

Q300: English Literature



Undergraduate BA 2020

Essentials

UCAS code	Q300
Degree	BA
Mode of study	Full Time
Duration	3 years
Location	Durham City (www.durham.ac.uk/study/location/durham.city)
A-Level	A*AA
BTEC	D*DD
International Baccalaureate	38
Alternative qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other UK qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/UKequivalencies2017-18.pdf) • EU qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/EUequivalencies2017-18.pdf) • International qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/international/country.information/)
Contextual Offers	You may be eligible for an offer which is one or two grades lower than our standard entry requirements. Find out more (www.durham.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/contextualoffers/).
More information	Still have questions? (www.durham.ac.uk/study/askus/)
Department(s) Website	www.durham.ac.uk/english.studies

Course Summary

Description

Single Honours in English Studies offers a comprehensive syllabus, which combines traditional areas of literary study with new and developing areas of the discipline. It aims to develop your conceptual abilities and analytical skills by exposing you to a variety of literary critical approaches, to promote and develop clarity and persuasiveness in argument and expression, and to enable you to develop, to a high degree of competence, a range of skills which are subject-specific and transferable. A Degree in English Studies will equip you for a wide variety of professions and employment, as well as for advanced postgraduate study of English and related disciplines.

Year 1

There are three compulsory modules in Year 1 – Introduction to Drama, Introduction to the Novel, and Introduction to Poetry – each of which introduces you to representative works in the major literary genres. There are also four optional modules, from which Single Honours students may select one, two or three. Previously these have offered the possibility to study important influences on English literature (Classical and Biblical Backgrounds to English Literature), early literature (Romance and the Literature of Chivalry and Myth and Epic of the North) and the history of the English language (English: Language, Use, Theory).

This year will focus on advancing skills of critical analysis and argument you have already acquired at A Level, critical skills in the close reading and analysis of texts, such as the awareness of formal and aesthetic dimensions of literature and of the affective power of language, and on the introduction of more advanced concepts and theories relating to literature.

Compulsory modules:

- Introduction to Drama
- Introduction to the Novel
- Introduction to Poetry.

Optional modules:

Up to three of the following selected from a range which has previously included (or up to two open modules offered by other departments):

- Romance and the Literature of Chivalry
- Myth and Epic of the North
- Classical and Biblical Backgrounds to English Literature
- English: Language, Use, Theory.

Year 2

Year 2 builds on the knowledge and skills developed in first year by broadening the range of literary texts and periods with which you will engage. You will study a substantial number of authors, topics and texts and gain awareness of the range and variety of approaches to literary study. The second year also develops your ability

to articulate knowledge and understanding of concepts and theories relating to literature, as well as your powers of critical argument and command of written English. You will develop your capacity for autonomous learning and independence of thought by, for example, exploring, selecting from, and drawing together in an appropriate way, specific texts and topics chosen from a wide syllabus.

Students must take the modules Theory and Practice of Literary Criticism and Shakespeare in Year 2 and choose up to three lecture modules and a seminar module. Some lecture modules cover historical periods, such as Renaissance Literature and Victorian Literature, while others focus on key literary figures, themes or language, such as Shakespeare, Chaucer, American Poetry, Old English, Old Norse, and Old French.

Compulsory modules:

- Shakespeare
- Theory and Practice of Literary Criticism

Optional lecture modules (taught by weekly lectures and four one-hour tutorials) have previously included:

- Chaucer
- Old English
- Old Norse
- Old French
- Renaissance Literature
- Victorian Literature
- Literature of the Modern Period
- American Poetry.

Optional seminar modules (taught by fortnightly two-hour seminars) have previously included:

- Modern Poetry
- Literature in England and Wales, 1066-1300
- Germanic Myth and Legend
- The Australian Legend
- Toni Morrison: Texts and Contexts
- John Milton
- Evelyn Waugh
- Shakespeare's History Plays
- The Brontës.

Year 3

In the final year you will be able to demonstrate a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the subject, together with mature awareness of the variety of ideas relating to it. You will be able to demonstrate an ability to make connections and comparisons within your extensive range of reading. You will have developed the ability to interpret different ideas and values represented in literature, to test the ideas of others and to pursue ideas of your own. You will have acquired mature critical skills in the close reading and analysis of texts, confident powers of critical argument and a developed command of written English. You will appreciate the importance of scholarly standards of presentation and of writing accurately, clearly and effectively.

The final year includes a compulsory 12,000-word Dissertation on a subject of your choice related to English

literature. The Dissertation involves guided research on a self-formulated question, the gathering and processing of relevant information and materials, and results in work of sustained argumentative and analytic power.

In addition to the Dissertation, students may choose up to three lecture modules and up to two 'Special Topics', which develop the skills introduced in seminar modules at Level 2.

Compulsory modules:

- Dissertation (40 credits).

Optional lecture modules (taught by weekly lectures and four one-hour tutorials) have previously included:

- Old English
- Old Norse
- Old French
- Restoration and 18th Century Literature
- Literature of the Romantic Period
- Post-War Fiction and Poetry
- American Fiction
- Medieval Literature.

Optional Special Topics (taught by fortnightly two-hour seminars) have previously included:

- Literature, Cinema and Neuroscience
- Shakespeare on Film
- US Cold War Literature and Culture
- Writing Prose Fiction
- Fictions of Terrorism
- B. Yeats
- Keats and Shelley
- Elizabeth Bishop and Twentieth Century Verse
- A Society of Equals? Literature, Culture and Equality
- Creative Writing Poetry
- Writing Mountains in the Early Twentieth Century
- Seamus Heaney
- Jewish American Fiction
- Science and the Literary Imagination
- Ballads and Popular Romance.

We review course structures and core content (in light of e.g. external and student feedback) every year, and will publish finalised core requirements for 2020 entry from September 2019.

Study Abroad

You may apply to study abroad for an additional year between Levels 2 and 3 (transferring from BA Hons in English Literature to BA Hons English Literature with a Year Abroad). Supported by the International Office and the Department's International Co-ordinator, you can put yourself forward for the following study abroad options:

The Overseas Exchange programme (university-wide links with institutions in North America, the Far East, Australasia, and so on). A list of the University's current partners is available here:

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/exchange/outgoing/partnerunis/>

The Erasmus programme (Departmental link with universities in EU countries). At present, English has exchanges with the following institutions (subject to change/renewal):

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

Phillipps Universität, Marburg, Germany.

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg, Germany.

University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland.

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland.

Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.

The year abroad is designed to promote and develop the knowledge and understanding of other cultures and languages via an approved placement. It also helps to promote and develop an advanced knowledge of the national, regional and/or international frameworks in which literature is produced and categorised.

Successful year abroad applicants will take a course of study chosen in consultation with the International Co-ordinator and the host institution. Modules relating to literary study should normally comprise a minimum of 50% of those taken. There should not be significant overlap between modules taken on the Year Abroad and modules taken in Durham.

Placement Year

You may be able to take a work placement. Find out more (www.durham.ac.uk/placements/).

Admissions Process

Subject requirements, level and grade

A level offer – A*AA Including English Literature (or the combined English Literature and Language A level).

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma – D*DD and A level requirements as above.

IB Diploma score – 38 With 666 in higher level subjects, including English Literature or English Literature/Language.

In addition to satisfying the University's general entry requirements, please note:

- We welcome applications from those with other qualifications equivalent to our standard entry requirements and from mature students with non-standard qualifications or from those who may have had a break in their study
- If you are an international student who does not meet the requirements for direct entry to this degree, you may be eligible to take an International Foundation Year pathway programme at the Durham University International Study Centre
(www.durhamisc.com/?ch=uniweb&cc=signposting&cid=uniweb&utm_source=signposting&utm_medium=signposting&utm_campaign=uniweb)
- We welcome enquiries regarding applications for deferred entry which may be considered in special circumstances. Please contact our Admissions Secretary.

Science A Levels

Applicants taking Science A Levels that include a practical component will be required to take and pass this as a condition of entry. This applies only to applicants sitting A Levels with an English examination board.

English Language requirements

Please check requirements for your subject and level of study (www.durham.ac.uk/learningandteaching.handbook/1/3/3/)

How to apply

www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply

Information relevant to your country

www.durham.ac.uk/international/country.information/

Fees and Funding

Full Time Fees

EU Student	£9,250.00 per year
Home Student	£9,250.00 per year
Island Student	£9,250.00 per year
International non-EU Student	£20,500.00 per year

The tuition fees shown for **home and EU** students are for one complete academic year of full time study and are set according to the academic year of entry. Fees for subsequent years of your course may rise in line with an inflationary uplift as determined by the government.

The tuition fees shown for **overseas** students are for one complete academic year of full time study, are set according to the academic year of entry, and remain the same throughout the duration of the programme for that cohort (**unless otherwise stated**).

Please also check costs for colleges and accommodation (www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation/costs/).

Scholarships and funding

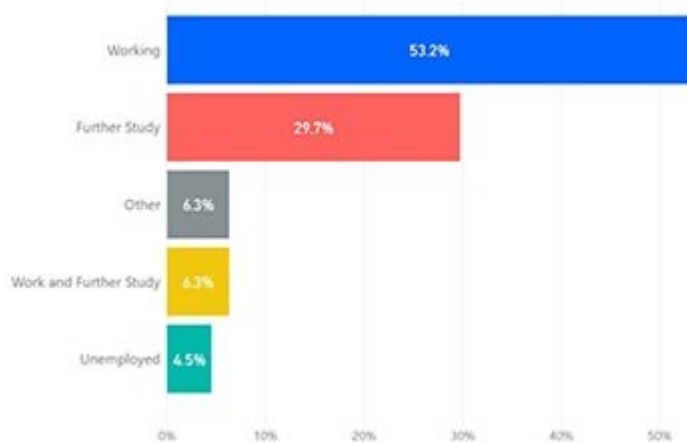
www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance

Career Opportunities

English Studies

Durham has an excellent graduate employment record. Surveys by the CVCP for the last twenty years have shown Durham consistently in the top five places of the employment league table. Our graduates have gone on to careers in the media, law, the Civil Service, teaching, higher education, research, management, publishing, and the arts. Partly because of its supportive collegiate structure and its strong departmental teaching, the Durham University is regularly among the country's top performers in graduate employment, and the Department of English Studies is very highly regarded by employers. Many of our students choose to continue their studies with our Taught MA (www.dur.ac.uk/english.studies/postgrad/taught) in English Literary Studies.

“ Embarking on a career with the BBC after graduation I found that Durham University is held in very high esteem amongst employers. The University name provided me with an association of prestige which helped to give an edge in a competitive market. ”



Of those students that left in 2017:

- 90% are in employment or further study

Of those in employment:

- 84% are in graduate level employment
- Median salary £22,000

(Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey of 2016/17 graduates. The DLHE survey asks leavers from higher education what they are doing six months after graduation. Full definitions for the DLHE Record can be found here: www.hesa.ac.uk/support/definitions/destinations)

Employment development opportunities

The Careers, Employability and Enterprise Centre works extremely closely with the English Department to ensure that current students receive information and vacancies relevant to their needs. Innovative talks take place by a Careers Adviser and external speakers to ensure that the students receive the most relevant and up to date advice about professions that English students are attracted too.

“ Durham is a target University for KPMG because of the high calibre, high quality graduates. A degree in English from Durham is a great opportunity for students to develop their skill set to aid them in any recruitment process. To make an impact with colleagues and clients, you must be able to communicate clearly and confidently, both verbally and in writing. ”

Open days and visits

Pre-application open day

Pre-application open days are the best way to discover all you need to know about Durham University. With representatives from all relevant academic and support service departments, and opportunities to explore college options, the open days provide our prospective undergraduates with the full experience of Durham University.

Please see the following page for further details and information on how to book a place:
www.durham.ac.uk/opendays

Discover Durham Tours

Discover Durham tours offer a brief introduction to the University. The tour begins at one of our undergraduate colleges, where you will receive an introductory talk from a member of college staff, followed by a tour of the college by current students.

www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/live/visit/discoverdurham

Overseas Visit Schedule

www.durham.ac.uk/international/office/meetus

Department Information

English Studies

Overview

English studies will appeal to people with a sensitivity to language, a love of reading and a sense of intellectual adventure.

Not only does English studies provide a thorough grounding in literary theory and the 'great tradition' of English literature – from Chaucer and Shakespeare through to plays, poems and novels written in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries – but it also offers a wide range of imaginative and carefully designed modules.

Rankings

- World Top 50 in the *QS World University Subject Rankings 2019*.
- 1st in *The Complete University Guide and the Guardian University Guide 2019*.

Staff

For a current list of staff, please see the English Studies web pages (www.dur.ac.uk/english.studies/academicstaff/).

Facilities

The Department is housed in a Grade II listed building, Hallgarth House and in Elvet Riverside. Both buildings are close to the University's Bill Bryson Library and the special collections in the Palace Green Library. The Department has strong links with the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, the Centre for Seventeenth Century Studies, the Centre for Medical Humanities, the Centre for Poetry and Poetics, which oversees the archive of the distinguished Northumbrian modernist poet, Basil Bunting, and the Institute of Advanced Study.

These internationally recognised institutions represent just some of the research interests and archive resources within the University. Durham students run their own English Society, which provides many opportunities for theatre visits, especially to the Royal Shakespeare Company season in Newcastle every year. There is also a strong tradition of student drama and music within the Department and the University as a whole.

Website

www.durham.ac.uk/english.studies

This document was downloaded on Wednesday, 18th September 2019 at 7:11pm from www.durham.ac.uk/courses/info/?id=17228&title=English%20Literature&pdf.

The information relating to this course was last updated on Wednesday, 13th March 2019 at 1:59pm