

**Kingston  
University**  
London



# English Literature BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

[www.kingston.ac.uk/englit](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/englit)



# English Literature BA(Hons)

single/joint honours

- Do you love reading?
- Do you find the process of thinking and writing about literature intellectually rewarding?
- Are you interested in cultural history?
- Do you want to develop vital career skills in language use, imaginative problem solving, information analysis, argument and clear expression?

English Literature is an established and well-regarded degree course focused upon the study of writing in diverse forms and contexts. It allows you to study fiction and non-fiction produced over several centuries and in multiple countries. It also allows you to combine the pleasures of reading and analysing literature with the acquisition of valuable employability skills.

## Our programme

Our English Literature BA (Hons) course will introduce you to a wide range of literature from Chaucer to the present. You will study the genres of fiction, drama and poetry, and will consider what fiction is as a genre, learn to interpret poetry from different historical periods and analyse a range of dramatic work. You will also examine literature within the social, cultural, critical and political contexts in which it was written, and explore contemporary developments in critical and theoretical approaches to text.

In Years Two and Three, we also offer an unusual range of optional modules, which allows you to focus on particular areas of interest. In addition you will receive training in the use of computing facilities, and will enjoy a stimulating learning environment with approachable tutors and a high level of academic support. You also have the opportunity of studying abroad at a US or European university for part of your degree.

Teaching is delivered through a mix of formal lectures, workshop activities, small group seminar teaching, and one-to-one supervision. Lecturers also have regular weekly office hours during which students can seek individual consultation. Modules are assessed in a variety of ways, but primarily through essay writing, exams, presentations, and projects.

## Careers

Successful completion of an English Literature degree lets potential employers know that you have a range of valuable skills including:

- advanced literacy and communication skills;
- the capacity to analyse and critically assess diverse forms of writing;
- the ability to deal with substantial quantities of complex information in a structured and systematic way;
- the capacity for independent thought;
- the capacity to frame a persuasive argument, both orally and in writing;
- skills in critical reasoning;
- creative and imaginative responsiveness;
- research and bibliographic skills;
- the capacity to function effectively in groups and to work independently;
- competence in recognising and responding appropriately to the requirements of a task; and
- time-management and organisational skills.

This skill base gives graduates of English a flexible range of employment possibilities.

Graduates of English work in a range of professions, including advertising, leisure and tourism, arts management, business management, journalism, IT, law (via conversion course), marketing, media, curatorship, publishing and TEFL. Some students do teacher training or masters courses, while some go on to study for a PhD. Our graduates have achieved success in a number of different fields, such as librarianship, the Civil Service, personnel and fundraising. Some have continued their education or training, for example in counselling, nursing and computing. One recent graduate took a law conversion course and went on to become a barrister.

## The environment

The town of Kingston offers a thriving cultural scene. It has a new theatre, the Rose, and there are fringe theatres and poetry clubs in the surrounding area. The annual Kingston Readers' Festival, supported by the University, brings acclaimed writers to the borough to read and discuss their work in a wide range of events dedicated to the pleasure of reading. The Department of English and Creative Writing also has a number of 'writers in residence' including Hanif Kureishi, Paul Bailey, Maggie Gee, Liz Jensen and Alexander Masters.

There is easy access to London's West End and the South Bank (Waterloo Station is just 25 minutes by train) for theatres, talks, readings, the Poetry Library and the British Library.

## Student feedback

We constantly evaluate the content and teaching of our modules with the help of student feedback. This allows us to develop modules and monitor students' experiences of learning. Here is what our students say:

"The lecturer has such an enthusiasm for this subject and made it really interesting. This module is so original and only one of a few on degree courses – well done for including it on the course."

"Brilliant novels with everything you could want from a novel – they're exciting, mysterious, with murders, love, death..."

"I found the content and style of the lectures and the lecturers very inspiring, really helping to feed enthusiasm for the subject."

"Our seminars were brilliant and stimulating. The lecturer challenged us on every front."

"Detailed discussions of texts in seminars helped my understanding a great deal. My knowledge of poetry has greatly improved, as has my enjoyment of it."

"I learned so much in the seminars. Things like exercises and how to do them were made really clear, and going through my work in a group really helped me to improve it and understand what I was doing."

"I would recommend Kingston and their English Literature course to anyone. I had a great time and made friendships that will last a lifetime."

## Why study English Literature at Kingston University?

- Kingston's English department was awarded an 'excellent' rating at its last Teaching Quality Assessment.
- Student feedback consistently emphasises the quality of our teaching and the approachability of staff. At Kingston, we put the student experience first among our priorities.
- Lecturers at Kingston publish research of national and international importance, and this cutting-edge research informs our teaching practice.
- Kingston has a dynamic and diverse student body and is welcoming to both school leavers and mature students.
- English at Kingston offers a rich engagement with a wide range of literature from Chaucer to the present day.
- The course combines broad-based coverage with specialist options and opportunities for independent study.
- We have a lively intellectual community, and bring in world-renowned speakers for special events.
- We aim to produce active, independent learners with highly desirable career skills.
- We are excellently located in relation to London and its facilities.

## What you will study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study English Literature as a full field (single honours) or as a major, half or minor field (joint honours). The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

English Literature focuses on the main genres of literary creation (poetry, fiction, non-fiction and drama), on the methods required to study literature successfully at degree level, and on the development of your writing and communication skills.

### Year 1

The first year will provide you with a strong foundation to build upon in your second and third years.

#### Reading Fiction

This module introduces you to a wide range of fiction from different historical periods. You will explore the way novels and stories are read, discussed and analysed at degree level, and some of the leading concepts involved in this discussion. You will study in detail a selection of texts from the 19th and 20th centuries. These may include Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Phillip Pullman's *Northern Lights*, Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* and Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*.

#### Foundations of Poetry and Drama

The aim of this module is to develop your ability to read dramatic and poetic texts. You will learn how to read poems and plays analytically to see how they are structured, how the language functions, and how such things as character, mood and imagery are created. The module covers a range of texts from many periods of literary history. Plays studied might include Sophocles' *Antigone*, William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. You may also be asked to read poetry written by poets as diverse as Geoffrey Chaucer, John Keats, Stevie Smith and Wole Soyinka.

#### Transforming Texts: Literature and Adaptation

This module provides an opportunity to explore the ways in which literary texts are transformed through adaptation in a variety of media and genres including, but not limited to, film, television, radio and stage.

#### Writing with Style and Debates in Literature (two modules)

These two modules focus on contemporary debates about literature and the development of a variety of skills necessary for studying English Literature at undergraduate level, including:

- confident participation in seminars;
- comprehension and analysis of literary criticism and literary theory;
- expression and argument in essay writing;
- review of the work of other students; and
- use of IT including email, web searches and downloading of relevant material.

#### Reading for Writers

This module will introduce you to a range of contemporary literature written in a variety of forms and genres. It will combine the study of formal qualities of a range of contemporary writing with analysis of specific novels, novellas, screen plays, poetry, non-fiction and short stories. Texts studied in this module may include Mark Haddon's *The Curious*

*Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; Maggie Gee's *The Flood*; Hanif Kureishi's *My Beautiful Laundrette* (play); and selected short stories, poetry and reviews from national newspapers.

#### English in Action

This module provides an introduction to language and society, and asks questions such as: What is language? What's 'good' and 'bad' language? Why do we choose different ways of saying things? How can you use language to make friends and influence people?

#### The Hollywood Cinema 1927–1997

This module examines Hollywood films and the institutional arrangements underpinning them, including the 'studio system' of the 1930s and 1940s and the 'new Hollywood cinema' of today. Topics include the rise of the Hollywood studio system, institutions and aesthetics, generic developments in the 1930s and 1940s, gangster and crime films, directors and aesthetics, and event movies and mass audiences.

#### Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS). This scheme provides a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree.

### Year 2

In Year 2 the course becomes more specific, exploring literature within the historical and cultural contexts in which it was created.

#### Core modules

- Critical Introduction to English Literature 1580–1920
- Independent Research Skills (supported by one-to-one supervision)

#### Option modules

- Chaucer to Shakespeare
- Renaissance Drama
- Eighteenth Century Literature: Satire and Sensibility
- Romantic Vision
- Victorian Literature
- Contemporary British and American Theatre
- 19th Century American Fiction
- Modernism: Experiments in Writing

### Year 3

In Year 3 the emphasis moves towards the intellectual and theoretical contexts that have helped to shape English literature both in the past and present.

#### Core modules

- Theory in Practice
- Critical Introduction to World Writing in English

#### Option modules

- Contemporary British Fiction
- Children's Literature
- Gothic Literature
- Shakespeare
- Fiction and Social Change in the Mid-20th Century
- Special Study Option – including subjects such as:
  - Iris Murdoch: The Life and Work
  - Literature and Environment
  - Monsters and Monstrosity in Literature
  - Jane Austen
  - The Literary and Cinematic Fairy Tale
  - Islamic Literature and the West

## Kingston Writing School

You'll be part of our community of writers, journalists, publishers and academics who form the Kingston Writing School, London's most vibrant accredited writing school.

The School provides undergraduate and postgraduate courses across a range of disciplines including Creative Writing, English Literature, English Language and Communication, Journalism and Publishing. With internationally acclaimed staff, high quality teaching, innovative course design and an extracurricular activities programme that includes esteemed guests, writers in residence, short courses, sponsorships, and out-reach programmes that take writing and its benefits beyond the University, the Kingston Writing School has much to offer students, professionals and organisations interested in all types of writing. See [www.kingstonwritingschool.com](http://www.kingstonwritingschool.com) for more information.

*"The Kingston Writing School has become one of the most dynamic places for students and writers in the UK. It's a pleasure to be part of it and to have seen it grow so quickly in such a short time".*



Hanif Kureishi  
Distinguished Writer in Residence



Want to know more?  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/englit](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/englit)

## Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts;
- referencing; and
- music theory.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

**Professor Martin McQuillan**  
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## English Literature staff

Our highly qualified staff are active in both teaching and research.

**Dr Eadaoin Agnew** teaches Victorian literature, critical theory and travel writing. Her research interests include 19th century Irish writing and travel writing in India.

**Dr Matthew Birchwood** teaches Shakespeare and other Renaissance literature and drama. His research interests include early modern drama and polemic, and English engagement with Islam in the period.

**Professor Fred Botting** teaches literary and cultural theory, Gothic fiction and Romantic and contemporary writing. His research includes work on horror fiction and film, theories of spectrality, and the unconscious.

**Dr Brycchan Carey** teaches 18th-century literature, Romanticism, Literary London and the literature of empire. His research interests include literature, empire and slavery in the 18th century.

**Professor Norma Clarke** teaches 18th-century and Romantic literature, poetry and children's fiction. Her research interest is in cultural authority and the female writer.

**Dr Martin Dines** teaches 20th-century American and British literature. His research interests focus on suburbia in literature and visual culture, and gay and lesbian cultural production and politics.

**Dr Meg Jensen** teaches 19th- and 20th- century British fiction, creative writing and critical theory. Her research is on influence and intertextuality among British writers of the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Dr Jane Jordan** teaches 19th- and 20th- century British literature, especially women writers. Her research is on literature and history, especially the legal status of British women in the 19th century.

**Professor Patricia Phillippy** teaches 16th- and 17th- century comparative literary and cultural studies, Shakespeare, and Gender Studies. Her research focuses upon Early Modern women writers and artists.

**Dr David Rogers** teaches 19th- century English and American literature, and 20th-century American fiction and poetry. His research centres on the novelist William Faulkner and discourses of the perverse.

**Dr Anne Rowe** teaches 19th- and 20th-century literature, academic writing and research skills. Her research centres on the relationship between literature and the visual arts.

**Dr Andrew Teverson** teaches 20th- and 21st-century world writing in English, Renaissance studies and folklore. His research focuses on literature during and after the imperial period and the fairy tale.

**Dr Sara Upstone** teaches 20th-century British and postcolonial fiction, and black British and British Asian literature and media. Her research focuses on spatiality and identity in contemporary fiction.

## Entry requirements

### Typical offer

- Single honours
- Points: 280
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent.
- Subject: A-level English Literature or English Language/Literature combined (100 points).
- Joint honours
- Points: 280–360 depending on combination.
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent.
- Subject: A-level English Literature or English Language/Literature combined (80 points).

### Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

### International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

### Other entry routes

- Access course.
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

## Joint honours combinations

You can study English Literature as a single honours or a major, half or minor field in combination with:

- Business
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Design
- Drama
- English Language and Communication
- Film Studies
- French (minor only)
- History
- History of Art, Design and Film
- Human Rights
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Law
- Media and Cultural Studies
- Politics
- Sociology
- Spanish (minor only)
- Television & New Broadcasting Media

## UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

## Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays)

## Contact details

### Course enquiries

Modular Admissions Office  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Kingston University  
Penrhyn Road  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey KT1 2EE  
T: +44 (0)20 8417 2378/2361  
F: +44 (0)20 8417 2292  
E: [fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk)

### Accommodation

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3829  
E: [accommodation@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@kingston.ac.uk)  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation)

### Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding)

### Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252  
Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447  
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia)

### International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411  
[www.kingston.ac.uk/international](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/international)