



English Literature

Lancaster
University



lancaster.ac.uk/english-literature



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GET IN TOUCH

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 @lancaster_words

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WELCOME

“ Studying English Literature at Lancaster University is an exciting, varied and stimulating experience. The subject is taught by leading scholars whose research advances knowledge of our culture and heritage.

We offer a firm grounding in all periods of literature from the Middle Ages through to the twenty-first century. Some of our areas of research specialism include literature and science, literature and religion, literature and politics, Gothic literature, science fiction, graphic fiction, literature and maps, literature in performance, and literature's intersections with other media. Our teaching is shaped by this lively and diverse research culture.

A degree in English Literature from Lancaster prepares you well for a variety of interesting careers: our Department is joint first in the country for careers after six months (Guardian University Guide 2019). The skills that you learn in research, analysing, and interpreting texts, creative problem-solving, presenting your ideas orally and in writing, as well as practical skills developed in our employability modules, are highly sought after by employers, and our graduates go on to careers in teaching, publishing, media, business, and many other fields.

The Department offers a rich creative environment in which to undertake your studies. Members of staff lead reading groups, organise public lectures and special workshops, arrange theatre visits, and ensure that our students make the most of our proximity to the historic city of Lancaster by organising drama productions at venues such as Lancaster Castle. Our students contribute to the lively departmental culture by coordinating writing groups, performing readings, and running the journals *Flash*, *Lux* and *Cake*.

Whether you take English Literature on its own, with Creative Writing or in combination with other subjects, you will benefit from studying in the Department alongside many award-winning writers producing the literature of today, including poets Paul Muldoon and Paul Farley, and novelist Jenn Ashworth.

I hope that you will choose to join us next year.

”

Professor Hilary Hinds,
Head of Department



WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE AT LANCASTER?

You will have many opportunities to take advantage of our strong links to the historic and cultural heritage of the region including our close proximity to the Lake District, inspiration to writers of all genres. We hold workshops in Lancaster Castle as part of our Shakespeare teaching, participate in a wide range of local literary festivals and events, and the Department is home to the world-renowned Wordsworth Centre.

Flexibility and choice

We offer flexible pathways and a very large number of optional modules. You can study English Literature on its own, or combine it with Creative Writing or a wide range of other subjects.

#9

for English
Complete University Guide 2019

#1

Joint #1 for English and
Creative Writing

Careers after 6 months
The Guardian University Guide 2019

Specialisms

Module options include the latest literature – even work published in the past few years – and we specialise in Gothic, Postapocalyptic and Sci-Fi.

Fabulous facilities

Lancaster University is joint 1st in the UK for the quality of the library and library opening hours.

Times Higher Student Experience
Survey 2018

#3

for Research Power

We are behind only Oxford and Cambridge in the latest Research Excellence Framework. You will be taught from day one by leading academics.

#2

for Creative Writing
Complete University Guide 2019

Placements and study abroad

You can gain useful work experience through a placement in a culture, heritage or creative Industries organisation or a school, and expand your horizons via study abroad.

DEGREES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Degree title	Award	Duration	UCAS code	Typical offer
English Literature	BA (Hons)	3 years	Q300	AAB
English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice	BA (Hons)	3 years	QW38	AAB
English Literature with Creative Writing	BA (Hons)	3 years	Q3W8	AAB
English Literature and History	BA (Hons)	3 years	QV31	AAB
English Literature and Linguistics	BA (Hons)	3 years	QQ13	AAB
English Literature and Philosophy	BA (Hons)	3 years	QV35	AAB
English Literature and Religious Studies	BA (Hons)	3 years	QV36	AAB
English Language and Literature	BA (Hons)	3 years	Q302	AAB
Film and English Literature	BA (Hons)	3 years	PQ33	AAB
French Studies and English Literature	BA (Hons)	4 years	RQ13	AAB
German Studies and English Literature	BA (Hons)	4 years	RQ23	AAB
Spanish Studies and English Literature	BA (Hons)	4 years	RQ43	AAB
Theatre and English Literature	BA (Hons)	3 years	WQ43	AAB

Placement Year Degrees

All of our degrees can be studied as a four-year long Placement Year degree. You can either apply specifically for a Placement Year variant, or switch on to the programme when you arrive at Lancaster. See page 22 for further details about placements and internship opportunities.



Distinguished Professor Terry Eagleton chats with students after a literary event at Lancaster Priory.

TEACHING

The core of your English Literature teaching will be in seminars where you will discuss the texts and topics under consideration on your module. Seminars are supported by lectures. Typically, each module will have a weekly lecture and seminar, but this may vary for some modules. You will also be invited to meet with your tutors on an individual basis to discuss any questions and receive personal support and guidance to help you get the most from your course. Teaching takes place in small-group seminars averaging 12-14 students.

All of our staff are research-active and renowned in their specialist fields; we all research, write, and publish our work. English Literature staff specialise in areas from medieval literature to contemporary Gothic, from Romantic poetry to postcolonial writing. These research interests shape our teaching.

Distinguished Professor Terry Eagleton visits regularly, offering a range of sessions from public talks to undergraduate lectures to postgraduate seminars.

Lancaster University has been awarded the highest possible score in the UK government's 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) ratings. Our TEF Gold rating is based on high quality teaching, excellent teaching facilities and the good careers our graduates go into.



CONTACT HOURS

You can expect to be in class for around nine hours a week in your first year, depending on which modules you sign up for. Classroom contact time is similar in your second and third years. You will have set reading for each of these classes, so this results in a full, though flexible, study schedule.

ASSESSMENT

Most year-long modules are assessed by a combination of coursework and end-of-year examinations, although some modules have no examinations. When you submit a piece of coursework, we will get it back to you, graded and with comments from your tutor, within four weeks. Some modules include innovative assessment methods; the second-year Literature and Film course, for example, includes a creative project as part of its final assessment.

DISSERTATION

In your final year you will work one-to-one with a supervisor, planning, researching and writing a dissertation on a topic of your choice.

STUDY ABROAD

The study of English Literature can be enhanced by examining literatures in English produced in other national contexts, such as the USA, Canada and Australia, or by learning how other Europeans view the English literary tradition. You will have the opportunity to study abroad for a year at a partner university including the USA (Colorado, Iowa, Boston), in Canada (Toronto), Switzerland (Lausanne) and Australia (Macquarie). Living in another country and studying English Literature from a different perspective benefits you, both in terms of enhancing your understanding of the subject and preparing you for life after university.

There are also opportunities for short vacation travel with previous groups going to the US, China, Malaysia, India and Europe.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/global/

PLACEMENT AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout your degree we will support you in developing skills and gaining experience that will give you a head start in your chosen career. We offer a range of placement and internship opportunities in businesses, arts and heritage organisations, and schools. See page 22 for details.

BEYOND THE COURSE CURRICULUM

There is an extensive range of extracurricular activities and field trips. Some are organised by staff, such as public lectures, reading groups, or visits to the theatre; others are organised by students, such as open mic nights on campus. See page 20 for details.

MODULES IN DEPTH

ENGLISH LITERATURE

The study of English Literature at Lancaster gives you a broad engagement with the English literary tradition and the chance to experience some of the latest research in new topics and innovative approaches to study. From the outset, you will study literature from a range of different historical periods, both pre- and post-1800, from different literary movements and different national and cultural contexts. We also help you to think more systematically about different ways of approaching the reading of these texts.

Experiencing a wide range of different kinds of writing in your first year – drama, fiction, poetry and film, contemporary as well as historical – allows you to make informed choices about the direction you want to take in your second and third years.

YEAR 1

CORE
English Literature

A broad range of literature is addressed, from the Middle Ages to the 21st century, from Geoffrey Chaucer to Angela Carter. This module is a taster of famous and less well known texts through the Renaissance, Victorian, Romantic, and modern periods, and of the many and varied possible approaches to reading literature. You will be introduced to the key debates in literary study and given a foundation in the skills, tools, and knowledge that can open up new and exciting ways of reading.

+

ELECTIVE
World Literature

You will explore a wide and exciting range of texts from world literatures in English that have influenced the development of English Literature, including the Bible and classical writers such as Ovid, Homer, and Dante. You'll look at modern world authors in translation, like Kafka, and at today's culture through contemporary authors such as Salman Rushdie and Mariama Bâ, as well as new media writing and the graphic novel.

+

ELECTIVE
Creative Writing

The basic techniques of prose and poetry will be examined. Divided into two parts, 'Approaching Writing' and 'Putting it into Practice', each is assessed by a portfolio of your work.

OR

ELECTIVE
Flexible Subject Option

Select a module from another department in the University. This could be something closely related to your study of literature, such as English Language, Theatre or Film, or you could choose to branch out with a subject like History, Sociology, Marketing, Criminology, Gender and Women's Studies, or Psychology. The full list of first-year options can be found in our Flexible Subject Options booklet.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-flexible-learning/

OR

ELECTIVE
Flexible Subject Option

YEAR 2

CORE
The Theory and
Practice of Criticism.

You will reflect on your approach to the study of literature. You will examine key concepts in contemporary literary studies such as ideology, the unconscious, discourse, and biopolitics through the work of major thinkers such as Marx, Freud, Foucault and Derrida.

+

1 ELECTIVE
Select one of these two
pre-1800 modules.

**Renaissance to Restoration:
English Literature 1580-1688**
You will examine the literature of a century of revolutionary change, both in politics and culture. The focus is generically and historically wide-ranging, from Spenser's provocative Elizabethan verse epic *The Faerie Queene*, to the brilliant and edgy theatre of the likes of Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, and the prose writings of revolutionaries like John Milton and monarchist libertines like Aphra Behn.

British Romanticism

You will develop a well-rounded sense of Romanticism, a movement that includes the poetry of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Shelley, but also relates to the development of Gothic writing and to the novels of Jane Austen. Themes of politics and poetics and of imagination and identity will be examined across a range of texts.

+

2 ELECTIVES
Select two further modules
from the list below.

American Literature to 1900

What do we mean by 'American Literature' and how do we define America and 'the American experience'? How has American Literature evolved from its colonial origins? You will answer these questions by engaging with many different voices, many conflicting and contrasting views, a diversity of complex experiences, and a great range of writing in form and style.

Literature and Film

You will survey formal, generic, historical, cultural, narrative, and theoretical relationships between literature and film across a range of periods, genres, topics and cultures, examining the practice and analysis of literary film adaptation. You will also study some other modes of literary adaptation, such as television or graphic novels. Questions of originality, authorship and intertextuality will be addressed across the course as a whole.

Victorian Literature

What is a 'Victorian attitude'? You will address this question by examining the role played by literature in the defining cultural debates of the time concerning progress, science, religion, and gender. You will examine a wide range of Victorian literature, including novels, poetry, short stories, drama, social criticism, travel writing and children's fiction.

YEAR 3

CORE

Dissertation



ELECTIVE

Select modules from the list below and on pages 14-15.

This is a long essay on a subject of your choice. It could be something that caught your attention earlier on in the course that you want to approach in more depth, perhaps, or a long-standing enthusiasm that you would like to study in a more systematic and focused way. Whatever you choose, you will be helped by regular supervision from a member of staff.

You can choose to study:

- 1 full-unit module + 4 half-unit modules

OR

- 2 full-unit modules + 2 half-unit modules

FULL-UNIT MODULES

Modernism towards Post-modernism

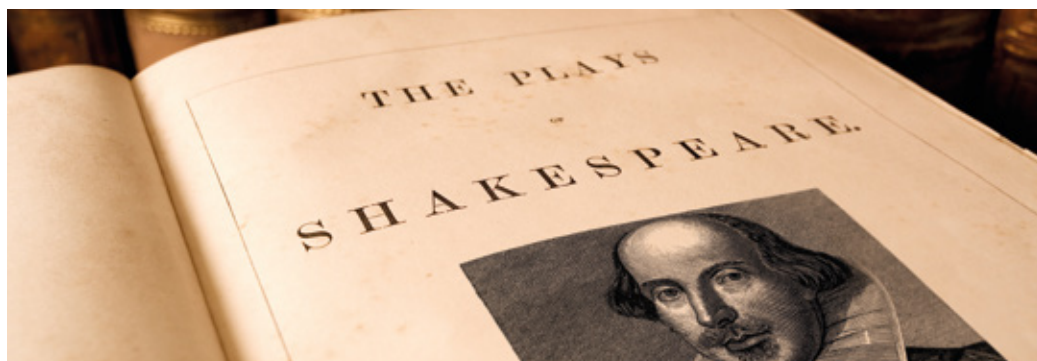
You will look at a range of experimental Anglo-American writing from the early twentieth century – the period of modernism proper – to the emergent post-modernism of the 1960s. Through close examination of path-breaking works from T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf and Wallace Stevens through to Samuel Beckett and Thomas Pynchon, you will examine the meaning and usefulness of two of the most powerful aesthetic concepts of the last century.

Shakespeare

This module examines Shakespearean drama in its own time, as a platform on which early modern debates about agency and government, family, and national identity were put into play. By examining texts from across Shakespeare's career, we will explore their power to shape thoughts and feelings in their own age but also in ours. Texts might include *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night*, *Henry IV Part I*, *King Lear*, and *The Tempest*.

Contemporary Literature in English

You will encounter the explosion of new literatures from the decolonising/newly post-colonial world and the rise of new literary forms in the post-war period. The course foregrounds literature in English in its international dimensions, from South Asia and the Caribbean, as well as from multicultural and devolved Britain. Recurrent themes include margins, haunting, migration, and metamorphosis. Texts include Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*; Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*; Atwood, *Oryx and Crake*; Coupland, *Hey Nostradamus!*



HALF-UNIT MODULES

Half-unit modules are typically designed around the current research of members of staff, and so are subject to frequent changes. This list, therefore, is offered as a snapshot of some of our current courses rather than as an indication of what will be running in future years.

21st-Century World Literature

This module takes 'world literature' as a question rather than a stable category. Instead of simply naming a range of literary works produced around the globe, it considers 'world' as an unfolding historical and imaginative creation, and asks about the relationship of literature to this process in the contemporary moment. We'll be particularly interested in the 'return' of history in our present, and will consider new frontiers of war, resurgent forms of environmental violence and the chronic emergency of the refugee crisis.

The Byron-Shelley Circle

You will examine the work of three of the great Romantic writers: the poets Lord Byron and Percy Shelley and the novelist Mary Shelley. Their work produced two of the dominant myths of modern literature – Frankenstein (in Mary Shelley's novel) and the vampire, both of which we will examine. Throughout their careers these writers were engaged in a creative and critical conversation addressing major themes, including the possibilities of political change; literary, scientific and biological creation; transgressive love; gender roles; and the Gothic.

Performing Death, Desire and Gender

This module looks at how acts of desire, murder, fake and 'real' deaths are represented on stage in early modern drama. It explores how experiences of death and desire are always gendered. In early modern theatres, the playing of female roles by boy actors demonstrated the performativity of gender for all – on stage and beyond. The module will explore how the bodies of boy actors dramatized a range of sexual orientations, representing female desire and staging same-sex desire at the same time.

Victorian Gothic

In the Victorian period, the decaying castles, corrupt priests, and ancestral curses that were so prominent in the first phase of the Gothic novel gave way to an increased emphasis on spectral and monstrous others: ghosts, werewolves, vampires, mummies, and other creatures of the night. You will explore these phenomena in their historical, cultural and literary contexts, with particular focus on emerging discourses of gender, sexuality, colonialism and class.

Women Writers

Virginia Woolf famously asked 'what would have happened had Shakespeare had a wonderfully gifted sister?' and went on to explore the obstacles to literary success encountered by women writers. This module follows Woolf's lead by seeking to redress the historical marginalisation of women writers in the English literary canon through an exploration of how women have come to writing at different historical moments, what they have chosen to write, and how.

Schools Volunteering Module

Experience teaching and classroom practice first-hand, at either primary or secondary level, in a local school during the Lent Term. The 10-week part-time placement will involve classroom observation and teacher assistance, and, in most cases, an opportunity to teach the class or to work with a designated group of pupils. Students will also develop skills around a special project or activity carried out in the school related to the teaching of English. The module is assessed by an end-of-term essay.

Work Placement: Culture, Heritage and the Creative Industries

In Year 3 there are opportunities to undertake an assessed work placement module in the Lent term. The placement takes place at a relevant host organisation, with typically 30-40 hours spent on placement. Previous students have been placed at organisations like publishers, museums, newspapers, heritage sites, and arts venues.

To give an indication of the range and diversity of modules offered, here is a list of all the half-unit modules being taught in the 2018/19 academic year:

- 21st-Century Theory
- 21st-Century World Literature
- Between the Acts
- The Bible and Literature
- The Break-Through Book: Five 20th-Century Poets
- The Byron-Shelley Circle
- Contemporary Middle Eastern Literature
- Jane Austen
- Literary Film Adaptations: Hollywood 1939
- Literature and Religion at the Fin-de-Siècle
- Literature and the Visual Arts
- Monstrous Bodies
- Performing Death, Desire and Gender
- Premodern Gothic
- Private and Public Performances of Self in Medieval Literature
- Science Fiction in Literature and Film
- Urban Gothic in 20th and 21st-Century Fiction
- Utopias and Utopianism
- Victorian Gothic
- Women Writers of Britain and America
- Work Placement: Culture, Heritage and the Creative Industries
- Work Placement: Schools Volunteering

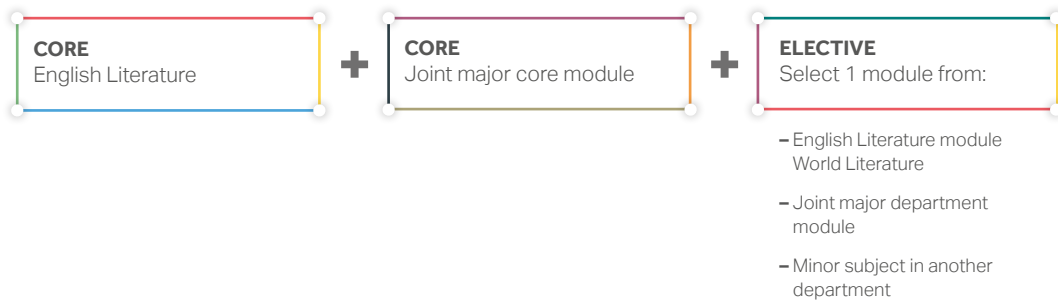


JOINT DEGREES WITH ENGLISH LITERATURE

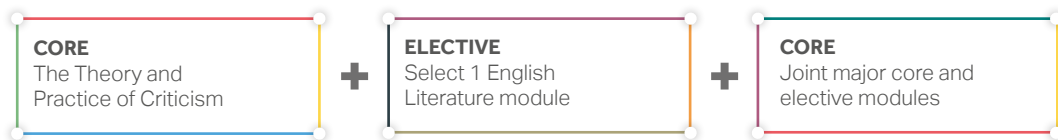
In addition to combining English Literature with Creative Writing (see Creative Writing booklet), you can study English Literature as part of a joint major degree with the following subjects:

- English Language
- Film
- French Studies
- German Studies
- History
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- Spanish Studies
- Theatre

YEAR 1



YEAR 2



YEAR 3



See pages 12-15 for module listings.

“

As an English Literature student at Lancaster I have gained valuable skills to take into the workforce. In 2017, I secured an internship at the BBC, working on the Sports Personality of the Year Awards. My degree helped to secure the internship as it demonstrated that I was from a “story telling” or “story analysis” background and essentially producing is a way of telling stories through different media lenses. Performing well in my internship led to me being offered a job in BBC Sport.

I currently work as a BBC Sport Freelancer. I was offered this a couple of weeks after finishing my placement, and have since been combining work and my degree. I have been able to work on big sporting events, including the Winter Olympics and the Commonwealths.

Lancaster’s teaching staff have been great at inspiring and enthusing both my academic and my creative work. The skills I have learnt through seminars, essays and presentation work are all vital for careers and life outside this degree. ”

Samia Durrani
Current student, BA Hons English Literature

MEET OUR STAFF

Brian Baker - Senior Lecturer in English and Creative Writing

I've always been a reader of popular genres: Stephen King's horror novels (the ones my Mum didn't drop in the bath, that is), crime thrillers and police procedurals, spy novels, and science fiction, of course, always science fiction. Literatures of the imagination have been my thing since my Dad and I read *2000AD* comic together. Future cities, weird goings on, robots, alternative histories, secrets, worlds within worlds within worlds. You might want to call it escapism, but I would prefer 'seeing things differently', off-kilter, if you like. All kinds of imaginative literature is about understanding the world not as it is presented to us, but as how it might be, in terms of dreams, fears, or hopes. Whatever I teach here at Lancaster, and whatever students study, thinking differently is always vital.

- Teaching includes: Year 2: American Literature to 1900; Year 3: Science Fiction
- Publications include: *Contemporary Masculinities in fiction, film and television* (2015); *Iain Sinclair 1945-2000* (2007)



Sally Bushell - Professor of Romantic and Victorian Literature

When I was at school I was never top of my class or even a good "all-rounder" but I was nearly always top in English. Back then it seemed like a disadvantage to only be really good at one thing but in the long run it turned out pretty well. So for me this subject always called me to it, right from the start. I first realised I was a Romanticist and a Wordsworthian when I visited the Lake District aged 17 whilst I was studying *The Prelude* at A Level and had the same kind of feelings all over again about a landscape that is also a deeply literary place. Lancaster is the perfect place for me because of its location so close to the Lake District and to The Wordsworth Trust where most of the manuscripts are held. I love my job, my subject and communicating it to others. Every day I know that I am doing exactly what I was born to do and that is an extraordinary privilege.

- Teaching includes: Year 2: British Romanticism; Year 3: Victorian Popular Fiction
- Publications include: *Text as Process: Creative Composition in Wordsworth, Tennyson and Emily Dickinson* (2009); *Re-Reading 'The Excursion: Narrative, Response and the Wordsworthian Dramatic Voice'* (2002)



Michael Greaney - Senior Lecturer in English

My research is on modern fiction, a field that I define, very broadly, as anything from 1800 to the present day. I feel lucky to work on what I would do anyway for pleasure – read novels – but equally lucky to be doing this work in such a stimulating intellectual context as Lancaster. I've written two books, one on Joseph Conrad, and one on contemporary fiction; and I'm currently working on a third, on sleep and sleepers in the novel, from Gothic sleepwalkers to twenty-first-century insomniacs. The origins of this latest book are in my response to Jonathan Coe's *The House of Sleep*, a wonderful comic novel that got me thinking about when, where and how fictional characters sleep – and about the meanings that they attach both to their sleep and to the sleep of others. It was one of our own students who tipped me off about Coe's novel, some years ago; I'm still grateful for his recommendation.

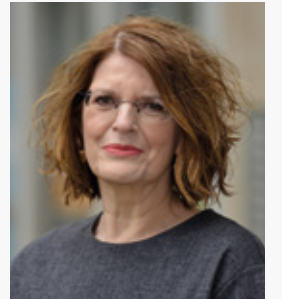
- Teaching includes: Year 2: The Theory and Practice of Criticism; Year 3: Modernism towards Postmodernism
- Publications include: "'Observed, Measured, Contained': Contemporary Fiction and the Science of Sleep", in *Contemporary Literature* 56.1 (2015); *Conrad, Language and Narrative* (2002)



Liz Oakley-Brown - Senior Lecturer in Shakespeare and Renaissance Writing

Nearly all of my childhood adventures took place via the written word. Saturday afternoons were often spent with the boarders at Elinor Brent-Dyer's *Chalet School* series and I was inspired by Jo March's writerly ambitions in Louisa May Alcott's novels. My one act of rebellion at school involved the confiscation of *The Man Who Fell to Earth* when I should have been reading *Great Expectations*. My teenage passion for Thomas Hardy's writing underpinned my desire to study for a degree in English literature. However, as a second-year undergraduate at Cardiff University I took a course which included Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene* and I was immediately fascinated by the Elizabethan epic. Almost all of my subsequent research - which includes English translations of Ovid, embodiment, outlawry and queenship - can be linked to this compelling poem and I remain completely captivated by Tudor writing and its particular examination of what it is to be human.

- Teaching includes: Year 2: Renaissance to Restoration: English Literature 1580-1688; Year 3: Shakespeare
- Publications include: *Shakespeare and the Translation of Identity in Early Modern England* (2011); *The Rituals and Rhetoric of Queenship: Medieval to Early Modern* (with Louise Wilkinson; 2009)



Lynne Pearce - Professor of Literary Theory and Women's Writing

I grew up in a home where there were no books but a compulsive work ethic. My family ran its own business, worked long hours and rarely took a day off. From a young age, reading, writing and art became my alternative industry and, once I started at the Grammar School, 'book learning' became my own compulsion. All my A-level subjects – English, History (including Art History) and Geography – have continued to feed into my research and writing, which is very interdisciplinary. This is one of the reasons why Lancaster University, which has always fostered a culture of intellectual enquiry that crosses disciplines, has been such a good home for me. As a hill-walker, I also consider it to have the best location of any university in England.

- Teaching includes: Year 2: Film and Literature; Year 3: Women Writers of Britain and America
- Publications include: *Drivetime: Literary Excursions in Automotive Consciousness* (2016); *Romance Writing* (2007)



Catherine Spooner - Professor of Literature and Culture

I discovered Gothic aged fourteen via The Cure, and scandalised my parents by dying my hair black and smothering myself in eyeliner. Then at A-level I studied Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and realised there was a whole world of Gothic literature out there to enjoy – from Ann Radcliffe to Angela Carter. But I never quite lost sight of the music and fashion that had drawn me to Gothic in the first place. I remain fascinated with the intersections between Gothic literature and film, fashion and popular culture. A typical research day for me might involve close-reading Victorian novels, or scrutinising the imagery used by fashion shoots in *Vogue*. What I love about Lancaster is that its open-minded, cutting-edge approach allows me to combine both – and share them with my students in classes like 'Victorian Gothic', where we use nineteenth-century painting and photography to contextualise fictions of vampires, werewolves and ghosts.

- Teaching includes: Year 2: Victorian Literature; Year 3: Victorian Gothic
- Publications include: *Post-Millennial Gothic: Comedy, Romance and the Rise of Happy Gothic* (2017); *Fashioning Gothic Bodies* (2004)



LIFE ON THE DEGREE

Student-run journals

We have three in-house, student-run, creative writing journals. The print publication *Cake* publishes poetry, flash fiction, and reviews of work from established poets and newcomers alike. *Flash* is an undergraduate-run journal which publishes fiction, poetry, critical and hybrid work by current Lancaster undergraduates. *LUX* is an interdisciplinary journal that seeks to showcase incisive and original work from students across the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

OTHER STUDENTS HAVE:

- Set up reading and writing groups exploring a wide range of creative and critical interests; check out the departmental website for examples of these
- Taken a student production of the *Canterbury Tales* to the Edinburgh Festival
- Made major contributions to the volunteering programmes of the Student Union
- Made a short promotional film about life in the Department

Volunteering and the Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this. You can find more details about the scheme on the University website: just search for 'Lancaster Award'.



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After a Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences placement helped me to gain an internship in two northern publishing houses, I am now Sales & Production Manager at Comma Press. In my role at Comma, I oversee the entire production process of our books, liaising with printers and designers, proofreading, copy-editing and converting all titles into eBooks.

In my sales role I deal with distributors, wholesalers, booksellers and so on, and produce sales material such as catalogues and presentations. My role also includes planning and overseeing all live events, book launches and author appearances. I have co-edited two collections of stories in translation, *The Book of Tbilisi* and *The Book of Riga*.

Having such an active literary scene within the English Department at Lancaster definitely helped me build up my CV, and by becoming an editor of both *Cake* magazine and *Flash* journal, I learned skills that were massively helpful in my current role. I also can't commend enough the guidance of my tutors, for helping me gain confidence in myself and my skills and giving me one-to-one time to talk.

I took part in the Lancaster Career Mentoring Scheme, and having someone in the industry helping me tailor my CV and applications for different job descriptions really helped me when interviewing for the internships I was later offered.

I'm so lucky because I have such a varied role. Working in a small, dedicated team at an indie press in the North was my dream graduate job and now, happily, is my actual job!

”

Becca Parkinson

Sales and Production Manager, Comma Press, Manchester
BA Hons English Literature, graduated in 2016



The team at Comma Press (from left) Becca, Sarah Cleave (Publishing Manager), Becky Harrison (Engagement Manager), Ra Page (CEO and Publisher)

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Throughout your degree we will support you in developing skills and gaining experience that will give you a head start in your chosen career.

Placement and internship opportunities

Placements and internships are great ways to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your career path. A wide range of opportunities is available, most are paid, and some provide credit towards your degree. Places are not usually guaranteed and we will help you prepare for the competitive application process.

- **Creative and heritage organisation placement module** - these short, paid placements count towards your degree and provide valuable experience working in roles that are relevant to your degree or your future career aspirations, for example with a publisher, museum, newspaper, heritage site or art venue.
- **School volunteering placement module** - if you are thinking of training to be a teacher, this optional module gives you invaluable hands-on experience of working alongside a teacher in the classroom for half a day a week over the course of a term. You would devise a special activity to do with some of the class and reflect on the experience in an end-of-placement essay that counts towards your degree.
- **Placement year degrees** - a year of paid, professional work experience between your second and final year of study. Lancaster University students have worked with companies as diverse as Johnson + Johnson, Warner Bros, Microsoft, Marks & Spencer, and Walt Disney. Typically placements are for between 9-12 months.
- **Short internships** - these short paid placements take place during the university summer vacation and part-time during term time. They provide work experience in small and medium sized businesses as well as third sector and not-for-profit organisations. Past employers have included Carnegie Publishing, The Dukes Theatre, and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with roles ranging from marketing and PR to specific research projects.

Preparing you for your career

A degree including English Literature can underpin many careers and we recognise the need to think ahead to life after graduation. 'Beyond Undergraduate English Literature' is a careers-focused module that provides a rolling programme of events designed to enhance your knowledge of careers, employability and graduate research possibilities. It offers professional development workshops on employability-related matters, including bespoke talks by the University's Careers Department, as well as visits from potential employers and alumni of the Department.

Careers Service

Both during your degree and after your graduate we provide dedicated, specialist support. The University Careers Service has connections with some of the world's top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across every sector, and organises careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year. You can be matched with an employer or a previous graduate for one-to-one advice and take part in a range of workshops such as writing a brilliant CV, developing a LinkedIn profile or succeeding at psychometric testing. We also have a vast range of online resources as well as an exclusive job search portal.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers

Where will your degree take you?

Employers have always valued the critical and analytical skills that students develop when they study English, as well as their ability to write in a lucid and focused manner. Even in the current economic climate, this continues to be the case, as can be seen in the excellent employment record of graduates of this department.

Our recent graduates are working in an exciting range of jobs:

- Public Relations Executive
- English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- Digital Marketing Executive
- Bid Writer for a Charity
- Publishing House Sales and Production Manager
- Marketing Co-ordinator
- Copywriter
- Social Media Officer
- Teacher Training - English

A degree from Lancaster will equip you to pursue your academic studies further. Every year a number of our graduates elect to continue their studies with us, choosing from a range of Masters degrees in English literary studies.



**Joint 1st for
English and Creative Writing
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