

Undergraduate study

English



Key highlights



Follow your interests

From Shakespearean tragedy to gender studies to environmental humanities, the study of literature at Bristol offers you space to grapple with some of our most exciting and urgent issues. Our curriculum allows you to study the full breadth and range of literature written in English. You will study the historical development of the subject, and also choose from more specialised optional units.



Career-ready skills

English students go on to thrive in a diverse range of careers. Recent graduates have entered careers in the media, publishing, marketing, theatre and teaching, as well as in law, computing, accountancy, international relations and social work; a number of students have published successful novels, plays and poetry.



International experience

Single honours students have the opportunity to study in Europe, Australia or North America for a semester.

Why study English at Bristol?

Reading literature allows us to question our world, to discover new ideas and ways of being, to evaluate historical and cultural processes, and to think through the complexities of our own times.

English at Bristol offers a diverse and lively approach to literary studies through small-group tutorials, seminars and lectures. It is a serious but enjoyable academic discipline, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue across the University and beyond.

Our courses are designed to support your growth as a curious and independent reader and give you the opportunity to follow your own interests with a wide range of optional units.

As part of our intellectually rich and friendly community, you can study English literature from the medieval period to the present, as well as key critical and theoretical approaches to literary study.

You'll be taught by world leaders in the field and have the opportunity to choose from a wide range of units every year.

Overview of course structure:

Year one

Term one:

- Literature 1150-1550
- Critical Issues
- Special Subject Option: Texts in a Global Context; Transformations; or Readings in Gender and Sexuality

Term two:

- Literature 1550-1740
- Approaches to Poetry
- Open Unit/Bristol Futures Option: Innovation and Enterprise; Global Citizenship; or Sustainable Futures

Year two

Term one:

- Literature 1740-1900
- Early Modern Option
- Special Subject Option

Term two:

- Literature 1900-present
- Medieval Option
- Special Subject Option

Year three

Term one:

- Modern and Contemporary Option
- Trans-historical Option
- Special Subject or Dissertation

Term two:

- Romantic and Victorian Option
- Special Subject
- Special Subject or Dissertation

Sample optional units may include:

- American Revolutions: Twentieth-century American Literature
- Black British Literature
- Celebrity Cultures: Icons, Industry, Aesthetics
- Creative Writing (poetry or prose)
- Decolonising Literature and Literary Studies
- Dickens
- Gender, Desire and the Renaissance Stage
- Illness Narratives
- Modernism and the Movies
- Postcolonial Environments
- Queer Writing
- The Fairy Tale in English
- Twentieth-century Women Writers
- Victorian Fiction: Art and Ideas in the Marketplace
- Writing for Art
- Writing the City: London 1550-1740.

Find out more

Entry requirements, course structure and units
bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-english

'Bristol has a really rich, cultural, historical past. It's exciting to be able to talk about things that are difficult, to have awareness of the weight of our history. It's great to be able to study the character of the place that you're living in.'

Anna (BA English)



Bristol is an exciting place to study English: the city is home to the Bristol Festival of Literature, Bristol Women's Literature Festival and Bristol Poetry Festival, as well as a host of theatres, literary events and independent bookshops. It has also inspired writers throughout its history, from William Wordsworth and Jane Austen to JK Rowling and Helen Dunmore.



Many brilliant authors studied English at Bristol – including Angela Carter, David Nicholls and Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio – as well as Gregory Doran, Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company.



There are plenty of opportunities to meet fellow book lovers outside your studies. The Falstaff Society organises poetry readings, theatre productions and creative writing groups, as well as popular social events; at the Afrolit Society you can get involved with book clubs, panel events and recitals focused on literature by African writers.



You'll study in our recently renovated Humanities Hub, home to new lecture theatres, flexible teaching spaces, a screening room, exhibition area and a range of social spaces.

Courses

BA English

BA English and Classical Studies

BA English and French / German / Italian / Portuguese / Russian / Spanish

BA English and History

BA English and Philosophy

BA English Literature and Community Engagement

BA Film and English

BA Theatre and English

Connect with the Department of English

 **@UoBrisEnglish**

Photography

Dan Rowley, ISG/Paul Box

© University of Bristol

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study for the latest updates. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.

