

English Literature BA (Hons)*

UCAS Code: Q320 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Liverpool is the ideal city to study English Literature, with its thriving cultural scene, literary festivals, independent bookshops, and the renowned Central Library. Just a short walk from our Hope Park campus, you'll also find The Reader Organisation in Calderstones Park—an inspiring hub for literature lovers.

Our degree explores a wide range of genres and historical periods, from fiction, poetry, and drama to autobiography, essays, travel writing, and slave narratives. You'll study well-known authors as well as new voices offering fresh perspectives on key themes such as sustainability, identity, wellbeing, and power in society. You'll even work with rare books and manuscripts from Liverpool Hope's special collections.

Key features of the English Literature degree:

- A broad study of literature across periods, genres, and critical approaches
- Exploration of themes such as the environment, global perspectives, and wellbeing
- Hands-on opportunities in publishing, reading, and digital approaches
- Small group teaching and personalised support from expert tutors
- Employability skills embedded throughout the course

By the end of the English Literature course, you'll graduate with advanced critical, analytical, and communication skills that prepare you for careers in publishing, journalism, teaching, marketing, the creative industries, or further study.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

**Subject to approval*

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2026/2027 are £9,790 for full-time undergraduate courses.

As well as your tuition fees, you also need to consider the cost of key books and textbooks, which in total will cost approximately £200.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls/

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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English Literature BA (Hons)

Curriculum

Year One

Keywords in Literary Studies (30 credits)

This module introduces the key principles and terminology of literary criticism, focusing on the act of reading and its significance for the modern world. Close reading is at the heart of the module, with literary critical keywords and concepts explored through a variety of texts from different historical periods and forms.

Popular Literature (30 credits)

This module examines literary texts notable for their popularity, whether as best-sellers at the time of publication or through enduring cultural influence. You will explore how texts relate to their historical context, respond to contemporary events and ideas, and conform to or challenge generic conventions.

Literature in Time and Place* (30 credits)

This module provides a foundation in key texts, genres, and literary periods from ancient myth and epic to modern works. Through comparative study, you will explore how pre-modern and later works address enduring questions such as power and justice, travel and cross-cultural encounters, race, gender and sexuality, identity, and society.

Literature and the Environment* (30 credits)

This module examines a wide range of literature with a focus on environmental themes, including both rural and urban contexts. You will study texts in relation to the physical and cultural environments in which they were created, as well as the environments they depict.

**single honours only*

Year Two

Locating Literature (30 credits)

This module looks at the relationship between literature and places, focusing on literary texts that are associated with particular locations.

Adaptations (15 credits)

This module will invite students to examine a range of literary and visual forms

including literary retellings from alternative or marginalised perspectives, prequels, sequels, screen adaptations and radio broadcasts.

Border Crossings (15 credits)

This module explores a diverse range of texts that narrate experiences of border crossing through accounts of travel, migration, and displacement.

Scandal, Censorship and Argument (single honours) (30 credits)

This module explores controversial and challenging texts from a range of historical periods and contexts. It examines the history of books, authorship and publishing; censorship, book bans and free speech; and the power of books to shape society.

Literary Histories (single honours) (15 credits)

This module explores how literature is divided into historical periods and examines the critical debates that have shaped, and challenged, those divisions.

Year Three

In the final year, you have the opportunity to choose from a range of modules that reflect the current research and teaching interests of our staff. You will also complete an extended independent research project or dissertation.

Current module options include:

Human and Animal: Exploring the Contemporary

Examine literature from the Second World War to the present, including novels, short stories, poetry, memoirs, and travel writing from Europe, North America, and Africa.

A History of Fantasy

Study the enduring genre of fantasy, from medieval myths and early modern epics to contemporary fiction, children's and young adult literature, and adaptations in TV, film, games, and fan communities.

Modernism

Investigate the impact of modernism on literature and the arts in the early twentieth century, including British, American, Irish, and European texts across genres.

Single honours modules include:

Writing Home

World War and Class Conflict 1900–1945: Explore English poetry and prose from the Modernist period, focusing on ideas of 'home,' national identity, war, power, gender, education, and social inequality.

Literary Theory

Engage with advanced literary and cultural theory, including feminism, Marxism, ecocriticism, New Historicism, and postcolonial approaches.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, seminars and tutorials. You also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

If you are studying a single honours degree, in your first year of study there are approximately 12 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 10 teaching hours in your second and third years. If you are studying a combined honours degree, in your first year of study there are approximately 6 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend 23 hours each week studying independently.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

You will be assessed by a range of methods including essays, portfolios of assignments, creative projects and peer presentations. In the final year, you undertake an independently researched dissertation, or a shorter research project for combined honours students.

Feedback is supplied electronically within four working weeks of the assessment submission. You will also be offered regular opportunities to discuss feedback one-to-one with your tutor.



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