

Programme Details

Awarding body	University of London
Teaching institution	Goldsmiths, University of London
Programme Title	MPhil/PhD in Literary and Critical Theory
Programme code	TBC
Exit awards	(For PhD) MPhil in Literary and Critical Theory
Modes of study	Full-time or Part-time
Duration of study (years)	(For PhD) <u>Full-time study</u> Minimum period: 2 years Expected period: 3 years Maximum period: 4 years <u>Part-time study</u> Minimum period: 4 years Expected period: 6 years Maximum period: 8 years (For MPhil) <u>Full-time study</u> Minimum period: 2 years Expected period: 2 years Maximum period: 3 years <u>Part-time study</u> Minimum period: 4 years Expected period: 4 years Maximum period: 6 years
Start date/s	October, January
Level of award (FHEQ)	Level 8 (PhD)
Home Department	English and Comparative Literature
Other Departments (where applicable)	N/A
Programme Director	Julia Ng
Professional accreditation (where applicable)	N/A

Entry Criteria

Academic: Applicants should normally possess at least a first degree (normally of upper second class honours standard or above) or equivalent. Applicants should also normally have (or expect to be awarded) a taught Masters in a relevant subject area.

A wide range of international qualifications can be considered. Where an applicant possesses non-standard qualifications or equivalent experience, these will also be considered.

Language: Applicants whose first language is not English should normally have attained a score of at least 7.0 on the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), or equivalent test, a 7.0 score in the writing element.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the PhD, candidates should be able to demonstrate:

- that they are competent as an independent researcher in their discipline and capable of continuing to undertake research at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new Ideas, techniques or approaches. As part of this, they should have gained:
 - An ability to evaluate critically the existing literature relevant to their thesis topic
 - An ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of significant new knowledge and / or understanding
 - An ability to relate theory and concepts to evidence in a systematic way and to draw appropriate conclusions based on evidence
- An understanding of the place of the student's research in the context of the relevant field of study
- Awareness of the research integrity and any relevant ethical and professional considerations
- Effective management of a project, from identifying research questions, planning interim milestones and timescale, prioritising activities, through to timely completion
- They should also be able to demonstrate that they can
 - Write clearly and in a style appropriate to the purpose and audience
 - Construct coherent arguments and articulate and defend ideas clearly to a range of audiences, through a variety of techniques
 - Manage their training needs, both in relation to their programme and their future career development

Programme description

The programme will comprise:

- i) An independent research project that makes an original contribution to knowledge, enshrined in the form of a written thesis of up to 100,000 words in length.
- ii) Research training:

Discipline Specific skills

While there are no core/compulsory taught modules specified for students on this programme, students will be able to audit any appropriate modules run by other departments, subject to demand. Students will also invited to participate in graduate colloquia within the Department and to share good practice.

Generic / transferable skills

At the start of their programme, students will complete a Learning Needs Assessment to determine what further training would be beneficial to their studies and ongoing career development. This must be discussed and approved with the main supervisor. In common with other postgraduate research students, they will also have access to the training portfolio coordinated by the Graduate School.

Progression

Students will initially be registered on the programme of MPhil/PhD in Literary and Critical Theory, with progress to PhD status being subject to assessment of research ability. Students will be subject to an annual review of progress, the details of which are summarised in the *Goldsmiths Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research and Training*.

In year 2 (or equivalent for part-time students), this review will take the form of a Transfer of Registration assessment. The possible outcomes of this assessment are as follows:

- i) transfer to PhD status;
- ii) an agreed plan of remedial action, leading to a second and final upgrade attempt, to an agreed timescale, normally within three months of the original interview (or six months if studying on a part-time basis). This is the expected outcome if transfer is not agreed at the first attempt.
- iii. recommendation that the candidate prepare for a submission for the degree of MPhil, if and when their work is likely to fit the criteria for this degree; or
- iv. recommendation for termination of registration

Final Assessment

Candidates will be required to submit a written thesis, the assessment of which will be in the form of a viva voce examination, conducted by two independent examiners. Details of the procedure, along with the format required for theses, can be found in the *Guidelines for the Research Degree Examination Process* and the *Research Student Essential Examination Information*.

Criteria for the award of the degree:

The thesis shall:

- be what might reasonably be expected after three or at most four years of full-time study. If a student is studying on a part-time basis, the scope of the thesis shall be what might reasonably be expected after six or at most eight years of study.
- consist of the candidate's own account of his/her investigations, the greater proportion of which shall have been undertaken during the period of registration under supervision for the degree;

[The part played by the candidate in any work done jointly with the supervisor(s) and/or fellow research workers must be clearly stated by the candidate and certified by the supervisor.]

- form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical power;
- be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument;

[A series of papers, whether published or otherwise, is not acceptable for submission as a traditional PhD thesis¹. Research work already published, or submitted for publication, at the time of submission of the thesis, either by the candidate alone or jointly with others, may be included in the thesis. The published papers themselves may not be included in the body of the thesis, but may be adapted to form an integral part of the thesis and thereby make a relevant contribution to the main theme of the thesis. Publications derived from the work in the thesis may be bound as supplementary material at the back of the thesis.]

- give a critical assessment of the relevant literature, describe the method of research and its findings, include discussion on those findings and indicate in what respects they appear to the candidate to advance the study of the subject; and, in so doing, demonstrate a deep and synoptic understanding of the field of study, (the candidate being able to place the thesis in a wider context), objectivity and the capacity for judgment in complex situations and autonomous work in that field;
- be written in English and the literary presentation shall be satisfactory. On an exceptional basis, permission may be granted for a thesis in the field of foreign literature to be written in the language of study; in such cases the thesis shall additionally include a submission of between 10,000 and 20,000 words which shall be written in English and shall summarise the main arguments of the thesis;
- not exceed 100,000 words;

[Note: the bibliography is excluded from the word count; footnotes are included within the word count; appendices are excluded from the word count and should only include material which examiners are not required to read in order to examine the thesis, but to which they may refer if they wish.]

- include a full bibliography and references;
- demonstrate research skills relevant to the thesis being presented;

¹ Candidates on the Goldsmiths PhD by Publication shall follow the separate specifications agreed for their programme (see Annex B)

- be of a standard to merit publication in whole or in part or in a revised form (for example, as a monograph or as a number of articles in learned journals).

Methods of enhancing Quality and Standards

The Department's Postgraduate Research Committee is the main body responsible for ensuring that quality and standards are met on the programme and specifically for monitoring progression of candidates.