Tokyo Story



How many different modules can we do all at once? And how many would you say is the average?



As far as I can see, the course is very research based, if so how is research conducted especially during the pandemic

You're absolutely right--we really focus on students generating knowledge through real research (not just reading books in the library, though of course you'll do that too). In the first year we have IP108 Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research (which everyone has to do) and IP110 Quantitative Methods for UG Research, which is required only for quantitative pathways like Economics or Life Sciences. We'll train you to conduct interviews and focus groups, design research plans, understand ethics, use archives and material culture... all kinds of things, with emphasis on areas that will be of practical use to you in your pathway



Wait what do you mean by real research, like interviews?



How many different modules can we do all at once? And how many would you say is the average?

It really depends on the credit weighting. Most modules are either 15 credits (taken in one term) or 30 credits (taken over the full year), so most students will do between 4-6, but sometimes more



As far as I can see, the course is very research based, if so how is research conducted especially during the pandemic

Gavin mentioned the first-year core module, Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research, here's the link to the module page: <u>https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/liberalarts/currentstudents/modules/liberalartsmodules/qualitative</u>

Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research - BA Liberal Arts

Our core first-year module, 'Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research' will introduce you to a range of methodologies used in social, historical, cultural and arts-based research.



Wait what do you mean by real research, like interviews?

That's right. Most undergrads don't get involved in the production of new research, they're just told to read articles and books that already exist. We have a strong emphasis on original research, so you'll be working as part of your field to further knowledge in that area



As far as I can see, the course is very research based, if so how is research conducted especially during the pandemic

And here's the link to the first-year optional core module, Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research:

https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcrossfacultystudies/liberalarts/currentstudents/modules/ liberalartsmodules/ip110

IP110 Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research

IP110 Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research, Liberal Arts at Warwick



Wait what do you mean by real research, like interviews?

Our students regularly present at national and international conferences, get summer research grants, and even publish in academic journals



How many different modules can we do all at once? And how many would you say is the average?

So in my case in my first year I took two optional modules (one year long and one term-long) but in my second year I split my 60 CATS into four term long modules



So how has research changed during the pandemic, like how do you get to interview people when you can't go out



Wait what do you mean by real research, like interviews?

So yeah, this might include conducting field research (like collecting samples, performing surveys, interviewing people, etc)



also how do you ensure that people such as minorities are represented?



So how has research changed during the pandemic, like how do you get to interview people when you can't go out

It actually hasn't really been so bad for most of our students, since most of the people they've worked with have been available online. It's not quite as nice, but it actually is a bit easier to convince participants to join since it tends to be easier for them.



also how do you ensure that people such as minorities are represented?

This is an area we cover in-depth in IP108; it's a core aspect of how you design a research study. So, in the context of the pandemic: it's been easier for students to interview participants with mobility problems or caring responsibilities, since then those folks don't have to travel or anything. It's obviously less easy to get access to other groups (e.g. people with no or limited internet access)



For more 'concrete' subjects like Math and Sciences how is research done then?



also how do you ensure that people such as minorities are represented?

As a reminder, 'IP108' is the 'Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research' module: <u>https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/liberalarts/currentstudents/modules/liberalartsmodules/qualitative/</u>

Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research - BA Liberal Arts

Our core first-year module, 'Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research' will introduce you to a range of methodologies used in social, historical, cultural and arts-based research.



For more 'concrete' subjects like Math and Sciences how is research done then?

Well, the labs on campus have generally remained open through the pandemic, so if you mean labbased experiments then they've been continuing. Otherwise, it really depends on what kind of access you need!



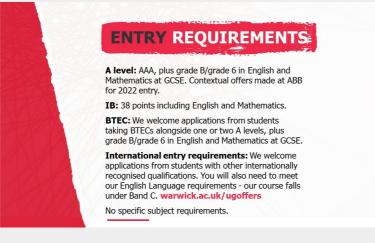
Typically for liberal arts are there any prerequisites required to enter the course



Is there a student paper and can first year students join it?



Any subjects that play a heavier role in deciding



Entry requirements



Any subjects that play a heavier role in deciding

Nope! We really like students who can explain how they want to come at their area of interest from a problem-based perspective, but that's the main thing for us. We do have general English and Math requirements, which you can see here: <u>https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/</u> <u>liberalarts/</u>

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Typically for liberal arts are there any prerequisites required to enter the course

Hi Yang, I've just put our Entry Requirements slide on the screen for you, I hope this is helpful. As you'll see, there are no specific subject requirements



Is there a student paper and can first year students join it?

Yes! It's called the Boar - I believe they regularly get new people in so you can definitely enquire at the societies fair but this is their website <u>https://theboar.org/</u>

The Boar





How lenient is the clearance if we don't quite get the grades necessary? Like instead we got ABB, would that be ok?



Is there a student paper and can first year students join it?

Yes! The Boar is quite good and usually wins national awards each year. It's entirely student run, so of course I can't make promises on their behalf, but we usually have some LA students involved. The deputy Editor in Chief was an LA student this past year, I believe



How lenient is the clearance if we don't quite get the grades necessary? Like instead we got ABB, would that be ok?

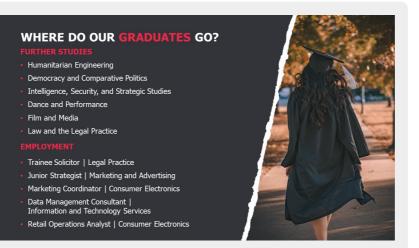
It really depends on the overall cohort. We're a bit constrained by the central University admissions policies, but what I can say is that we've been flexible in the past and will always try to be as flexible as possible. So it's definitely not a 'no', even if I can't really make any promises either way at this stage!



Welcome slide



From your experience what careers do Liberal Arts Students usually have after studying



Grad destinations



Have you taught/studied/worked at other institutions, if so, how does warwick usually differ from the norm



From your experience what careers do Liberal Arts Students usually have after studying

All sorts of things! I'd say about half the students go on to postgraduate study and the other half go on to the world of work. Recent graduates have worked in consultancies, law, gaming, fashion, the drinks industry, radio, marketing and advertising; for NGOs internationally, charities, the government, etc.



Yes! Our LA program is very, very different even from other LA programs and definitely from other traditional degrees. For example, most LA programs in the UK will more or less let you take modules from around the university without many core modules. Our research shows that students really need support to learn how to play a different role in those classrooms, otherwise you end up sitting in a History module without having had as much traditional history training. Instead, our students are trained to use their problem-based and research skills to play a central role, bringing together lots of different people to create unique interventions in problems.



Have you taught/studied/worked at other institutions, if so, how does warwick usually differ from the norm

So practically, this means no lectures: our classes are all highly interactive and are led by students. This means our tutors won't give you set definitions or answers: instead, we use non-directive learning techniques to get you to propose ideas or hypotheses, then test them



Can you give some examples of these non-directive learning techniques?



I've worked and done educational research on three continents, and we built this program to be unique-and to be the best in the world.



Can you give some examples of these non-directive learning techniques?

Sure! For example, in the first year core module Art and Revolution, we look at a series of case studies. In the past we've done lots of different ones, but I'll take the Russian Revolution as an example. I don't lecture at all: instead, I provide a 'sandbox' of resources for students to explore. In class, students all have different roles and assignments, so they've done different work to prepare. They then come together to 'problematize' and analyze primary sources--economic datasets, paintings, songs, letters from the archives--together in groups. So all the learning comes from students proposing and critically examining ideas, rather than me just telling you 'the answer'.



Most of my experience at university was based in Warwick but I also did an exchange with one of our Liberal Arts partners in the Netherlands and the approaches to LA were quite different - I particularly enjoyed having core modules at Warwick and I remember that's what first drew me to the course! Having the opportunity to study abroad and see how the course can differ was also really interesting!

TEACHING STYLE

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

- Examine problems
- Variety of perspectives
 Social, political, scientific, historic, artistic, cultural, economic...
- Conduct independent research, share ideas, and work together to produce a response



Problem-Based Learning



What does an average day look like for a liberal arts student?



Since students play a more prominent role in their studies, is it harder to catch up on topics we are weak at?



To add to what Gavin and Kornelia have said, you can find out more about what makes Liberal Arts at Warwick different here:

https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcrossfacultystudies/liberalarts/prospectivestudents/warw ickliberalarts

Why Study With Us? - Liberal Arts - University of Warwick

Our degree is radically different from other Liberal Arts programmes around the world. Here you'll focus on developing high-level research skills to create interventions in complex problems under the guidance of experienced transdisciplinary academics.



What does an average day look like for a liberal arts student?

It'll depend from student to student! Since you can take different modules your timetable will vary but having the core modules means you still get to meet with other LA students and interact with them and bring together your ideas from other modules too!



What does an average day look like for a liberal arts student?

Outside of studying, especially in your first year when you live on campus you get to spend time with your flatmates a lot, you can join societies or sports societies and meet lots of other people from different courses on campus too!



Since students play a more prominent role in their studies, is it harder to catch up on topics we are weak at?

It depends. Unlike some LA programs, we don't expect everyone to do a bit of everything. We don't train you to be a generalist: instead, we support you to be an expert in your area of interest (with that different perspective than a traditional student). But I can definitely say that a student-led approach means that students have way more opportunities to make choices about what they think will be effective or interesting. In contrast, traditional degree students usually have less optionality: if you do an Economics degree, you'll have to do both macro and micro-economics for several years, even if your interest is only in macro-economics (for example).



Since students play a more prominent role in their studies, is it harder to catch up on topics we are weak at?

What I'd add is that our students perform as well or better than the University average in all areas, so they definitely aren't graduating with less ability!



What does an average day look like for a liberal arts student?

Then in terms of nightlife there's also a club on campus that's really popular or students tend to go to either Leamington Spa or Coventry, sometimes even venturing out to Birmingham



What does an average day look like for a liberal arts student?

The arts centre on campus also provides many interesting activities with well-known celebrities often coming for shows!! and Warwick students get a discount to shows!



What does the arts centre look like?



is there any art movements you guys favour



What does the arts centre look like?

The Arts Centre has just had a massive overhaul: it was already one of the largest mixed venues in the UK, and now it's absolutely huge. I think it's now got three cinemas, for example: <u>https://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/</u>

Warwick Arts Centre - Coventry, UK - Warwick Arts Centre

We're one of the largest multi-artform venues in the UK. We deliver a high quality, engaging, diverse programme of performing and visual arts, presented in world-class venues and spaces at the heart of the University of Warwick campus.





is there any art movements you guys favour

personally, I really like impressionism



is there any art movements you guys favour

That's a good question! We've been working quite a lot with Soviet Realism in Art and Revolution, but personally it's not always an aesthetic I like--even if it's interesting. Personally, I really like pop culture analysis. So I like using things in class like Wall-E, James Bond, Bruce Springsteen, Walking Dead... all sorts



is there any art movements you guys favour

But you'll get very different approaches from different tutors even within Liberal Arts. I tend towards cultural materialism, for example, whereas our colleague Bryan is much more of a New Critic



What research can be done about pop culture?



is there any art movements you guys favour

Gavin just mentioned our tutors in the Liberal Arts Department - you can find out more about them here: <u>https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/liberalarts/lapeople/</u>

Our People - Liberal Arts - University of Warwick

Meet our academic and administrative staff in the Liberal Arts Department here at the University of Warwick. Find out details about our roles and responsibilities.



is there any art movements you guys favour

Also, there's a lot of art sculptures on campus and even an arts trail around campus!



What research can be done about pop culture?

Loads! Everything! For example, one of the groups I research is the Bundy family; they're a group of farright American extremists. I was primarily interested in their apocalyptic religious beliefs: they're excommunicated Mormons and their beliefs drive their political activities. They even turned up at the January 6th insurrection as well. But there's real links between--for example--how the Bundys see the world and mid-century American masculinity. So I've done some work on musical groups like Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead, and American post-industrialism



Are Student organisations independently funded or do they rely on the school, e.g would a filmmaking club's budget for films be supplied by the school?



We're coming up to the final 15 minutes of this live chat - thanks for all your questions so far! If there's anything you'd like to know more about - types of assessments, studying abroad, support for stepping up from school to university etc. - please do ask away!



What research can be done about pop culture?

Another example is zombie culture: zombies are a syncretic fusion of beliefs rooted in West Africa and brought together by enslaved people in the Caribbean. But Hollywood got ahold of the zombie idea in the 1920s and managed to turn it around to be about capitalism more widely, and not about the experience of Caribbean slavery



So like4/5 expamples you've named are rock musicians/band, I take it that you like rock?



Are Student organisations independently funded or do they rely on the school, e.g would a filmmaking club's budget for films be supplied by the school?

Most student organizations are supported by the Students' Union, which is an independent organization that represents students. The University more widely funds student societies and clubs, but the Liberal Arts departments sometimes does give money to the Liberal Arts Society for events



How is the finiancial aid in Warwick like



Are there any scholarships that I could look into



So like4/5 expamples you've named are rock musicians/band, I take it that you like rock?

I do, but we can think about all kinds of music. Following the apocalyptic line, we can trace back to the prophetic music of people like Blind Willie McTell, and see how Black music was adopted and adapted by white artists (Elvis being the classical example)



How is the finiancial aid in Warwick like

Hi Yang, you should be able to find lots of information on fees and funding for undergraduate studies here:

https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/studentf unding/

Fees and Funding for Undergraduate courses at Warwick

Find out how much it costs to study an undergraduate course at Warwick, and explore what financial support is available to you.



So like4/5 expamples you've named are rock musicians/band, I take it that you like rock?

But another excellent apocalyptic example is Childish Gambino's This Is America. And separately, our colleague Kirsten does a lot of work with Afrofuturism, so you could check out artists like Sun Ra (or Sons of Kemet, a bit more modern)



Are there any scholarships that I could look into

Hopefully this web page on scholarships and bursaries might be useful: <u>https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/studentf</u> <u>unding/scholarships-and-bursaries/</u>

Scholarships and bursaries

Find out more about Warwick undergraduate bursaries and scholarships.



Are the cost of enrolling increasing each year?



I love sun ra

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Are the cost of enrolling increasing each year?

Hm, that's a good question. Typically yes, costs tend to go up at around the rate of inflation, but these tend to be set a few years in advance. The costs set out on the University website should be accurate. However, we do work hard as a department to keep other costs low: for example, students shouldn't be required to buy books for any of our core modules.



I love sun ra

Nice!! You should definitely check out Kirsten's Utopias module, she does quite a lot on Sun Ra



I love sun ra

Here's the link to Kirsten's optional Utopias module: <u>https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/liberalarts/currentstudents/modules/liberalartsmodules/utopiansocieties</u>

Utopia: Text, Theory, Practice - Optional Module - BA Liberal Arts

Our optional Liberal Arts module, 'Utopia: Text, Theory, Practice', examines the utopian tradition as it is situated in changing social and historical contexts. You'll critically examine the historiography of utopian social theory as it relates to ideas of progress and good citizenship.



I love sun ra

Here's the link to her module: <u>https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-</u> <u>facultystudies/liberalarts/currentstudents/modules/</u> <u>liberalartsmodules/utopiansocieties</u>

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I love sun ra

Hah, thanks Jess, you were faster than me!



I love sun ra

As part of the Utopia module this year we actually watched Sun Ra's film "Space is the Place" !



Can I get an estimate how how much the costs increase each year, I would not be attending universities for another at least 3 years so I need to plan



Gosh, I don't actually know. I think if you contacted our Student Finance office they might be able to help. Let me just get the link..



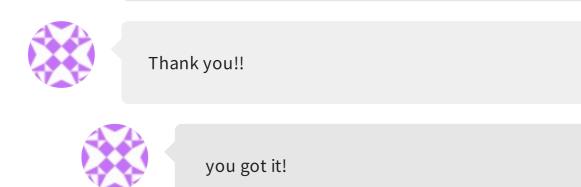
Can I get an estimate how how much the costs increase each year, I would not be attending universities for another at least 3 years so I need to plan

Here's the Student Finance page, which has FAQs that might be helpful as well as costs info and contact details:

https://warwick.ac.uk/services/finance/studentfinanc e/

Student Finance - University of Warwick

Student Finance- Pay your tuition fees, accommodation fees and other charges to the University





We've got just over five minutes: any further questions?



As for the more social side thing how is the culture in warwick like



What is the sense of humour ? and beliefs?

When do you intend to start University?

2022	66.67%
Other	33.33%



As for the more social side thing how is the culture in warwick like

Hm--I think it's pretty diverse, but Kornelia could say better than me. I would say that Warwick is one of the most 'international' universities in the world, so there's LOTS of different student groups. The student societies are definitely the best place to make friends in your first few weeks. The Nintendo Switch Society is one of my favorites: they're super active and always look like they're having a ton of fun



We've just popped a quick poll on your screen to find out when you intend to start university. We'd be grateful if you could fill this out if possible ^(C)



As for the more social side thing how is the culture in warwick like

In my experience everyone at Warwick is very open! You get a lot of people wanting to get to know different experiences and other people and the best place for that is probably through societies! In your accommodation you'll also meet plenty of people from different places! There's so many different people you can meet and the department also provides a safe place and a family-feel to it, so within the department you'll also meet so many different people with varied interests - you should be able to make friends no problem!!



Thank you so much!!



think I'm out of questions



Thank you all so much for the wonderful resources. I'll be sure to check it each and every one of them



Also: if you want to have a one-to-one chat at any point, just give us a shout at <u>liberalarts@warwick.ac.uk</u>. We're always happy to chat!



What is the sense of humour ? and beliefs?

It's hard to say that there's just one - since so many people are coming from around the world there'll be a mix of all that you can imagine!





We're also super happy to have you come and sit in on classes if you're around. Just let us know!



Thank you for joining us, we hope this has been helpful! As mentioned earlier, please do check out our 'Useful resources' page when you have time - it holds our brochure, Open Day video, and lots of other videos from the department: https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcrossfacultystudies/liberalarts/prospectivestudents/usefu lresources

Useful Resources

Our undergraduate brochure provides information about our Department, our course, modules, studying abroad, and professional development opportunities.



Thanks so much for coming folks! We look forward to any further questions or opportunities to chat. Take care and be safe!



thanks so much to everyone for joining and all the questions! Hope we've been of help and good luck in your studies and applications!!



Good luck y'all!