

Postgraduate study

MPhil and PhD English, Comparative Literature,
European Languages, or Linguistics

MPhil and PhD Creative Writing

MRes English

MA Comparative Literary Studies

American Literature and Culture

Comparative Literature and Criticism

Literature of the Caribbean and its Diasporas

Modern Literature

Modern Literary Theory

Romantic and Victorian Literature and Culture

MA Creative and Life Writing

MA Sociocultural Linguistics

English and Comparative Literature



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This booklet contains details of postgraduate research and taught Master's programmes offered by the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London. Further information is available on-line at www.gold.ac.uk/ecl.

We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment and dyslexia. Please contact the Course Enquiry Team on **+44 (0)20 7078 5300** or e-mail **course-info@gold.ac.uk**.

Introducing the Department

Goldsmiths' Department of English and Comparative Literature (ECL) is characterised by an informal culture of intellectual experimentation and rigorous critical debate, combining research strengths in English, European and American literatures. With its wide-ranging and varied research base, large postgraduate community and proximity to the centre of London, the Department offers a stimulating context for the study of literature, creative writing, linguistics and literary theory.

We are one of the largest academic departments at Goldsmiths with currently 34 academic staff including 7 professors, around 150 postgraduate and well over 500 undergraduate students. Our staff come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, and, with their diverse research expertise, are ideally equipped to help you develop your own interests, whether they lie in American, British, Caribbean, Irish, French, Spanish, German or Postcolonial literatures. We have specialists in Renaissance, 18th-century, Romantic, 19th-century, modern, comparative, postmodern and postcolonial literatures, literary theory, linguistics, and the full range of creative writing.

Our thriving research environment unites traditional strengths with innovation, covering a wide range of interests in language and literature from the 1300s to the present day. Principal areas of research activity include the modernist period in Europe, Britain, Ireland and the Americas; literatures of the Americas (including Caribbean writing); contemporary literature, including women's writing, English, Irish, American and European poetry, and postcolonial writing; critical/literary theory and linguistics; English Renaissance literature, including Shakespeare and Renaissance popular culture; French literature of the 17th and 20th centuries; English literature of the 18th and 19th centuries, including theatre; Classical and reception studies; German and Austrian literature of the 18th and 20th centuries; creative writing, especially fiction, poetry and translation; comparative literature, especially the study of 19th and 20th century verbal and visual texts.

Research and creative writing published by our academic staff put the Department at the cutting edge of new thinking. In the last Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008), 65% of this published work was judged as either 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'. You'll find a list of our staff and their research interests on page 18.

As an ECL student, you will have access to extensive computing facilities, including direct access to the campus network and a wide range of packages, such as Microsoft Office, AppleMac software, e-mail, internet, and other software according to your needs.

The Department has a vibrant postgraduate community. You are encouraged to organise your own research seminar where you can present work in progress, discuss literary, cultural and theoretical texts and hear papers from invited speakers. ECL runs seminars in research methods, as well as the weekly Goldsmiths Literature Seminar (GLITS). Each year the department organises a series of special lectures/readings for the benefit of its students. In the Richard Hoggart Lectures in Literature, major international writers and critics present and talk about their work. These have included Harold Pinter, Doris Lessing, Seamus Heaney, Alan Bennett, Terry Eagleton, Will Self, Germaine Greer and Derek Walcott. You are also able to attend seminars and talks organised by the Goldsmiths Centre for Cultural Studies, and other interdisciplinary seminars within the College.

You might also be able to publish some of your work in one of the Department's two postgraduate electronic journals. GLITS-e is a journal of literary and cultural criticism that publishes work presented by postgraduate students and other speakers at the GLITS seminars, and at the regular postgraduate conferences organised by the Department. Goldfish publishes work by students on the MA in Creative and Life Writing programme. Both journals are run by postgraduate students.

The ECL department is a member of the Institute of English Studies and the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, which run a wide range of seminars and conferences at the University of London Senate House, in Bloomsbury. Goldsmiths is, itself, one of the constituent colleges of the University of London and so our students have access to the many resources of the university, including the Senate House Library.

Our postgraduate degrees

We offer:

Research degrees

- MPhil and PhD in English, Comparative Literature, European Languages, or Linguistics
- MPhil and PhD in Creative Writing
- MRes in English

Taught Master's degrees

- MA in Comparative Literary Studies (with the following pathways):
 - American Literature and Culture
 - Comparative Literature and Criticism
 - Modern Literary Theory
 - Modern Literature
 - Literature of the Caribbean and its Diasporas
 - Romantic and Victorian Literature and Culture
- MA in Creative and Life Writing
- MA in Sociocultural Linguistics

All of our programmes develop transferable skills, including enhanced communication and discussion skills in written and oral contexts; the ability to analyse and evaluate different textual materials; and the ability to organise information and assimilate and evaluate competing arguments. Completing a postgraduate programme in the ECL Department leaves you well prepared and suited for a career in publishing, journalism, public relations, teaching, advertising, the civil service, business, industry, and the media.



General Information

Application and admission

Application is on-line; please see www.gold.ac.uk/pg/apply. Although there is no closing date for receipt of applications (unless you are applying for external funding, deadlines for which are advertised on-line), we advise you to apply early. Admission is normally by interview and/or submission of written work.

Open days

College-wide open days for all programmes across the university are usually held three times a year in spring, summer and autumn. For further information on these, please visit www.gold.ac.uk/pendays. Research degree applicants may visit the department by appointment.

Entrance requirements

Please see the individual programme entries in this booklet.

English Language requirement

If English is not your first language, you will need evidence of your English Language competence. Tests considered appropriate include:

- International English Language Testing System* [IELTS] - pass with at least 7.0 overall and a minimum of 7.0 in the written element
- TOEFL* score of at least 100 in the Internet-based test [IBT] with 25 in the written element
- International GCSE [IGCSE] English as a second language at Grade B
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency of English [CPE] Level 5 at Grade C or above
- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English [CAE] Level 4 at Grade B or above
- Pearson Test of English (Academic), with a score of 65 overall, including 65 in the written element and no individual elements lower than 51.

* In-line with the validity period for IELTS and TOEFL qualifications, English proficiency qualifications must be less than two years old at the time of starting the course to be accepted by us.

For further information, please visit www.gold.ac.uk/pg/apply/english-language. Alternatively, you may wish to attend one of our pre-session English Language courses. For details of these, please visit www.gold.ac.uk/eap.

Fees and funding

For information about fees and funding, please visit www.gold.ac.uk/costs.

In addition to the support made available by the College, the Department has consistently used its own resources to offer, on a competitive basis, some fee-waiver bursaries to both new and current students. Please visit www.gold.ac.uk/ecl/pg/bursaries for further information.





“At Goldsmiths I have had the challenging experience of organising the GLITS Literature and Ethics Conference, attracting 80 attendees. I’ve also had the invaluable opportunity of working as a visiting teacher, taking first year undergraduate seminars in the short story and poetry.”

Catherine, PhD English & Comparative Literature

MPhil and PhD in English, Comparative Literature, European Languages, or Linguistics

2-4 years full-time or 3-6 years part-time

Entrance requirements

We usually expect you to have a Master’s degree, or to be studying for one at the time of your application. However, it is sometimes possible to make exceptions to this – please speak to the department about your eligibility.

Registration and study

Initially, you register for a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programme to train you in the research methods you will need to complete a PhD. You can apply to upgrade to PhD registration when you have satisfactorily completed an agreed part of the research and training programme; this usually happens after 18 months if you are studying full-time, or 24 months if part-time. You should aim to complete and submit your PhD thesis within an agreed period, usually three to four years for full-time students, and four to six years for part-time. If you decide not to upgrade to PhD registration, you can submit your thesis for an MPhil after two years if you are studying full-time, or after three years if part-time. With the agreement of your supervisor, you can change your registration from full-time to part-time or vice versa.

North American applicants especially should note that the British system does not include preparatory taught classes or examinations as part of the MPhil/PhD programme, except for an initial course in research methods.

Research supervision

You are assigned members of staff qualified to supervise your research throughout your period of registration. Please see page 18 for details of the staff and their research interests.

Research training programme

Training in research methods and skills is provided both by Goldsmiths and the Department, beginning with an intensive week-long introduction in the first week of enrolment, and continuing later in the first term with sessions focusing on the specific challenges of literary and linguistic research projects. The specific training requirements of your project will be assessed, and we will provide guidance on specialist seminars and conferences to attend, which can be supported where possible by departmental funding.

Assessment

Examination of the MPhil and PhD is by an oral examination and a thesis – a maximum of 60,000 words is required for an MPhil and 100,000 words for a PhD.

MPhil and PhD in Creative Writing

You can also study for an MPhil/PhD in Creative Writing. Students are expected to combine their own creative writing – whether poetry, fiction or life writing – with research into the genre or area of literature in which they are working, to gain insight into its history and development, and to engage with relevant contemporary debates. This element of the PhD – the critical commentary – will constitute around 30 per cent of the final work; the major part – 70 per cent – will be a creative work of publishable standard: a novel, memoir, book of poems or collection of stories, for example. You are normally expected to have an MA in Creative Writing before applying to the programme.

Please see page 7 for information about entrance requirements, registration and study, research supervision, the research training programme and assessment.

MRes in English

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

The MRes is ideal for those who would like to take a Master's degree before studying at MPhil/PhD level. This is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time programme involving a dissertation on a topic of your choice, with a supporting essay or essays on relevant research methods, a bibliographical exercise or a review of the critical/theoretical literature and an audit of a recommended MA course. It qualifies you to carry out higher-level research, but is also a degree in its own right.

Research supervision

You are assigned members of staff qualified to supervise your research throughout your period of registration. Please see page 18 for details of the staff and their research interests.

Assessment

Examination of the MRes is by a thesis (of a maximum of 20,000 words) and two coursework elements (a bibliographic exercise/review and a course in Research Methods).





MA in Comparative Literary Studies

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

This exciting and flexible programme gives you the opportunity to develop the study of literature from a variety of perspectives through a number of flexible 'pathways'. These enable you to combine theoretical angles with the close reading of a wide range of texts, from different media (literary, filmic, visual), periods, and cultural, geographic and linguistic backgrounds – though all texts will be studied in English, in English translation, or with English subtitles.

Each of the six pathways centres around a core course, which will ground you in the specific features of the period/region/theoretical discipline covered. Around this 'core' course you choose from the wide range of options taught in the department to reflect your own particular interests.

The pathways and their respective 'core' courses are as follows:

- **Pathway in American Literature and Culture**
American Literature and Culture: Critical and Theoretical Concepts
Via competing readings of canonical American texts, this course investigates how American critical and theoretical conceptions shape American literature, producing different 'Americas'.
- **Pathway in Comparative Literature and Criticism**
Studies in Comparative Literature and Criticism
This course introduces you to the main concepts of comparative literary theory and practice and its principal debates, complementing these with textual analyses and the opportunity to engage in comparative readings.
- **Pathway in Literature of the Caribbean and its Diasporas**
Literature of the Caribbean and its Diasporas
A survey of Caribbean and Diaspora literatures, which highlights significant works and their social, political and historical contexts.
- **Pathway in Modern Literature**
Modern Literary Movements
Here you examine the most internationally significant trends, influences and movements in European and American literature of the twentieth century and potentially beyond. You will also read the most important literary texts of each movement.

– Pathway in Modern Literary Theory

Modern Literary Theory

This course surveys key currents in literary and cultural theory from the turn of the twentieth century to the present day, beginning with the shifting ideas and theories of the 'literary' in the course of the discipline's development and going on to explore ten key thinkers and tendencies.

– Pathway in Romantic and Victorian Literature and Culture

Nineteenth-Century Literature: Romanticisms

This course examines the current debate in nineteenth-century studies about connections between Romantic and Victorian literature and the persistence of a Romantic tradition throughout the century, and enables you to develop your interests in two key literary periods and question the usefulness of traditional periodisation.

Entrance requirements

You should normally hold, or expect to hold, a first degree of at least upper second standard in a related field, or equivalent.

What do you study?

The core course from your chosen pathway will be complemented by three option courses and a dissertation. The following are examples of the range of optional courses that may be available: Autobiography; Documenting America: The Phototext 1910-1960; European Decadence and the Visual Arts, The European Avant-Garde; Intercultural Discourse and Communication, International Surrealism; Literature and Philosophy; Postcolonial Fiction: Theory and Practice; Postmodern Fiction; Re-writing Sexualities; Romantic Shakespeare, 20th-Century Caribbean Writing; 21st-Century American Fiction. You can also take one of the core courses of another pathway as one of your options.

Assessment

You are assessed through extended course essays and a 15,000-word dissertation.

MA in Creative and Life Writing

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

This unique MA aims to meet the needs of committed writers who are interested in examining their own writing critically and exploring and exploiting their own possibilities as writers. The MA combines both Creative (poetry and fiction) and Life Writing (biography and autobiography) in a stimulating and enriching programme. All teaching will be led by published creative writers and biographers, and you will have the opportunity to work with a range of other published writers who will be invited to visit Goldsmiths to give readings and lead workshops.

You will acquire a critical awareness of recent writing and literary concerns, and develop your writing skills within that context. You will also examine relevant literary and cultural theories as well as the politics and practicalities of language and writing from the writer's point of view. You will have ample opportunity to engage with structure, form and style in relation to both creative writing and life writing.

Entrance requirements

You will normally be expected to have a degree of upper second standard or equivalent in English Literature and/or Language or a related subject, together with evidence of your ability in creative or life writing. You may also be accepted subject to satisfactory interview and the submission of a portfolio of writing (published or unpublished) that shows sufficient talent, commitment and potential. Your portfolio should include two or three short stories, 20-30 poems or several extracts from a novel.

What do you study?

There are three main components:

- Creative and life writing workshops
- Contemporary Contexts for Creative and Life Writing
- One-to-one tutorials

There will be two core courses: a two-term workshop in creative and life writing, and a one-term Contemporary Contexts for Creative and Life Writing seminar course.

Workshop in Creative and Life Writing

All students attend this two-hour compulsory workshop – part-time students attend in their first year. In the first term you will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of genres in creative and life writing, and then in the second term to develop your individual interests in poetry, fiction, autobiography and biography, or perhaps a fusion of those genres. Each term you submit a piece of your own writing together with a critical account of how you have structured and developed it. Presentations of your work to other students with an account of your aims and approaches form an additional important element. Some workshops will be taken by visiting writers, introducing you to a range of practices, concerns and techniques. The workshop also enables you to debate issues raised in the Contemporary Contexts course in relation to your own practice.

Contemporary Contexts for Creative and Life Writing

This is a two-hour seminar course, which occasionally includes informal talks by visiting speakers, followed by questions. These talks might be by practising writers, biographers, critics or philosophers (from both outside and inside Goldsmiths). Our notable visitors have included Kazuo Ishiguro, Ali Smith, Aminatta Forna, Ian Jack and Tobias Hill. Wide-ranging topics have included: the role of the writer today in the Caribbean; writing the self; the relationship between contemporary fiction and biography; the relationship between fictional and non-fictional autobiography; writers and their readers; the publishing world; contemporary ideas about language; gender and writing.

In both the Contemporary Contexts course and the workshops you will be asked to consider works by significant contemporary writers in relation to your own writing practice. Assessment is by a critical essay on a writer or literary issue. Full-time students take the Contemporary Contexts course in their first term and part-time students in their second year.

Tutorials will be offered at regular intervals during the year.

Options

You also choose an option course lasting one term. Full-time students take the course in the second term, while part-time students take it in the second year (second term). You can either choose a more specialist workshop in an aspect of creative or life writing, or an option from the list of MA options offered by ECL including topics such as European Avant-Garde, Postmodernist Fiction or Re-writing Sexualities.

Assessment

Assessment is by the submission of four pieces of writing of 5,000 words each – either an essay, or, for workshops, a piece or pieces of creative or life-writing – plus a critical account of how you have structured and developed your work. You will also be assessed on a portfolio (maximum of 20,000 words) containing a piece or pieces of creative or life-writing together with a critical account of how you have structured and developed your work.

In all cases, the number of words applies to prose. Poetry submissions may be shorter – the length will be agreed individually with your tutor.

MA in Creative and Life Writing Staff

Blake Morrison – Professor of Creative and Life Writing at Goldsmiths

Blake is a poet, novelist and journalist, whose books include two family memoirs, 'And When Did You Last See Your Father?' (which was made into a film with Colin Firth and Jim Broadbent) and 'Things My Mother Never Told Me'; a study of the Bulger case, 'As If'; three collections of poetry, including 'The Ballad of the Yorkshire Ripper'; the novels 'South of the River' and 'The Last Weekend'; and several play adaptations, 'The Cracked Pot' and 'We Are Three Sisters' among them. He has also written three opera libretti, edited anthologies of contemporary writing, and published two books of literary criticism. He is a frequent contributor to the Review section of 'The Guardian'.

Maura Dooley – Programme Co-ordinator for the MA

Maura has published six collections of poetry, including 'Kissing a Bone', and recently 'Life Under Water' (2008) both of which were shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize. Maura is also an anthologist, has worked as a script consultant and been involved in numerous initiatives to enhance the profile of poetry in the United Kingdom.

Stephen Knight – poet, novelist and theatre director

His poetry publications include 'Flowering Limbs', 'The Sandfields Baudelaire', 'Dream City Cinema', and, for children, 'Sardines and Other Poems'. He has published the novel, 'Mr Schnitzel' in 2000, and an anthology, 'I Am Twenty People', edited with Mimi Khalvati. His fiction and poetry reviews have appeared in the 'Times Literary Supplement' and the 'Independent on Sunday'.

Francis Spufford – novelist and anthologist

Francis produced an anthology of literature about the poles, 'The Ends of the Earth' (with Elizabeth Kolbert), and he is the author of 'The Child That Books Built', 'The Backroom Boys' and 'Red Plenty'.

Ardashir Vakil – novelist and short story writer

His first novel, 'Beach Boy', won a Betty Trask Award, was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award and has been translated into 10 languages. His second novel, 'One Day', was shortlisted for the Encore Award.

Associate Tutors include Romesh Gunsekera, Pamela Johnson, Eva Salzman and Richard Skinner.



“Goldsmiths’ smaller population in comparison to other Colleges makes it easier to connect with people and develop friendships. Furthermore, my class size has made one-on-one interactions with tutors feasible and has helped a great deal in absorbing the taught material.”

Jenillee, MA in Applied Linguistics: Sociocultural Approaches

MA in Sociocultural Linguistics

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

This interdisciplinary programme is designed for anyone wishing to develop their interest in the relationship between language, culture and society. It also provides a solid understanding of English Language and Linguistics. Topics covered include: sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, semantics, pragmatics, varieties of English, multilingualism, language and the media, language and identity. You will analyse and discuss a wide range of spoken and written language from different theoretical and empirical perspectives.

The MA aims to offer a challenging and flexible scheme of study that introduces or extends your specialist knowledge and critical understanding of language and language use. We welcome applications from interested students, teachers, teacher trainers and professionals with an interest in language, from both the UK and abroad. The programme fosters and nurtures transferable skills, including enhanced communication and discussion skills in written and oral contexts; the ability to analyse and evaluate different textual materials, the ability to organise information, and to assimilate competing arguments. It is especially suitable for those with interests in teaching, writing and publishing who wish to gain a broader practical research experience and theoretical knowledge of language as a social and cultural activity. We welcome applications from the UK and abroad.

Entrance requirements

You should normally hold, or expect to hold, a first degree of at least upper second standard in a related field, or equivalent, but no prior knowledge of linguistics is required. We also strive to acknowledge relevant teaching or other professional experience. If you would like to explore the options, given your personal background, please contact us via the Admissions Office (contact details on page 20).

What do you study?

The programme consists of two core courses, which provide an introduction to general linguistic and sociolinguistic theory and research. You also choose two options from areas that currently include: discourse and identity, history and variation of English, intercultural communication, language and ideology in media texts. More detailed descriptions are given below. You also produce, under supervision a dissertation on an agreed topic of your choice.

Full-time students normally take one core course and an option course in the first term, and the second core course and an option course in the second term. In the third term, full-time students work on their dissertation. Part-time students normally take both core courses in their first year, and the rest of the MA components in their second year. Please see below for course descriptions.

In addition, you may, at the discretion of the Programme Co-ordinator, substitute a relevant option from another MA programme.

Assessment

There are three forms of assessment. The core courses are each assessed by a three-day take-home examination; option courses are assessed by coursework; and you also produce a 15,000-word dissertation.

Core course 1

Core Issues in English Language and Linguistics

This course introduces you to the main areas of study within modern linguistics, including theoretical and methodological aspects. Topics include introduction to phonetics and phonology (speech sounds), morphology (word structure), syntax (sentence structure), semantics (word and sentence meaning) and pragmatics (the use and interpretation of meaning) as well as basic issues and facts of language change and language variation. You will be encouraged to apply this knowledge to data sets in order to develop the analytical skills necessary for conducting your own independent analyses.

Core course 2

Language in its sociocultural context

After the general introduction provided by 'Core Issues' this course develops the essential basis for the MA programme, by combining sociolinguistics with discourse analysis. Topics such as language and gender, (non-)standard language, language and ethnicity or language and the media will be examined in relation to the sociocultural and situational contexts and norms that influence speakers' language use, but also in relation to different representations of specific sociocultural groups in media and other (written) texts.

Typical options

Analysing discourse and identity in spoken interaction

This course will enable you to develop in-depth, critical understanding of approaches, concepts and debates in spoken discourse analysis. It will also provide you with the opportunity to apply your newly-acquired methodological insights to the study of discourse and identity in many different conversational and institutional settings.

Global English: history and variation

From an overview of the issues raised by the global spread of English you will gain knowledge about the social history of English since its arrival in the British Isles to the present day and explore the role that English plays in multilingual settings and in its interaction with other languages. Issues of first and second language acquisition will be brought to bear on the development of language in multilingual contexts and you will explore the influence of language policy and language contact.

Intercultural discourse and communication

This course will introduce you to debates about culture-specific use of language, via a range of empirical studies in the field of cross-cultural communication. We will study talk in everyday interaction, in institutional settings, in business and medical encounters and in educational contexts, examining such questions as: How do speaking styles vary from 'culture' to 'culture'? Do some groups of speakers accept and encourage more simultaneous talk than others? Do the understanding of directness and politeness vary culturally?

Language and ideology in written discourse

Here you will explore analytic techniques and principles of written discourse analysis, and be given space to apply these techniques to a wide selection of texts from the contemporary media, advertisements, textbooks, political and administrative texts, and texts in translation. The course will lead you to a discussion of how linguistic analysis can illuminate wider social issues, for example issues of power and ideology, issues of representation and identity.

Please note: not all the options will be available every year, and options will only run subject to demand.



ECL academic staff and their research interests

Tim Parnell BA PhD (London)

Head of Department

Laurence Sterne; 18th-century literature, especially prose fiction, narrative satire and the culture of sensibility; Menippean satire and anti-encyclopedism from the Renaissance to the postmodern.

Professor Joan Anim-Addo BEd (Kingston) MA, PhD (London)

Caribbean women's literature; Caribbean literature; black British literary history; black experience in Britain (local history).

Professor Chris Baldick BA DPhil (Oxford)

History of criticism; Gothic fiction; Victorian decadence; literature in England 1910-1940.

Sarah Barnsley BA (East Anglia) MA PhD (London)

American Literature, poetry and poetics, modernism, gender and queer theory.

Caroline Blinder BA (Tufts) MA (Northwestern) PhD (London)

19th- and 20th-century American literature; literature and photography.

Lucia Boldrini PhD (Leicester) PhD (Pisa and Florence)

Modernist and postmodernist fiction; new literatures in English; contemporary British theatre; literary theory.

Marie-Claude Canova-Green BA MA PhD (Paris-Sorbonne)

17th- and 18th-century French literature, theatre and court entertainments.

Professor Josh Cohen BA (Birmingham) MA (Exeter) DPhil (Sussex)

Modern American writing; critical theory; Holocaust writing.

Rick Crownshaw BA (Keele) MA PhD (Sussex)

American literature since the 19th century; representations of the Holocaust (literature, museums, memorials and monuments); cultural memory and trauma studies.

Jane Desmarais MA (Reading) PhD (London)

Literature and Visual Arts and Anglo-French cultural relations 1870-1920 and the Fin-de-Siècle in particular.

Maura Dooley BA (York)

Creative and life writing; contemporary poetry; children's literature.

Professor Alan Downie MA MLitt PhD (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

English literature from the sixteenth century to the present day; literature and politics 1590 to 1750; Swift and the Scriblerian satirists; the early novel; early English press to 1800.

Isobel Hurst BA MPhil DPhil (Oxford)

19th- and 20th-century literature, especially poetry and fiction; womens' writing; the epic tradition; the reception of classical texts in English literature

Padraig Kirwan BA MA PhD (University College Dublin)

Indigenous literatures of the Americas with particular focus on contemporary Native American fiction; border theory; the American novel since 1800; 19th-century American narrative.

Stephen Knight BA (Oxford)

Creative writing – particularly poetry and the novel, and the Theatre.

Andreas Kramer MA DrPhil (Münster)

20th-century German and Austrian literature; expressionism, modernism and the avant-garde.

Frank Krause, Staatsexamen DrPhil (Bochum)

German and Austrian literature and culture of the 18th and 20th centuries.

Carole Maddern BA MA PhD (London)

Old English; literature of the later Middle Ages; developments of the English language; London theatre.

Gail McDonald BA (Texas) MA PhD (Pennsylvania)

American Literature: poetry, prose and drama, particularly in the period 1880-1969; Anglo-American modernism (including Joyce, Woolf and others).

Professor Russ McDonald BA (Duke) MA PhD (Pennsylvania)

Early modern writing, particularly drama; Shakespeare; Renaissance rhetoric and poetics; history of Shakespearean performance; opera.

Professor Bart Moore-Gilbert BA (Durham) DPhil (Oxford)

Literature and empire; Postcolonial theory and novel; post-1945 British novel.

Professor Blake Morrison BA (Nottingham) MA (McMaster) PhD (London) FRSL

Contemporary British and American fiction and poetry; memoir; journalism, translation, writing for the theatre and libretti.

Uttara Natarajan MA (Cambridge)

MPhil DPhil (Oxford)

Romantic and Victorian literature, especially prose non-fiction; history of ideas.

Pia Pichler MPhil (Salzburg) PhD (Roehampton)

Discourse and conversation analysis; sociolinguistics; language and gender; feminist linguistics; language and identity (especially gender, ethnicity, and social class).

Geri Popova MA (Sofia) PhD (Essex)

English linguistics – particularly theoretical linguistics, grammatical description; translation and discourse analysis.

Jacqueline Ratray BA (Anglia) PhD (Aberdeen)

The Spanish Avant-Garde; surrealism; the Generation of 1927.

Deac Rossell BA (Syracuse)

Modern European filmmaking; American independent film and documentary film; the history of the projected image.

Charlotte Scott BA MA (London) PhD (Warwick)

Shakespeare; Renaissance drama and poetry; book history and the early modern theatre; the representation of nature.

Michael Simpson BA (Cambridge) MA (York) PhD (Cambridge)

British Romantic literature, especially drama and lyric poetry; reception of classical texts, especially in African and Afro-Caribbean drama and poetry; hypertext theory.

Francis Spufford BA MA (Cambridge)

Creative writing, with current interests in Russia in the 1950's and 1960's; the literary possibilities of economics; contemporary forms of religious feeling.

Carole Sweeney BA (Portsmouth)

MA (Simon Fraser) DPhil (Sussex)

European modernism and primitivism; Nancy Cunard; Surrealism and 'race'; work and labour in modern and contemporary writing; Michel Houellebecq; feminist literary theory; diasporic Francophone modernism.

Derval Tubridy BA PhD (Dublin)

Samuel Beckett; Thomas Kinsella; modern and contemporary Irish and British literature; textual and visual studies; literary theory.

Jack Underwood BA (Norwich), MA (London)

Creative writing, English-language poetry and criticism.

Ardashir Vakil BA (Cambridge) PGCE

Creative writing, particularly the novel and the short story.

Emeritus Professors

Professor Alcuin Blamires
Professor Helen Carr
Professor Peter Dunwoodie
Professor David Margolies
Professor B J Sokol

Administrative staff

Richard Bolley BA (York) MMus (Auckland) (Departmental Administrator)
Maria Macdonald (Postgraduate Secretary and PA to the Head of Department)
Marian Perez-Velazquez (Undergraduate Secretary)
Birgul Yavuz BA (London) (Undergraduate Secretary)

Contact us

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If you have questions about entry qualifications, admissions, or arranging interviews, please contact us as follows:

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