



## Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

### Photography

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# 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 Czech**

four years QR3V

**BA English and French**

four years QR31

**BA English and German**

four years QR32

**BA English and History**

three years QV31

**BA English and Italian**

four years QR33

**BA English and Philosophy**

three years QV35

**BA English and Portuguese**

four years QR35

**BA English and Russian**

four years QR37

**BA English and Spanish**

four years QR34

**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 that puts research-led teaching at the heart of its degrees. 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 study a joint honours degree with another subject, or 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.

'All the members of staff in my department are truly wonderful. They are experts in their fields, and through our tutorials and seminars I have both admired and learnt from their enthusiasm and expertise.'

Alexandra (BA English)

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study), for the latest updates.

## 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 the first term of your first year you will also have the opportunity to choose from one of the following first year options:

- Texts in a Global Context: an introduction to the richness and diversity of Anglophone writing of the past 300 years from a global perspective, centred on the twinned concepts of English as a global language and English literature as a global medium.
- Transformations: an introduction to how authors revise, challenge, engage, remake, parody and are in dialogue with earlier texts and ideas. By reading synchronically and diachronically, you will engage with and critique key ideas of influence and canonicity.

- Readings in Gender and Sexuality: an introduction to reading literature at the intersection of gender and sexuality through a diverse range of texts and theories. You will explore the ways in which gender and sexuality inform not only how and what we read but the aesthetic and political choices of the authors themselves.

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.



The Department of English is based in the Woodland Road complex, a series of converted Victorian villas at the heart of our Clifton campus.



“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?

### 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 recent examples:

- American Literature 1945-Present
- Author as Character
- Black British Literature
- Charles Dickens
- Creative Writing (poetry or prose)
- Concise Crime
- Contemporary Multi-Ethnic Writing of America
- Dangerous Books
- Darkest London
- Eighteenth-Century Women's Writing
- The Fairy Tale in English
- Gender, Desire and the Renaissance Stage
- History of the Language of English Literature
- 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 Imaginings
- Prize Culture and Prestige in Contemporary Fiction
- Queer Writing
- 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.

### 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 recent examples:

- Old English Language and Literature
- Chaucer and Chaucerians
- Arthurian Literature
- Shakespeare
- Writing the City: London 1550-1740
- Writing the Margins: 1550-1740
- Celebrity Cultures: Icons, Industry, Aesthetics
- 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.



'Everyone is so friendly and welcoming. It's amazing to have such supportive lecturers and tutors who ask you how you're doing - little things like that make a huge difference.'

Tamara (BA English)

## Teaching and learning

The methods of teaching and learning used 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 you will be able to make connections with and communicate 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 Bristol English degrees, 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.



'I was looking for a well-known and highly ranked university. My friends had really positive attitudes about the city. Bristol has everything, from art and restaurants to nightlife – it's amazing!'

Hin (BA Film and English)

## Careers 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. 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.

Our students go on to thrive in a diverse range of careers. 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 poetry.

'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 and start to think about the working world.'

Helen (BA English)



### Graduate employers

IOP Publishing  
Crest Communications  
Penguin Random House  
Teach First  
PwC



### Career destinations

Editorial Assistant  
Account Executive  
HR Assistant  
Teacher

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired](http://bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired).

# Making your application

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-english](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-english) for more information about our courses.

## Typical offer for BA English

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

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

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

**GCSEs** No specific subjects required.

**Selection process** UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-english](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-english).

## Application advice for English courses

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](http://bristol.ac.uk/english).

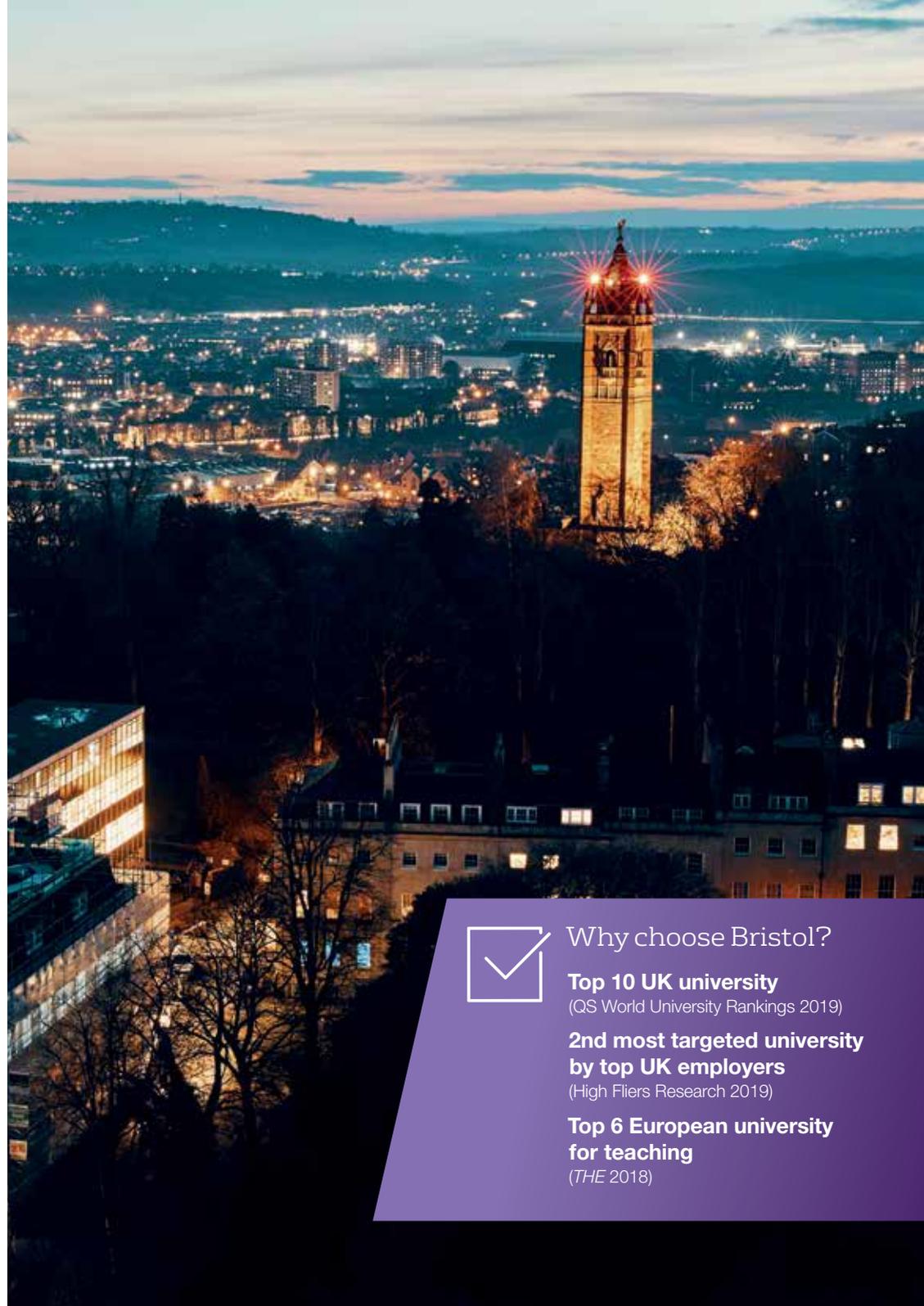
This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug20-english](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug20-english).



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

[bristol.ac.uk/students](http://bristol.ac.uk/students)

[bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study)



Why choose Bristol?

**Top 10 UK university**  
(QS World University Rankings 2019)

**2nd most targeted university  
by top UK employers**  
(High Fliers Research 2019)

**Top 6 European university  
for teaching**  
(THE 2018)