

MA English Literature



Programme Overview

The MA English Literature focuses upon the study of literature within its historical context.

The programme offers a unique opportunity for postgraduate students to develop expertise in archival research, whilst at the same time honing the theoretical and critical skills necessary for the successful analysis and interpretation of literary and historical sources. By offering the opportunity to study major authors of English Literature such as William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens the programme will appeal to a wide range of applicants, including home students and those from overseas, and develops essential transferable skills relevant to a wide range of careers, including the teaching profession. Teaching on our modules is underpinned by the research activities of our staff, and our specialisms include: literature and locality, the literature of the First World War, and Book History.

Key Information

Award: MA English Literature

Study Mode: Full-time; Part-time.

Duration: 12 months full-time; 27 months part-time.

Intake: February (part-time) or October (full-time)

Entry Criteria: A minimum of a Second-Class Honours degree in a relevant discipline awarded by a UK university, or an equivalent higher education qualification. For students whose first language is not English there is a language requirement of IELTS 6.5 overall (reading 6.0, writing 6.0).

Fees and Funding: For tuition fee information, please go to the Student Finance pages at www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding

School: Humanities.

Contact Details:

Student Recruitment,
enquiry@hope.ac.uk

Disclaimer: Information is correct at time of print, however programme details can change.



Curriculum

The course consists of taught modules (including three compulsory modules) and a research dissertation. Assessment is through coursework, primarily in essay format. Full-time students normally attend two classes each week, part-time students attend one class a week; these sessions are backed up by time for wider reading, seminar preparation and assignment completion.

Core modules:

- Book History: Archives and Material Cultures of Reading (30 credits)
- Literary Theory and Practice (15 credits)
- Advanced Masters Research in English Literature (compulsory - 15 credits)
- Research Dissertation (compulsory – 60 credits)

Indicative non-core modules:

The following is an indicative list of modules, only some of which run each year:

- Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature
- The Rise of the Novel
- Case Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature
- Science Fiction
- The Art of the Graphic novel
- Fantasy and the Literature of the Fantastic
- The Literature of the First World War
- Culture and Diversity in Early Twentieth-Century Irish Literature
- Rewriting the North

Teaching and Research

The MA English Literature is underpinned by the internationally renowned research expertise of the staff in the English Department, and a methodological approach – namely a consistent emphasis on the study of literature within its historical context – that characterises the research work of all members of the Department. In

an environment of lively enquiry and debate, the wide range of research interests and expertise make for an intellectually stimulating atmosphere. The learning and teaching environment means that students benefit from individual attention in class and a strong base of tutorial support. You will experience a range of modes of learning: lecture input, participation in seminars, seminar presentations, discussion with other students, and individual tutorials where appropriate. As a postgraduate degree, it is of course expected that students will undertake a high level of independent research and reading of primary and secondary texts.

One of the special features of the MA English Literature is the way in which it places an emphasis upon archival research, particularly through the core module entitled Book History which examines the significance of the book and related literary artefacts as material objects. This archival study involves practical, hands-on work within Liverpool Hope's own centre for Special Collections, and provides an exciting opportunity to work with literary texts in manuscript and rare printed form.

The results of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 showed that the English Department is a leading department for research, 81% of our publications being recognised as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. English proved to be a strong subject at Liverpool Hope, with considerably more world-leading research than any other subject in the university. We are one of the leading English departments in the region. Postgraduate students are an important and valued part of this vibrant research community and our MA students are involved in many activities that contribute to the wider academic life of the English Department.

Future Career Opportunities

The MA English Literature can act as a foundation for further postgraduate work, including doctoral research. It also fosters a range of transferable skills valued in professional contexts, such as critical and lateral thinking, the ability to formulate arguments, the capacity to work independently, the presentation of research findings, and information management. It develops students' ability to interpret and analyse cultural products, and teachers may follow this course in order to enhance their subject knowledge.

