



# ECTS Handbook

**Incoming Students**

**Academic year 2024/2025**

**Part 2**

English Studies

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## **A: THE DEPARTMENT**

The Department of English Studies is situated in two buildings, Hallgarth House and Elvet Riverside. Hallgarth House, a Georgian listed building, provides accommodation for the Department's administration and the many of its teaching staff. Elvet Riverside stands beside the River Wear; the tutorial rooms on the riverside look across to Hatfield College and the Cathedral peninsula. All lectures take place in Elvet Riverside. Tutorials are normally held in groups of 8 students; seminars are held in groups of about 10-20. Lectures are not compulsory, but tutorials and seminars are: undergraduates are expected to see their tutors regularly, and to prepare essays or shorter pieces for tutorial or seminar discussion. The University Library holds strong general collections in literary studies in its main building on Stockton Road as well as specialist collections on Palace Green. Both libraries are within easy walking distance. Further information about the Department's activities and research is available from our website:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/english.studies/>

### **A1: ERASMUS Departmental Coordinator (Michaelmas Term TBC)**

## **B: DEGREE STRUCTURE**

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure, consisting of six modules each year for three years. Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year. All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught. At the end of the first year, there are preliminary examinations on material taught in first-year modules. The final degree class, however, is determined by the examinations taken in the second and third year.

## **C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS**

**This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement!**

## **C1: General**

### **Choice of Modules**

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS: PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR LEARNING AGREEMENT**

At Durham University, Erasmus agreements are usually signed by individual departments, rather than university-wide. As a result, in general, students have to choose modules within the Durham University department through which the Erasmus agreement with their home university has been signed. (Students should check with the Erasmus Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments. Students therefore need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their Learning Agreements.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take on your Learning Agreement (included in your application package) for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your Learning Agreement, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the ECTS Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed Learning Agreement is submitted as part of the application form. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for Erasmus students in the department. Please choose from these modules only!

## **C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions**

### **IMPORTANT**

**(i) The Department of English Studies is one of the top-ranked English Departments in the UK and thus has a very high student intake for its programmes. Regrettably, this demand for teaching provision means that**

**the Department will in the first instance only be able to consider students on \*direct\* links.**

**To clarify, Erasmus agreements are usually set up on a department-to-department basis. If your home university has an agreement with a department other than English Studies, it is unlikely that we will be able to accept your application to study with us. In some circumstances, the department may be willing to allow Erasmus students from non-partner institutions to take 1-2 English modules, if capacity permits, but we must stress again that we can offer no guarantees to those applying via indirect links. If you apply through an indirect link, you are strongly advised to choose alternative modules in other Departments.**

**(ii) Because of the structure and duration of our modules, the Department is only able to accept students who will be in Durham for the full academic year. The only exceptions to this are students coming from our direct links with Kraków and Prague. In all cases, students must start their studies in the Michaelmas term.**

**(iii) If you intend to apply to study in the English Department, you should have a strong background in literary / cultural studies and be prepared to engage in literary critical work at an advanced level. With these requirements in mind, the department requires a piece of written work (essay, term paper, assignment etc.) from every student applying for English modules. Students will have to enclose this writing sample with their applications in order to be considered.**

**(iv) Please note that the Department of English Studies at Durham only teaches literary criticism. We do not offer modules in linguistics, English as a foreign language, or pedagogy.**

**(v) Lecture modules in English Studies at Durham are usually assessed at the end of the academic year by a take home paper equivalent to an exam of 2 or 3 hours. Seminar/special topic modules are assessed by coursework. This typically takes the form of two assessed essays, but the assessment may, where appropriate to the subject, take an alternative form, such as 'creative criticism'.**

**(vi) Applicants from our Erasmus partners and the Overseas Exchange programme can select up to six modules in English and should normally**

choose to study a coherent combination of Level 2 / Level 3 modules, depending on academic experience and background. Our modules become increasingly specialised as our students progress from Level 1 to Level 3 over the course of three years.

(vii) Three introductory modules at Level 1 are not available to exchange students: Introduction to Drama, Introduction to Poetry, and Introduction to the Novel. Since these lecture series are required of all first-year students in English Studies, we are not able to accommodate any additional enrolment in these three modules in particular.

(viii) Applicants may select from other Level 1 modules but must bear in mind that combining these modules with options at Levels 2 and 3 is not always possible. For example, if you wish to take 'Literature of the Modern Period' at Level 2, you should already have some foundational training in literary studies and therefore taking an introductory literature module alongside it will not be appropriate. Combining Level 1 modules with Level 2 or 3 modules can also create timetabling problems.

(ix) The majority of your choices should be from our lists of *lecture* modules. You may, however, if you wish, apply to take *\*one\** special topic (Level 3) and/or *\*one\** seminar module (Level 2).

#### D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules that Erasmus students can choose from.

To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>

**Please note: Current modules are indicative. Not all modules are necessarily offered every year. Lecture modules tend to stay the same; seminars (Level 2), however, and special topics (Level 3) often change from year to year, depending on staff availability.**

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content,

etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <http://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>

**MODULES AVAILABLE: 2024/25** (the list given below is subject to change)

### **Level 1 Lecture Modules**

<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>
ENGL 1051	Romance and the Literature of Chivalry
ENGL 1041	Epic and the Literature of Legend
ENGL 1031	Ancient Worlds
ENGL 1061	Introduction to the Novel ( <b>not available to exchange students</b> )
ENGL 1011	Introduction to Drama ( <b>not available to exchange students</b> )
ENGL 1071	Introduction to Poetry ( <b>not available to exchange students</b> )

### **Level 2 Lecture Modules**

<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>
ENGL 2011	Theory and Practice of Literary Criticism
ENGL 2021	Shakespeare
ENGL 2041	Renaissance Literature
ENGL 2071	Victorian Literature
ENGL 2081	Literature of the Modern Period
ENGL 2091	Old English
ENGL 2121	Chaucer
ENGL 2141	American Poetry
ENGL 2801	Postcolonial and World Literatures

## Level 2 Seminar Modules

Module code	Module Title
ENGL 2291	Fin-de-Siecle Fiction
ENGL 2381	Arthurian Literature
ENGL 2771	Contemporary US Fiction & The Question of Genre
ENGL 2781	Writing Women: Gendering Literature, c.800-1600
ENGL 2791	Romantic Plays and Players
ENGL 2831	Literature and the Internet
ENGL 2841	What is Literature? Literary Thought from Antiquity to Modernity
ENGL 2821	Hotel Stories
ENGL NEW01	Stagecraft and Subversion in the Early English Drama
ENGL NEW02	Ted Hughes

## Level 3 Lecture Modules

Module code	Module Title
ENGL 3051	Restoration and 18th Century Literature
ENGL 3061	Literature of the Romantic Period
ENGL 3091	Old English
ENGL 3131	American Fiction
ENGL 3162	40-Credit in Dissertation in English ( <b>not available to exchange students</b> )
ENGL 3591	Post-War Fiction and Poetry
ENGL 3661	Medieval Literature

## Level 3 Special Topic modules

Module Code	Module Title
ENGL 3171	Writing Prose Fiction
ENGL 3271	Creative Writing Poetry
ENGL 3611	Keats and Shelley
ENGL 3641	From Romance to Romanticism: An Introduction to English Ballads



ENGL 3711	Mind and Narrative
ENGL 3741	The Politics of Style: From Close Reading to “World Literature”
ENGL 3821	Digital Deformations
ENGL 3831	Literary Psychoanalysis
ENGL 3841	Reading Games, Playing Books
ENGL 3881	Diaspora Literature: Contexts, Concepts and Form
ENGL 3891	Life Write Now: Reading Contemporary Autofiction
ENGL 3901	Life-Writing and Mental Health
ENGL 3911	Literature and the Artinatural 1850-1950
ENGL3981	The Domestic Object: Home and Identity in Edwardian and Modern Fiction