

English



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BA English

three years Q300

BA English Literature and Community Engagement

direct entry (see separate leaflet),
part-time only

Joint Honours

BA English and Classical Studies

three years QQ38

BA English and Philosophy

three years QV35

BA Film and English

three years 6T3X

BA Theatre and English

three years 4CC8

Why study English at Bristol?

English literature is an enjoyable and exciting subject to study at university. At Bristol, you will join a department that prides itself on the close relationship between research staff and undergraduates, and which puts research-led teaching at the heart of its degree. Our Department of English has a distinguished history in the field of literary studies.

An English degree from the University of Bristol will give you the opportunity to study the full breadth and range of literature written in English. You will enter a demanding three-year course, during which your time will be shared between studying the larger movements of English literature, from the medieval period to the present day, and studying particular authors or topics of your choosing.

Many people take the activity of reading for granted, but it is one of the most difficult and exciting things we do. Reading literature allows us to question our world and to realise the limits of our understanding. The English degree at Bristol explores literary studies as a serious yet enjoyable academic discipline and promotes an awareness of how much may be gained through dialogue with other disciplines in the University and beyond.

Besides the core focus on literature you will also have the opportunity to contextualise your studies by taking options beyond your department. You may choose to take units in related or broader subject areas or in a foreign language. You will also take part in the Bristol Futures programme, which builds knowledge and experience in the fields of innovation and enterprise, global citizenship and sustainable development.

Single honours English students may also choose to spend one semester living and studying abroad, an experience which broadens horizons and which employers highly value.

The University has partnerships with institutions worldwide, including establishments in Australia, Europe and North America.

What will you study?

Year one of the BA English course has been designed to lay strong foundations for the following years, providing training in close reading and in the skills and conventions of academic writing, alongside the study of poetry, narrative writing and drama from 1150-1740.

In year two the continued study of successive periods of English literature, from 1740 to the present, is combined with work on individual authors and topics chosen from a list of optional, special subject units and options in earlier literature.

The third year offers a combination of options in later literature, in transhistorical topics, and in special subjects. You also have the chance to undertake a dissertation project on a subject of your choice, approved by the department.

Special subjects

Alongside our compulsory period units, you can choose from a wide range of special subject units in years two and three. Units change from year to year, but below are some current examples:

- African American Literature
- American Literature 1945-Present
- American Masculinities
- Author as Character
- Black British Literature
- Charles Dickens
- Creative Writing: Poetry
- Creative Writing: Prose
- Concise Crime
- Contemporary Multi-Ethnic Writing of America
- Courtly Desire
- Dangerous Books

- Darkest London
- Eighteenth-Century Women's Writing
- Elegy and Visual Culture
- The Fairy Tale in English
- Gender, Desire and the Renaissance Stage
- History of the Language of English Literature
- Illness Narratives
- Imagining Americans
- James Joyce
- Literature and Medicine
- Literature and Revolution
- Literature and Science
- Literature and the Sea
- Literature's Children
- Paradise Lost
- Poetry of the 1960s
- Postcolonial Environments
- Postcolonial Imaginings
- Prize Culture and Prestige in Contemporary Fiction
- Queer Writing
- Revenge Tragedy
- Samuel Beckett
- Shakespearean Tragedy
- The Spanish Civil War in British and American Writing
- Travellers' Tales
- Twentieth-Century Women Writers
- Utopian Literature
- War Stories: Women Writers and Conflict
- Writing for Art
- Writing the Anthropocene
- Writing the Self
- Writing the Working Classes.



'The quality of teaching on the English course is world class. I always come out of a seminar with lots of questions and a desire to read more about a particular idea that I may have encountered within a tutorial.'

Olivia (BA English)

What will you study?

Second- and third-year optional units

Following on from the compulsory period units, you can choose to focus on particular aspects of literary study and develop your understanding through a selection of 'set choice' units. The full range on offer may change from year to year, but will include options in medieval, Early Modern, Romantic and Victorian, Modern and contemporary and transhistorical categories. Below are some current examples:

- Old English Language and Literature
- Chaucer and Chaucerians
- Arthurian Literature
- Shakespeare
- Writing the City: London 1550-1740
- Writing the Margins: 1550-1740
- Prison Writing
- Novel Territories: Eighteenth-Century Prose Fiction
- Literatures of Slavery
- Victorian Fiction: Art and Ideas in the Marketplace
- American Revolutions: Twentieth-Century American Literature
- British and Irish Poetry: 1900 to the Present
- Decolonising Literature and Literary Studies.

'The advantage of a degree in English is that the number of different careers available to you is huge. I found the lectures hosted by the Arts Faculty Careers Week were a great opportunity to learn about my options within international relations, publishing and the charity sector, and to start to think about the working world.'

Helen (BA English)



Teaching and learning

The methods of teaching and learning used by the Department of English at Bristol are geared to an education at the forefront of the subject and are closely integrated with the acquisition of the key skills and attributes sought by employers for a wide variety of careers. Our diverse range of assessments ensures that you gain a thorough training in advanced research, source analysis and sharing your findings in a number of ways.

We will ensure that you graduate with experience in formal writing and presentation skills, and in using digital formats and other media to present knowledge, ideas and arguments. You will be experienced in working individually and in groups and in making connections with and communicating to audiences beyond the University.

You will attend lectures as well as tutorials – small groups of about ten students meeting weekly for around one hour – and seminars, which are larger discussion groups of about

15 students meeting weekly for two hours and where special subjects are taught. Your optional units will consist of a weekly two-hour workshop of up to 25 students.

Research-led teaching is at the core of the Bristol English degree and we believe that this best allows us to support your individual response to the course. You are encouraged to become a critical and independent reader and to develop your own sense of what you believe literature to be, questioning received critical opinion, while acknowledging the need to understand previous scholarly debates.

Assessment

Coursework essays of different lengths are the most common form of assessment; some units also require short examinations. Optional units may be partially assessed by a portfolio of short pieces of writing or a presentation.

Careers support and graduate destinations

The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are now, more than ever, valued in every part of the employment market. Our students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the subjects they study here – commerce, tech start-ups, law, accountancy, theatre, museums, publishing, the charity sector, journalism, politics, education and international relations, to name just a few. Arts graduates also go on to work in sectors perhaps not immediately associated with arts disciplines, such as engineering and IT.

To ensure arts graduates continue to be appealing to employers, the Bristol Skills Framework enables students to recognise their development in areas such as academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

English graduates are versatile researchers, active learners and good communicators. The development of advanced literacy and the broad range of communication skills and evaluative techniques that an English degree provides are considered very favourably by employers.

Recent Bristol English graduates have been successful in obtaining employment in the media, journalism, publishing, marketing, theatre, arts administration and various kinds of teaching, as well as in industry, commerce, law, computing, accountancy, human resources and social work. Some of our students have written and published successful novels, plays and poems. Bristol is a vibrant city in which to live and work, and many of our students stay on to work here after graduating.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018.



Making your application

Typical offer for BA English*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-english for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels AAA (contextual ABB[†]) including A in English Literature or combined English Literature and Language.

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32[†]) including 18 points at Higher Level (contextual 16[†]) with 6 at Higher Level in English A Literature or combined English A Literature and Language.

English Language profile A^{††}

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

^{††}For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

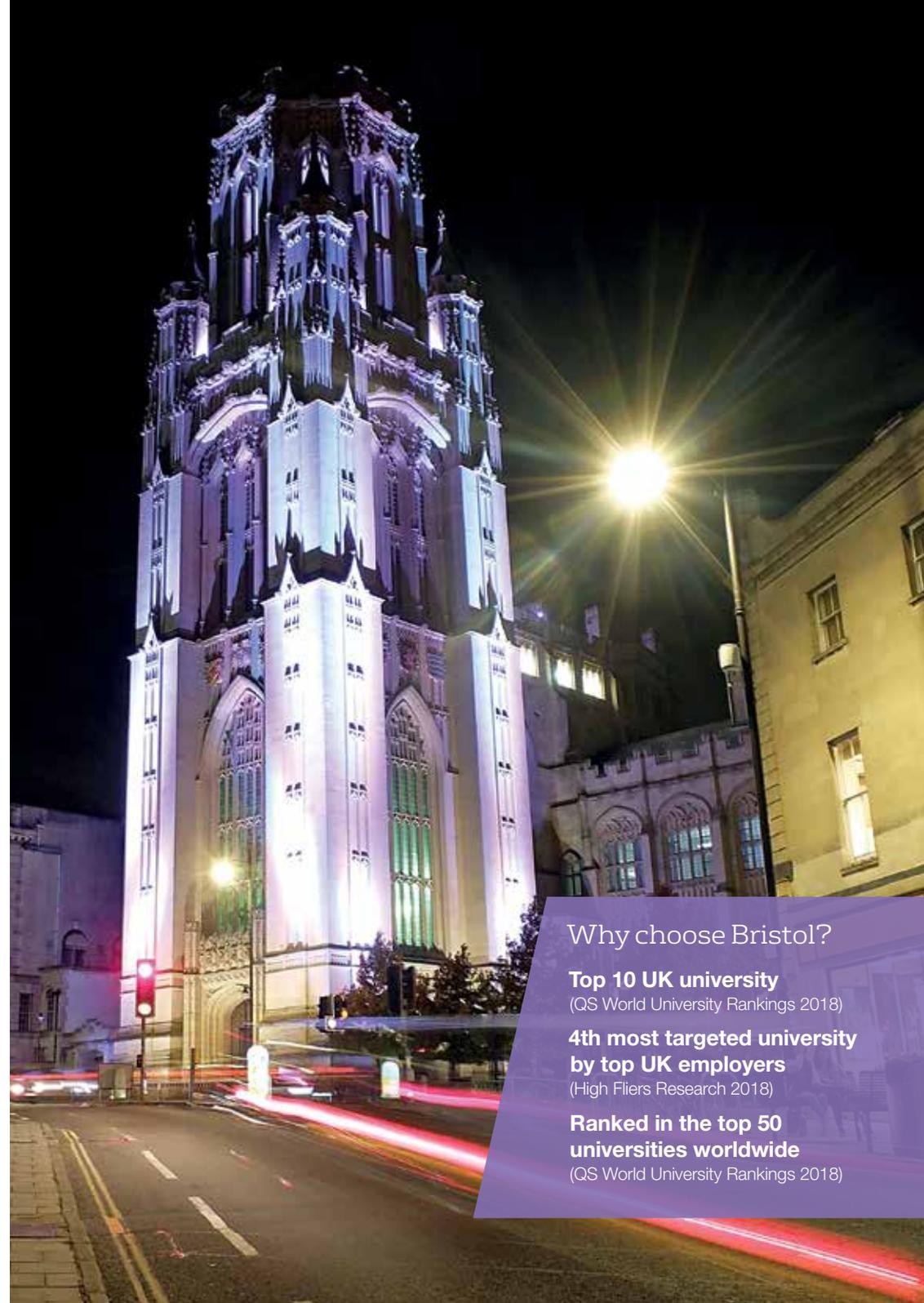
*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

English is a particularly popular course and our students have an excellent academic record. Selection is usually based on your UCAS application, though we may interview mature applicants or those with non-standard qualifications; we might also request some written work.

Your personal statement should demonstrate your interest in the subject and your command of written English. We want to hear an account of the books and features of literature that you have found most interesting and enjoyable, and why. Consider also telling us about any extracurricular activities you undertake or non-academic achievements, particularly if they relate to your chosen course.

Further information

Find out more about the Department of English: bristol.ac.uk/english.



Why choose Bristol?

Top 10 UK university
(QS World University Rankings 2018)

**4th most targeted university
by top UK employers**
(High Fliers Research 2018)

**Ranked in the top 50
universities worldwide**
(QS World University Rankings 2018)

Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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