English at Bristol
Visit days
bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/2020/english
Welcome to the English Department and congratulation on your offer! We’re so sorry we cannot meet you in person at this time but hope that these slides will give you a good insight into what it might be like to join us.

Our courses

▪ BA English
▪ BA English and Philosophy
▪ BA English and Classical Studies
▪ BA Film and English
▪ BA Theatre and English
▪ BA English and a Modern Language
▪ BA English and History
Why English at Bristol?

- We are a top 10 English Department in the UK (Complete University Guide 2020).

- We combine the study of the Historical development of English with Theoretical/Media/Cultural Studies.

- We offer a significant number of optional units to help you tailor degree to your interests and take options across disciplines, e.g: gender and critical race studies, environmental and medical humanities.

Research Informed Teaching

- Our staff are leaders in their fields and communities, developing new research initiatives and centres:
  - Centre for Environmental Humanities
  - The Centre for Black Humanities
  - The Centre for Health, Humanities and Science
  - The Centre for Material Texts
  - The Centre for Medieval Studies
  - The Bristol Poetry Institute

- We contribute to additional leading Research Clusters on Global Feminisms, Borderlands, Bodies of Water, Senses, Transnational Modernisms, and others.
The Bristol Poetry Institute

The Poetry Institute holds regular events. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/arts/research/poetry-institute/

Simon Armitage performs his poetry at this year’s annual reading. © Charlie Gearon 2017
Overview of the degree

Students would usually take six units in each year (120 credits). Each unit is taught across a 12 week ‘teaching block’ (tb).

Year 1
- TB1
  - Literature 1150-1550
  - Critical Issues
  - 1st Year Special Subject Option
- TB2
  - Literature 1550-1740
  - Approaches to Poetry
  - Open Unit/Bristol Futures Option

Year 2
- TB1
  - Literature 1740-1900
  - Early Modern Option
  - Special Subject Option
- TB2
  - Literature 1900-present
  - Medieval Option
  - Special Subject Option

Year 3
- TB1
  - Modern & Contemporary Option
  - Trans-historical Option
  - Special Subject OR Dissertation
- TB2
  - Romantic & Victorian Option
  - Special Subject
  - Special Subject OR Dissertation

Units and contact hours may be subject to change. Please check online for the most up-to-date course information.
Assessment, contact hours, teaching formats

How each year is weighted:
- Year 1: 0% (must pass to progress to Year 2)
- Year 2: 40%
- Year 3: 60%

Types of assessment:
- Coursework essays between 1500-3500 words
- Dissertations of 6,000 or 10,000 words (1 term or full year)
- Portfolios, Presentations and Posters
- Only a few core units have exams

Contact hours and teaching format:
- 10 contact hours per week on average.
- Core units (Y1 and Y2): 3 lectures per week + 2hr seminar (15 students per group)
- Approaches to Poetry (Y1): 2 lectures per week + 1hr tutorial (9 students)
- Y1 and Y2 Options: 1hr lecture + 2hr seminar
- Y3 Options: 2hr Lecture/Workshop and 2hr Seminar
- Special subjects (Y2 and Y3): 2hr seminar

Units and contact hours may be subject to change please check online for the most up-to-date course information.
Year one single honours

TB 1

Core Units:
- Literature 1150-1550
- Critical Issues

Optional Units (choose one):
- Texts in a Global Context
- Transformations
- Readings in Gender and Sexuality

TB 2

Core Units:
- Literature 1550-1740
- Approaches to Poetry

Optional Units (choose one):
- Innovation and Enterprise
- Global Citizenship
- Sustainable Futures
- Open Unit

Units and contact hours may be subject to change please check online for the most up-to-date course information.
### Year two single honours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TB1</th>
<th>TB2</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Core Unit</strong>: Literature 1740-1900</td>
<td><strong>Core Unit</strong>: Literature 1900-Present</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Optional Unit (choose one):</strong></td>
<td><strong>Optional Unit (choose one):</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Old English Language and Literature</td>
<td>- Shakespeare</td>
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<td>- Chaucer and Chaucerians</td>
<td>- Writing the City: London 1550-1740</td>
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<td>- Arthurian Literature</td>
<td><strong>Special Subject (choose one):</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Special Subject (choose one):</strong></td>
<td>- Creative Writing</td>
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<td>- African American Literature</td>
<td>- American Avant-gardes</td>
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<td>- American Literature 1945-Present</td>
<td>- Literature and Science</td>
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<td>- Author as Character</td>
<td>- Literature and the Sea</td>
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<td>- Black British Literature</td>
<td>- Nineteenth-Century American Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Creative Writing: Poetry/ Prose</td>
<td>- The Poet as Witness</td>
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<td>- Concise Crime</td>
<td>- Poetry of the 1960s</td>
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<td>- Contemporary Multi-Ethnic Writing of America</td>
<td>- Presenting the Future</td>
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<td>- Dangerous Books</td>
<td>- Queer Writing</td>
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<td>- Darkest London</td>
<td>- Revenge Tragedy</td>
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<td>- Eighteenth-Century Women’s Writing</td>
<td>- Sex and Gender at the Fin de Siecle</td>
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<td>- The Fairy Tale in English</td>
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<td>- Gender, Desire and the Renaissance Stage</td>
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<td>- Utopian Literature</td>
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<td>- Writing the Working Classes</td>
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# Year three single honours

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<tr>
<th>TB1</th>
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| **Romantic and Victorian Option (choose one):**  
- Novel Territories: Eighteenth-Century Prose Fiction  
- Victorian Fiction: Art and Ideas in the Marketplace | **Transhistorical Options (choose one):**  
- Literatures of Slavery  
- Celebrity Culture |
| **Modern and Contemporary (choose one):**  
- American Revolutions: Twentieth-Century American Literature  
- Decolonising Literature and Literary Studies | **Special Subject and/or Dissertation**  
- Creative Writing  
- Postcolonial Environments  
- Samuel Beckett  
- Shakespearean Tragedy  
- Spanish Civil War in British and American Writing  
- Twentieth-Century Women Writers  
- U. S. Postmodernist Fiction  
- Victorian Afterlives  
- Women in Medieval Romance  
- Writing for Art  
- Writing the Anthropocene  
- Writing the Self |
| **Special Subject or Dissertation (chose one):**  
- Aesthetic Possibilities  
- American Masculinities  
- Charles Dickens  
- Codex to Kindle: Literature and the Material Text  
- Freud and Shakespeare  
- Illness Narratives  
- Imagining Americans  
- James Joyce  
- Literature’s Children  
- Literature and Medicine  
- Modernism and the Body |
Year three dissertation

- 6000-word project produced over one teaching block, or 10,000-word project produced over two teaching blocks.
- Independent study supported by lectures, peer-mentoring, and one-to-one supervision.

Recent topics:
- "Man Down": The Evolution of Masculinity and Mental Health Narratives in Rap Music'
- 'The Soundscapes and Seascapes of Joseph Conrad's Early Fiction'
- 'Sisterhood is Powerfull: Representations of Sisterhood in the Poetry of Christina Rosetti'
- 'Women with Knives: The Feminisation of the Phallus in Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl'
- 'Trauma and Disruption in Holocaust Fiction'
- 'Wordsworth as Prophet and Redeemer: Poetry as Affective State'
- 'Both sides of this text: Dualism, Textuality and Non-Textuality in Derek Walcott’s Omeros’ (E/CS)

Units and contact hours may be subject to change please check online for the most up-to-date course information.
Global Opportunities

Students can Study Abroad for one teaching block in their 2nd Year

Current Institutions Include:

Boston College (USA)
Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia)
McGill University (Montreal, Canada)
Pitzer College (Claremont/Los Angeles, USA)
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (Germany)
Salve Regina University (Rhode Island, USA)
Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
University of Adelaide (Australia)
University of Iceland (Reykjavik, Iceland)
University of Leiden (Netherlands)
UNC Chapel Hill (North Carolina, USA)
University of Rochester (USA)
Université Paris-Sorbonne, Paris IV (France)

Summer Program - Go China: Culture and Language (4 weeks in Beijing)

Availability of placements abroad may be subject to change please check online for the most up-to-date information.
Extra-curricular opportunities

We have a thriving student society. Falstaff organises socials, literary events and productions

bristolsu.org.uk/groups/the-falstaff-society

Many of our students write for University publications, like epigram the student newspaper or helicon, the University’s creative arts magazine
Thank you for reading!

If you would have any questions or would like to know more about our department or our courses, please do get in touch:

R.Kennedy-Epstein@bristol.ac.uk

bristol.ac.uk/english/

We look forward to seeing you in the future.