

English

Essentials

What English degrees are there?

English
English and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)
English and Art History
English and English Language Teaching
English and Film Studies
English and History
English and Media Studies

American Studies and English (p30)
Drama Studies and English (p57)
English Language and Literature (p71)
Philosophy and English (p106)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer range: AAA-AAB

A levels (or equivalent) must include English, English Literature or the combined A level in English Language and Literature at grade A

For English and a Language, A levels (or equivalent) must include the language you wish to study at grade B, in addition to A level English

Typical IB diploma offer: at least 36 points including 6 in Higher Level English

For English and a Language, at least 36 points including both 6 in Higher Level English and normally 5 in your chosen language at Higher Level

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact:

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www.sussex.ac.uk/english

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

Why English?

We live in language. Our experience of the world and of ourselves is formed by the words we use. Why do certain combinations of words move us more than others? How do we understand in language and what do we understand? How is our creative intelligence formed? What is the relation between the verbal and the visual? What role does writing play in shaping a culture?

Why English at Sussex?

• English at Sussex scored 97 per cent in the teaching category and 95 per cent in the student satisfaction category of the 2010 National Student Survey (NSS), ranking in the top 10 in the UK. English at Sussex is ranked in the top 20 in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2010-11*.

• In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 95 per cent of our English research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and over half rated as internationally excellent or higher.

• An English degree at Sussex helps you become a critical and imaginative reader and thinker, giving you the opportunity to engage with the huge variety of ways writers use words: from Anglo-Saxon epic to current avant-garde poetry; from Shakespeare and Jane Austen to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; from theoretical works on language and culture to developing your own creative writing.

• Our emphasis is on teaching you in small seminar groups.

• You can develop your creative as well as critical perspective in various courses.

What sort of career could I have?

English is a multidisciplinary and flexible subject, which gives our students the critical and communication skills to prepare them for a rich and rewarding life in a very large range of careers.

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in:

- higher education
- journalism
- the arts
- teaching
- media.

How will I learn?

The study of English requires you to develop skills in interpretation, critical thinking and communication. You learn ways of arguing, reading and interpreting through small-group seminars, formal lectures, workshops and readings. Courses are assessed through coursework, portfolios, essays, dissertations and exams.

Elizabeth's perspective

'I chose Sussex because of the freedom that the English programme offers to study topics that interest you, and the prospect of being inspired to submit creative, original work with a strong theoretical grounding.'

'Studying English at Sussex is an exciting experience in an environment that challenges you and encourages you to progress in your writing skills, applying new theories to texts and expanding your knowledge in a variety of areas. Throughout the degree I've tackled a whole host of topics, studying texts I may not have otherwise had the opportunity to explore.'

'Sussex has also given me enough confidence in my abilities to submit work for the University's magazine *The Pulse*, and there are many other ways to get involved in writing outside of lectures, and to learn from others in a friendly, social atmosphere. The School of English is completely supportive and always there to help, and Sussex has provided me with all the skills I need to achieve my future goals and aspirations. All in all, it's made studying English at Sussex unforgettable.'

Elizabeth Naven
BA in English and
Film Studies



Amanda's perspective

'I knew that Sussex has an excellent reputation for interdisciplinary studies and, as I wanted to study English and Art History as a joint degree, I felt that it was the place for me. I'm glad to say that I made the right decision, as I find the tutors really encourage you to explore beyond traditional boundaries. The courses are taught by both lectures and seminars, and although I found them challenging at first, I soon began to feel more confident. I was particularly surprised how quickly I gained confidence in speaking out in seminars, including giving presentations.'

'Being a mature student I was initially worried how I'd fit in but I can't stress enough how greatly I've enjoyed the experience, and how accepting I've found students at Sussex to be.'

Amanda
Cooper-Grundy
BA in English and
Art History



What will I achieve?

- knowledge of a range of different kinds of literature from various historical periods and contexts
- insight into the complex role that literature has played in shaping culture in the past and the present
- understanding theoretical approaches and how they influence the study of literature
- a sharp, critical awareness of how words can be used and what they can do
- development of conceptual abilities that enable the study of English in the context of related disciplines
- skills enhanced by independent critical thinking and research.

Degrees**English****BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: Q303**

This single-honours degree aims to develop your appreciation and understanding of English literature and its role in shaping culture and society in both the present and the past. You become familiar with a range of approaches to the study of literature and explore the relationship between literary texts and other cultural forms, such as film and the visual arts.

During the first two years, complementary courses in languages and in several fields of cultural and historical study will be available, if you wish to broaden the scope of your degree. Courses available within the programme will give you the opportunity to submit your own creative writing for assessment. Refer to the list of core courses on the right.

English and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)**BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: QRH9**

This degree programme aims to develop your appreciation and understanding of English literature and to complement this with a detailed study of the language, literature and thought of another European culture. You take language courses in each year of your degree at Sussex, acquiring linguistic skills and historical and cultural knowledge in an integrated fashion.

In Years 1 and 2, you follow the English and language core courses, with additional English options in Year 2. Your year abroad can be spent studying at a university in Europe, a francophone country or Latin America. In the final year you choose options from both subjects.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of English courses; refer to the languages subject entry on page 85 for more information on these courses.

English and Art History**BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: QV33**

This degree aims to develop your appreciation and understanding of English literature, to complement this with a study of art history, and to explore the role of literature and the visual arts in shaping culture and society.

The art history component of the programme explores a wide range of visual material produced for both pleasure and use – from painting, architecture and sculpture, to dress, teapots and trainers – and places this material in its historical context. You will initially take core courses in each subject, including Art and Text, a course designed to provide a bridge between the two subjects. In addition, you will choose a period of study in both subjects in Years 2 and 3, and take an art history option, as well as a special author/special subject course in Year 3.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of English courses; refer to the art history subject entry on page 33 for more information on these courses.

The War in Heaven, illustrating a scene from John Milton's Paradise Lost. Engraving by Gustave Dore, 1870

English and English Language Teaching BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: QX31

This degree programme aims to develop your appreciation and understanding of English literature and to complement this with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to teach English to speakers of other languages.

In Years 1 and 2, you follow the English and English Language Teaching core courses, with additional English options in Year 2. Year 3 offers you the opportunity to take options in English and to undertake an English language teaching research project alongside final-year courses in Second Language Acquisition and Advanced Teaching Methodology.

The degree provides a broad perspective on English literature and English Language Teaching (ELT) pedagogy, and allows increasing specialisation in the later years of study.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of English courses; refer to the English language teaching subject entry on page 72 for more information on these courses.

English and Film Studies**BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: QP3H**

This programme aims to develop your appreciation and understanding of English literature and to complement this with a study of film. You study a wide range of European literature in translation and explore a broad variety of film in a comparative context.

In Year 1, you follow introductory core courses in both subjects. In Years 2 and 3, you take a mixture of core and option courses from each subject, specialising within both English and film.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of English courses; refer to the film studies subject entry on page 73 for more information on these courses.

English and History**BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: QV31**

This degree aims to develop your appreciation and understanding of English literature and to complement this with a detailed study of history, focusing on the contexts through which texts emerge and the relationship between cultures and human intellectual developments. The degree provides a broad perspective on human intellectual and cultural development, while allowing increasing specialisation in the later years of study.

In Year 1, you take English and history core courses. In subsequent years you select further options in addition to the core courses for each subject.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of English courses; refer to the history subject entry on page 78 for more information on these courses.

English and Media Studies**BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: QP33**

This degree aims to develop your appreciation and understanding of English literature alongside a study of the media and an exploration of the role of each in shaping culture and society.

In the media studies courses you learn how to analyse media texts and the theory and practice of media production, together with the histories, institutions and technologies of the media. You also explore the relationship between literary texts and other cultural forms, including film and the visual arts.

First-year core courses include practical work in media. We expect to offer a new course, Reading Genre, making connections between the two subjects. Subsequently you take core courses and options in both English and media.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for details of English courses; refer to the media subject entry on page 95 for more information on these courses.

**Core courses**

With over 40 expert faculty in the School of English, you will be introduced to the breadth and excitement of literary writing from the Middle Ages to the most contemporary works. Our degrees comprise core courses and options that enable you to pursue your own individual interests and to develop new ones

Courses currently include:**Year 1**

If you take English as a single-honours degree, you take the two year-long courses *Texts in Time* and *Critical Approaches*. You may take a third course offered by the School of English, *Reading Genre*, or an option from another school, or a modern-language course. If you study English as part of a joint degree, you take *Texts in Time*, except for those students who study English Language and English or English and Media Studies, who take *Critical Approaches and Reading Genre*

Year 2

All students take the course *The Novel*. You also choose a period course from a range exploring writing between 1500 and 1945. In addition, you choose options from a large variety including American Literature

- Reading Postcolonial Texts
- Representation and the Body
- Staging the Renaissance
- The 20th-Century Novel and the Supernatural
- The Art of Short Fiction
- Tragedy
- Writing and the Great War

Year 3

All students choose a course focused on a single author, ranging from writers such as Marlowe, Wordsworth, Austen, Dickens and Woolf to Baldwin and Ishiguro. You also choose another period course from a collection exploring writing between 1500 and 1945. In addition, you choose options from a large variety including Avant-Garde Cinema

- Irish Writing after Joyce
- Islam, Literature and the West
- Literature and Psychoanalysis
- Sexual Difference
- The Literatures of Africa
- The Modernity of Photography