

# English

## Essentials

### Taught programmes

#### MA degrees

Colonial and Postcolonial Cultures  
Critical Theory  
Early Modern Literature and Culture  
English Studies  
Literature and Culture 1700-1900  
Literature and Philosophy  
Literature, Film and Visual Culture  
Modern and Contemporary Literature,  
Culture and Thought  
Sexual Dissidence in Literature and Culture

### Research programmes

MPhil, PhD English

### Related programmes

MA in American Literature: Critical Reading (p38)  
MA in Applied Linguistics (p95)  
MA in Creative and Critical Writing (p69)  
MA in Theatre and Performance (p77)  
MPhil, PhD in American History or Literature (p39)  
MPhil, PhD in Creative and Critical Writing (p69)  
MPhil, PhD in Creative Writing (p69)

### Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

#### MA

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in a subject relevant to the chosen Masters degree

#### MPhil and PhD

A Masters degree in a literary subject or another discipline relevant to your chosen area of research

### English language requirements

IELTS 7.0, with not less than 6.5 in each section. Internet TOEFL with 100 overall, with at least 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading and 27 in both Speaking and Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

### Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

### Further information

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- English at Sussex has a well-established international reputation for producing research that develops and extends the boundaries of the subject.
- 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.
- English at Sussex is ranked 8th in the UK in *The Guardian University 2012*, 11th in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2011-12* and 19th in the UK in *The Times Good University Guide 2012*.
- English runs a wide range of innovative MA programmes, taught by faculty working at the forefront of English studies.
- We support research centres such as the Centre for Modernist Studies and the Centre for Early Modern Studies, which focus on interdisciplinary research and teaching, and attract high-profile speakers from around the world.
- We have a diverse and thriving community of postgraduate students who contribute to an outstanding research culture.



**CCTV monitor: in a world dominated by the speed of communication, the infinitely reproducible visual image is ubiquitous, occupying diverse social and cultural contexts. Emerging from a strong commitment to interdisciplinary research, the Centre for Visual Fields at Sussex forges new connections between different areas of knowledge that involve many forms of visual experience and encounter**

## Taught programmes

Our set of English programmes is currently under review and may change for 2012 entry. For the most up-to-date information, refer to [www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg)

Full-time programmes can also be followed part time over two years, with taught seminars in the autumn and spring terms.

### Assessment (except the MA in English Studies)

You are assessed by four 5,000-word term papers and a dissertation of 15,000 words.

### Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to careers in teaching and education, publishing, website production and marketing, journalism and writing, the charity sector, and NGOs. A number of our graduates go on to further study and careers in academia.

### MA in Colonial and Postcolonial Cultures 1 year full time/2 years part time

From our pioneering work in the 1980s through to today's diverse cross-disciplinary research, the University maintains intellectual leadership in the rapidly evolving discipline of colonial and postcolonial studies. We share expertise in five main areas:

- diasporas
- gender and sexuality
- imperial cultural histories
- Irish literary culture
- slavery.

This MA offers you an enriching environment for the study of literatures, theories and cultures. Our courses cover a wide range of regions including the Caribbean, Africa, South Asia and Ireland. Through regular seminars, film screenings and reading groups alongside occasional guest lectures and an annual postgraduate conference, you will have the opportunity to engage with diverse literatures and cultural debates.

This MA is associated with the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies ([www.sussex.ac.uk/ccps](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ccps)).

### Programme structure

Autumn and spring terms: you take four options from a list that may include Gendering the Postcolonial • Postcolonial Locations (an introductory course recommended to newcomers to this field of study) • Race and Colonialism in Early Modern English Literature • The Migrant Writer: Postcolonialism and Creativity.

Summer term and vacation: supervised and independent work on the MA dissertation.

Saturday

My dear Leonard,

I am waiting for a train so I can only send a line in answer. I have said anything really for me to say, except that I should like to go on as before; & that you should leave me free; & that I should be honest. As to faults, I expect mine are just as bad - less noble perhaps. But I worry they are not really the question. I have decided to keep this completely secret, except for Vanessa; & I have made her promise not to tell Clive. I told Adrian

The University of Sussex Library curates several collections relating to the 'Bloomsbury Group', including an important collection of Virginia Woolf's manuscripts and letters

#### MA in Critical Theory 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA enables you to study in depth the work of theorists and thinkers only superficially encountered at undergraduate level. There is a strong emphasis on the writings of Marx, Freud, Derrida, Adorno and Cixous, as well as on a range of contemporary writers in queer theory and postcolonialism.

This MA also provides you with an excellent foundation for doctoral study in English, philosophy or another humanities discipline.

This MA is associated with the Centre for Literature and Philosophy ([www.sussex.ac.uk/clp](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clp)).

#### Programme structure

Autumn and spring terms: you take four from a list that may include Derrida • Issues in Queer Theory • Psychoanalysis and Creative Writing • Psychoanalysis and the Image • Style: The Necessary Failure • The Frankfurt School and Critical Theory • Theory in Practice.

Summer term and vacation: supervised work on the MA dissertation.

#### MA in Early Modern Literature and Culture 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA explores the writing, visual expression, material and other cultural artefacts generated by Europe's transforming intellectual and social environment between 1450 and 1750. It engages with issues such as humanism, eloquence and government, the idea of Europe, sexuality and desire, the West's engagement with Islam, new ideas of the body and the self, the Renaissance library, and popular culture.

This programme offers you the opportunity of working with local and national archives and galleries and Sussex's own Travers Collection (and other Special Collections) and with rare books.

This MA is associated with the Centre for Early Modern Studies ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cems](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cems)).

#### Programme structure

Autumn and spring terms: you take four options from a list that may include Public Shakespeare • Race and Colonialism in Early Modern English Literature • The History of Domesticity: Literature, Public and Private, 1700-1800 • The Idea of the Renaissance • The Renaissance Body.

Summer term and vacation: supervised work on the MA dissertation.

#### MA in English Studies

##### 1 year full time/2 years part time

Embracing the imaginative and historical, the literary and linguistic, English as a subject continuously re-invents its interpretive grasp of the world. This MA enables you to engage with critical directions that currently shape the discipline.

This programme explores literature from Shakespeare to the contemporary. The University of Sussex offers you an ideal environment for further study. We are acclaimed for our critical innovation and are rich in research collections – for example the Woolf papers, the Kipling papers and the Mass Observation Archive – and we are positioned in an area of fascinating literary history.

This MA will be particularly attractive to those who seek a historically and conceptually diverse postgraduate programme in English. It presents you with opportunities to engage with new work and to deepen your existing understanding of both literature and language. It combines teaching in seminars, lectures, and workshops with individual supervision, helping you develop your reading and writing talents to the highest academic levels.

#### Programme structure

Autumn and spring terms: you take the core course The Idea of the Self and either Contemporary Writing: Novels and Histories or Modernism 1900-1945. You also take two options such as Dickens: Special Author, or you can choose options from the array offered by the School's other MA programmes that examine literature from the Renaissance to the contemporary, or English as a global language, often from interdisciplinary perspectives.

Summer term and vacation: you prepare a dissertation on a topic of your choosing in consultation with a supervisor.

#### Assessment

Assessment modes are specifically designed to help you develop a confident critical voice within your own research project (3,500 words). Bibliographic exercises, portfolio work-in-progress and short essays broaden towards more independent pieces of work, culminating in a supervised dissertation (11,500 words) in which you will present a distinctive critical argument that reflects your specific interests.

#### MA in Literature and Culture 1700-1900 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA allows you to focus on work in both the 18th and 19th centuries or to concentrate more fully on a shorter time period within them. While the focus is on literary texts, this is an interdisciplinary programme enabling you to investigate various aspects of the interactions between literature and other contemporary cultural forms and intellectual debates.

Our options explore the relationship between literary and visual culture and various aspects of cultural discourse including developments in science and evolutionary theory, the history of sexuality, debates on culture, psychology and sexology, religion and anthropology.

**Programme structure**

Autumn and spring terms: you take four options from a list that may include Culture and Intellect in the 19th Century • Dickens • Image and Text 1780-1880 • The Fin de Siècle • The History of Domesticity: Literature, Public and Private, 1700-1800.

Summer term and vacation: supervised work on the MA dissertation.

**MA in Literature and Philosophy  
1 year full time/2 years part time**

This MA provides an advanced programme of study for those interested in questions that arise at the intersection of the two disciplines. The core course addresses explicitly the question of the relationship between philosophy and literature in contemporary thought. Three further courses are chosen from a range of options reflecting the strong interdisciplinary character of the programme.

This MA is distinctive because it brings together expertise from literature and philosophy in a genuinely collaborative context, encouraging you to approach study with an open frame of mind and equipping you with the knowledge and skills required to pursue further research.

This MA is associated with the Centre for Literature and Philosophy ([www.sussex.ac.uk/clp](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clp)).

**Programme structure**

Autumn term: you take Explorations in Philosophy and Literature, and one option from a list that may include Analytic Aesthetics • Derrida • Kant • Modernist/Postmodernist Fiction in Britain • Phenomenology • Psychoanalysis and Creative Writing • Style: The Necessary Failure • Theory in Practice.

Spring term: you take two options from a list that may include Continental Aesthetics • Creativity and Utopia • Deconstruction and Creative Writing • Frankfurt School and Critical Theory • Marxism and Creative Writing • Philosophy special subject • Psychoanalysis and the Image • The Politics of the Unconscious.

Summer term: supervised work on the MA dissertation.

**MA in Literature, Film and Visual Culture  
1 year full time/2 years part time**

This MA is designed for the growing number of postgraduates with intellectual interests cutting across the disciplines of English, media, film and image studies. It explores the convergence of literature and visual culture from the late 18th century to the present, and addresses the theoretical and historical interconnections between literary and visual representation.

Through different approaches to the study of writing, image and visuality, individual options encourage you to think flexibly across conceptual frameworks, and offer a fresh understanding of the theoretical exchanges between visual and textual analysis.

This MA is associated with the Centre for Visual Fields ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cvff](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cvff)).

**Programme structure**

Autumn and spring terms: you take four options from a list that may include Image and Text • ImagiNation: the Great American Novel • Photography and Fiction in the 20th Century • Psychoanalysis and the Image • Representing the Great Depression in Literature and Culture • Style: The Necessary Failure.

Summer term and vacation: supervised work on the MA dissertation.

**MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature, Culture and Thought  
1 year full time/2 years part time**

This MA attempts to understand how literature has shaped and been shaped by modern and contemporary culture. It includes courses reflecting on the experience of the city, on photography, on modernism and postmodernism, on psychoanalysis, on the experience of war, and on globalisation.

The range of courses on offer and the international excellence of our faculty make the study of modern and contemporary literature at Sussex uniquely dynamic and exciting.

This MA is associated with the Centre for Modernist Studies ([www.sussex.ac.uk/modernist](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/modernist)). The Centre invites distinguished speakers from around the world and hosts regular colloquia in English, philosophy, American studies, and social and political thought.

**Programme structure**

Autumn and spring terms: you take four options from a list that may include American Poetry After Modernism • Contemporary Writing • Creativity and Utopia • Gendering the Postcolonial • ImagiNation: the Great American Novel • Marxism and Creative Writing • Modernist and Postmodernist Fiction in Britain • Photography and Fiction in the 20th Century • Representing the Great Depression in Literature and Culture • The Migrant Writer: Postcolonialism and Creativity • Theory in Practice.

Summer term and vacation: supervised work on the MA dissertation.

**MA in Sexual Dissidence in Literature and Culture  
1 year full time/2 years part time**

This MA looks at the most intellectually compelling issues facing the study of sexuality today. You can study sexual dissidence from historical, cultural, theoretical, comparative or postcolonial frameworks.

Sussex has established itself firmly as a major influence on the study of sexual dissidence in the UK, continental Europe and abroad. Sussex faculty share a broad range of interdisciplinary expertise and scholarly perspectives including early modern sexualities, postcolonial queer theory, South African writing, queer romanticism, the theory and practice of creative writing, psychoanalysis, social and cultural history, feminist and gender studies, cultural materialism, performance studies, film, visual culture, and media studies.

This MA is associated with the Centre for the Study of Sexual Dissidence ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cssd](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cssd)).

**Programme structure**

Autumn and spring terms: you take four options from a list that may include Critical Issues in Queer Theory • Gender and Representation • Gendering the Postcolonial • Queering Popular Culture • Sexuality and Creative Writing • The Politics of Gender • The Renaissance Body.

Summer term and vacation: supervised work on the MA dissertation.

### Research programmes

The English faculty encompasses research strengths and interests that span most periods of English literature and contemporary critical theory.

Particular areas of expertise include Renaissance writing; culture and ideology; the novel from the 18th century to the present; romantic, Victorian and modern poetry; and all aspects of modernism and postmodernism.

There is a strong commitment to the interdisciplinary study of literature in its historical and discursive context in relation to philosophy, history of art and the history of ideas; to post-colonial and feminist criticism; to gay and lesbian criticism; and to recent developments in psychoanalytic, Marxist, post-structuralist and 'new historicist' criticism.

#### Recent and current thesis titles

*Gossip: gender and genre from Pepys to Woolf*

*Law and form: Joyce, Beckett and philosophy*

*More intimate than violence: rape, representation and the civic bond*

*Rewriting the nation: nationalist interventions in literary history*

*Shakespeare and cyberspace*

*Temporality in modernist literature*

*The body in sickness in England 1558-1640*

*The hotel in fiction 1870-1939*

*The poetic culture of English Republicanism*

*Thomas Hardy's relations with contemporary readers*

*TS Eliot, mass culture and the music hall*

*Virginia Woolf's essays: a woman writer's production of literary history*

*Waking nightmares: a critical study of Ian McEwan's novels*

#### Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to careers including teaching, tutoring and editing.

### Faculty research interests

Faculty research interests are described briefly below and on the right. For more detailed information, visit

[www.sussex.ac.uk/english/people](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/english/people)

The following list includes all the English faculty, and other contributors to English MA programmes.

The journals *Renaissance Studies*; *Textual Practice*; *The Oxford Literary Review* and *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* are edited within the School of English.

**Gavin Ashenden** 20th-century myth and metaphysics; psychology, psychoanalysis and belief – Jung, Freud, William James; Charles Williams, C S Lewis and the Oxford Inklings.

**Sara Jane Bailes** Refer to the Drama subject entry on page 77.

**David Barnett** Refer to the Drama subject entry on page 77.

**Professor Peter Boxall** Modern and contemporary fiction and drama. Author of *Since Beckett: Contemporary Writing in the Wake of Modernism* (2009).



The University of Sussex Library holds the Baker Collection of Books. This image, near Regency Square in Brighton, is from Richard Ayton's 1814 work *A Voyage around Great Britain*

**Sara Crangle** Co-Director of the Centre for Modernist Studies. 20th-century literature, including Joyce, Woolf, Stein, Hardy, Beckett.

**Brian Cummings** 16th- and 17th-century literature and history (especially poetry); medieval and Renaissance philosophy and theology; and theories of language.

**Alistair Davies** Modernism and post-modernism, 20th-century English and American literature; and post-war European cinema.

**Denise DeCaires Narain** Postcolonialist writing; feminist cultural theory; contemporary women's writing in English, especially poetry.

**Katerina Deligiorgi** Kant, Hegel, moral philosophy and its history, ethics and literature, and contemporary aesthetics.

**Matthew Dimmock** 16th- and 17th-century literature and history; national identity; Islam.

**Elena Gualtieri** European and Anglo-American modernism; Virginia Woolf and feminist literary history; and the representation of photography in modernist literature.

**Andrew Hadfield** Renaissance literature and politics; Britishness; Shakespeare; Spenser; and national identity.

**Margaret Healy** Renaissance literature and culture; the political stage; Shakespeare; Dekker; medicine and literature; and theory of the body.

**Professor Tom Healy** Head of School. 16th- and 17th-century writing and cultural history. Author of *Renaissance Transformations: The Making of English Writing, 1500-1680* (2009).

**Vicky Lebeau** The convergence of psychoanalysis, literature and cinema; and feminist theory. Author of *Childhood and the Cinema* (2008).

**William McEvoy** Refer to the Drama subject entry on page 77.

**Stephanie Newell** West African literature and popular culture; postcolonial theory; the social history of reading in Africa.

**Catherine Packham** 18th-century literature and philosophy; political economy and moral philosophy in the Scottish Enlightenment; 18th-century natural philosophy and physiology.

**Vincent Quinn** Lesbian and gay studies; the history of sexuality; 18th-century studies; Irish studies; and the history and theory of biography.

**John David Rhodes** Italian cinema; modernist and avant-garde cinemas of Europe and the US; queer art cinema.

**Nicholas Royle** Modern literature and literary theory, especially deconstruction and psychoanalysis; the uncanny; and creative writing.

**Martin Ryle** 19th- and 20th-century fiction; the politics of 'culture', with especial reference to education; and topographical and travel writing, especially travel writing about Ireland.

**Minoli Salgado** Postcolonial literature and theory; memory and migrant identity; the short story; Rushdie; and Ondaatje.

**Lindsay Smith** 19th-century literature and painting; photography in Victorian culture; and visual perception in the 19th century and the Renaissance.

**Keston Sutherland** Contemporary and 20th-century English and American poetry; Marxism and Frankfurt School critical theory; phenomenology and philology; and poetics.

**Jenny Bourne Taylor** 19th-century literature and culture; literature and science; illegitimacy and the family.

**Pamela Thurschwell** Co-Director of the Centre for Modernist Studies. Psychoanalysis, late 19th and early 20th century interest in the supernatural, and new technologies.

**Norman Vance** 19th-century literature, religion and society; Anglo-Irish literature; and classical and Biblical influences on British writing.

**Marcus Wood** Satire in the romantic period; the representation of slavery; and colonial and post-colonial literature and theory.