

Lancaster  
University



English Literature  
Undergraduate Degrees 2026

# Welcome

English literature is one of Lancaster University's founding disciplines and, drawing on this 60-year history, offers you an expansive and dynamic experience. As you study with us you will read and think alongside widely published scholars and critics.

We teach all periods of literature from classical civilisation and the Middle Ages through to the twenty-first century, as well as many literatures (in translation) from beyond these shores. You can also explore literature's intersections with everything from philosophy, religion, politics and place through to film, performance, music, art and even science.

Studying English literature prepares you for a whole range of careers and we are ranked 9th in the UK for English graduate prospects (Complete University Guide, 2025). The intellectual skills that you learn through research, interpreting texts, and presenting your ideas both orally and in writing, as well as the practical skills developed through our teaching of how literature flourishes beyond university are highly sought after by employers in many fields.

English literature at Lancaster offers a rich and creative environment in which to study. We lead reading groups, organise open lectures, arrange theatre visits, and ensure that you will make the most of the historic city of Lancaster by organising a year-round series of free events in and around Lancaster's spectacular castle.

Our students contribute to this dynamic culture through coordinating writing groups, performing readings, and currently running four journals, *Flash*, *Lux*, *Cake*, and *Errant*.

Finally, I should add that we place great emphasis on both community and pastoral support. You will have an Academic Advisor who supports your learning. We also run informal communal events, such as our annual May Gathering, our Study Day at Wordsworth Grasmere in the Lakes, and our student-led summer Shakespeare production.



Professor of  
English Literature

Mark Knight

## Shakespeare

Our final-year Shakespeare optional module enables you, if you wish, not to sit an exam but take part (either onstage or backstage) in a full-scale Shakespeare production, usually performed at Lancaster's spectacular medieval castle.

## Wordsworth

We enjoy a partnership with the Wordsworth Museum at Dove Cottage, once the home of William Wordsworth at Grasmere in the nearby Lake District.

This includes an Annual Study Day at Grasmere, free entry at any time, and the opportunity to apply for one of our four annual residential Grasmere internships.

## Castle quarter

You'll be able to attend our extensive programme of literary events, involving world-leading scholars and authors, many taking place in the city's historic castle quarter.

## Creative criticism

We are pioneers in enabling you to explore creative modes of literary criticism, rigorous acts of reading (some textual, some visual, some even musical) that work beyond the limits of the conventional academic essay.









## Placements and study abroad

You can opt to take a placement year or a study abroad year with any of our degrees. You'll graduate with vital professional, cultural and life experience on your CV.



## Bairrigg Awards

Thanks to a generous endowment, we can offer some support (up to £150 per award) to English literature students who are suffering financial hardship. You can apply once or twice a year; and, if merited, can receive one award per year.

Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
English Literature		BA	Q300	3	AAB
English Literature (Placement Year)		BA	Q301	4	AAB
English Literature (Study Abroad)		BA	Q307	4	AAB
English Literature and History		BA	QV31	3	AAB
English Literature and History (Placement Year)		BA	QV32	4	AAB
English Literature and History (Study Abroad)		BA	QV33	4	AAB
English Literature and Creative Writing		BA	QW38	3	AAB
English Literature and Creative Writing (Placement Year)		BA	QW39	4	AAB
English Literature and Creative Writing (Study Abroad)		BA	QW40	4	AAB
Film and English Literature		BA	PQ33	3	ABB
Film and English Literature (Placement Year)		BA	PQ34	4	ABB
Film and English Literature (Study Abroad)		BA	PQ35	4	ABB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements [lancaster.ac.uk](http://lancaster.ac.uk)



# Teaching *and learning*

## Teaching

At the heart of English literature at Lancaster is the seminar where you will discuss the texts and topics under consideration on your module. Most 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 your work both before and after you submit it.

You will be taught by scholars and critics who both research and publish in a host of fields ranging from classical mythology and medieval libel through to the contemporary gothic. These research interests shape our teaching as, along with our students, we explore almost everything from philosophy to the graphic novel, and from theology to film and the history of fashion.

## Contact hours

Typically, you can expect to be in lectures and seminars for around eight hours a week in your first year, depending on which modules you select.

In your second and final year, contact time reduces slightly as you become more independent in your studies.

In addition, you will have set reading for each of your lectures and seminars, and usually belong to a student-led, small pre-seminar study group. All this results in a full, though flexible, study schedule.

## Assessment

Some modules are assessed by a combination of coursework and open-book examination; however, many modules are assessed by coursework only, and some include group oral presentations. Indeed, some of our modules incorporate innovative assessment methods which enable you to explore creative (e.g. visual and/or musical) modes of critical engagement. When you submit a piece of coursework, we will typically return it to you, graded and with comments from your tutor, within four weeks.

## Individual research project

In your final year, you will work one-to-one with a supervisor, planning, researching and writing a long-form essay on a topic of your choice. This is an opportunity to explore an author or topic or genre that particularly interests you.



“

*The staff guided me to reach my absolute potential.*

”

*BA Hons English  
Literature and  
Creative Writing*

*Lancaster University*



**Thomas**, graduated 2024

In my time at Lancaster, studying English literature has made such a huge impact on me. Not only are the staff all so incredibly dedicated to their students, but it now feels more like a second home.

When I first came to university, I felt completely out of my depth. It seemed like everyone else already knew so much more than me, and I worried I wouldn't be able to keep up with the workload. My tutors not only encouraged me to believe I had as much to say as my peers but guided me to go even further — to reach my absolute potential.

Since then, I've had some truly incredible opportunities, including having my work published, being the editor for a literary journal, and meeting the world-renowned poet Paul Muldoon.

Currently, I'm working with one of the professors as an intern, on a project that builds scale models of literary worlds in Minecraft, with the aim of re-engaging children with reading through play.

None of this would have been possible without the supportive community of readers, writers, and researchers I found here!

# Further *opportunities*

We are always looking to provide additional opportunities for you to gain a full and rich learning experience. These currently include our students presenting their essays at an open seminar at Lancaster Castle, reading their poetry at Lancaster's in-city LitFest, and competing for one of our residential internships at Wordsworth Grasmere.

## Beyond the course curriculum

You can take part in 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. Students in the 2023-24 academic year:

- + Attended Literature and Religion Lecture at the ancient Lancaster Priory
- + Enjoyed a Poetry and Politics evening at The Storey (an arts venue in Lancaster city centre) with Pulitzer-Prize winner Paul Muldoon
- + Worked as a volunteer at Lancaster's literature festival, LitFest
- + Read poetry at our May Gathering at Lancaster Priory
- + Presented essays at an open seminar at Lancaster Castle
- + Read poetry at our annual inter-faith GodWords event in the University Chaplaincy
- + Performed in a four-night summer Shakespeare production at Lancaster Castle
- + Secured one of the annual residential internships at Wordsworth Grasmere

## Student-run journals

We currently have four established in-house student-run 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 literary critical work from students across the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

*Errant* is dedicated to creative-critical writing and hosts occasional special seminars.

Please do follow us on Instagram to see what we are up to @elcw\_lancasterwords



“  
*I have  
relished  
all the  
opportunities  
made  
available  
to us.*  
”



*Ivy, second year student*

**BA Hons English Literature and  
Creative Writing**

I have loved my studies here and I have also relished all the other opportunities made available to us by English literature and creative writing tutors.

A highlight was when my tutor invited the Christian writing group that I lead, Story Club, to be a part of a GodWords event, an event celebrating poetry by students of various faith backgrounds. Straightaway, I knew we had to participate! I gathered poems both from Story Club and the Christian Union and then worked with my tutor, the University Chaplaincy, and the Islamic literary journal Qalam & Quill, to create a platform for these faith-based poems to be brought live to an audience.

I had a wonderful time helping organise the event and getting to watch many different students passionately support one another and celebrate the joining of faith and literature.

# Gain real-world experience

We know you want to graduate with confidence and ready to step into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.

## Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance.

## Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

With these internships you'll gain sector-relevant work experience and be paid. You can apply in all years of study for opportunities such as publishing assistant, content delivery manager, or assistant events producer. The scheme is delivered by our faculty employability team who are here to support your access to direct work experience while you study.



## 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.

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*It was my interpersonal skills that set me apart – much of which is practised when studying English literature.*

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Placement year  
with HP Inc.

Lancaster University



**Eliza**, *third year student*  
BA Hons English Literature

I was lucky enough to carry out my placement year at HP Inc. as a PR and Communications Intern.

I found that many of the skills that I had learnt on my BA Hons English Literature degree became useful as I took on responsibilities like writing copy, managing social media plans and carrying out coverage reports and presentations.

When applying, I truly believe that it was my interpersonal skills that set me apart from other candidates. Much of this is practised when studying English literature – from clear expression of thought in essays to the presenting of ideas during seminars.

The study of language helped me connect with others and express myself easily and eloquently and I am now more confident to start my career after graduation.

The array of texts that I have covered in my course spans across time and varied forms such as the novel, film and graphic novel. This means that I have an understanding of how we communicate in multiple ways, and I'd like to think I brought this knowledge to my placement and it will continue to aid me throughout my career.



# Your global *experience*

**At Lancaster literary study incorporates examining literatures in English produced in other anglophone contexts (such as the USA or Australia) and indeed literatures in translation produced in continental Europe. We thus encourage an international mindset and encourage you to make the most of these opportunities to travel as part of your studies.**

## **Study abroad**

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada, Switzerland and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your writing and your preparation for life after Lancaster.

## **Vacation travel**

You can also discover the world during your vacations. We run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

In addition, you can attend summer schools at one of our many overseas partners.

Find out more at [lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience](https://lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience)

“

*It gave me so many ways to learn about myself and the world.*

”

University of New South  
Wales, Australia

Lancaster University



**Abigail, final year**

**BA Hons English Literature  
and Theatre (Study Abroad)**

My choice to undergo a study abroad year at the University of New South Wales in Sydney was one of the best decisions of my life. It gave me so many ways to learn about myself and the world I had yet to truly explore, and to grow within my relationships, both with myself and other people. And I think the most important thing that I learnt was who I was, away from the comforts of home and familiarity.

There are so many experiences I could talk about, from hiking the Blue Mountains to skydiving over Mount Cook – things I hadn't even considered before. I didn't really know what to expect when I went out there, except things like wildlife and surfing, but I never expected to feel so at home. It was a lot of admin work and included a few nervous moments, but I couldn't have asked for a better experience in all honesty.

And looking back now, it has done wonders for what the future holds in my life. Something that my mum always reminds me of is how awesome it looks to employers when you can say you have studied and lived in another country. It shows a level of independence and organisation and demonstrates a willingness to uproot and delve into the unknown.

My study abroad experience truly opened my eyes to the endless possibilities around us, and how much a person can learn about themselves in just one year. I'm forever grateful for this opportunity and had an absolutely incredible year.

# English Literature

## BA (Hons)

**Read the greats as well as the voices that history has overlooked. From ancient myth to the contemporary graphic novel, you'll explore a host of different literary forms, develop your critical voice, and discuss your reading and ideas.**

Your first year lays the broad foundations for literary study. You will study both English literature and world literatures as well as explore literature in relation to other art forms such as theatre, art, and film. You can then undertake further literary study with 'Literature and Place' or, if you wish, explore creative writing.

Your second year builds on the first through exploring both the theory and practice of literary criticism as well as how literature flourishes in the worlds of work. In addition, you choose three further modules exploring various major literary periods or themes.

Your final year develops intellectual independence as you explore a literary topic of your own choice, intellectual breadth as you explore literature in relation to a major cultural theme, and intellectual focus as you choose three further modules exploring various major literary periods or themes.

### Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

## Year 1

### Core Modules

#### Literature in Time

This module traces the long history of English literature, exploring a host of authors, including Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, the Romantics and the Victorians, as well as moderns such as Woolf and contemporary figures such as Grace Nichols and Paul Muldoon.

#### World Literatures

This module explores literatures both in English and in translation from antiquity to the present, including the Bible and work by Ovid and Homer, through medieval and Renaissance figures such as Dante and Rabelais, to moderns such as Kafka and Rushdie.

#### The Arts and Identity

This module explores the role of the arts in building community, identity and confidence. You will engage with a variety of different art forms (such as painting, theatre, fiction and film) and develop your own voice via collaborative projects such as a podcasts, video essay, or presentation.

### Optional Modules

- + Literature and Place
- + Introduction to Creative Writing
- + The Medieval World
- + Revolutions in History
- + Introduction to Film Studies



## Year 2

### Core Modules

#### Critical Theory

This module explores literary criticism's rich theoretical life via concepts such as the body, race, gender, violence, God, time, death, war, animal etc. We consider thinkers such as Marx, Freud, and Nietzsche as well as many more recent figures.

#### Critical Practice

This module explores literary criticism's actual or practical life, exploring the many ways, both new and old, in which, after all literary studies' great theoretical adventures, we should now actually talk, think, and write about literature.

#### Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact

Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts

Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

### Optional Modules

- + Medieval Literature
- + Early Modern Literature
- + American Literature
- + Victorian Literature
- + Literature and Sacred Texts
- + Literary Adaptation

### Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

### Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

## Final year

### Core Modules

#### English Literature Dissertation

The dissertation is your opportunity to research, with one-to-one tutorial support, a literary topic of your own devising. Choose not only what but how you study – whether that be writing in a classic literary-critical style or breaking all boundaries.

#### Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice

Queer Futures

People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action

Confronting the Climate Crisis

The Power of Ideas

Artistic Fusions

Futures Beyond Borders

### Optional Modules

- + Shakespeare
- + Romanticism
- + Austen and the Brontës
- + Postcolonial Literature
- + Special Topics in Theory
- + Modernism
- + Literature and Environment
- + Gothic and Science Fiction
- + Film Genre 2: Contemporary Global Genres

# English Literature and Creative Writing

BA (Hons)

**Combine studying literature from medieval theatre to the contemporary graphic novel with developing your own writing under the guidance of our many celebrated author-tutors.**

In your first year you study literature in relation to both historical change and other art forms and, as a writer, you will focus on developing a portfolio. In addition, you choose from the optional modules World Literatures or British Cinema.

In your second year you explore both literature's conceptual dimensions and how it flourishes in the worlds of work and, as a writer, you will focus on developing a portfolio. In addition, you choose three further modules focusing on either literary study or your own writing in a specific genre.

In your final year you examine, with one-to-one tutorial support, a literary topic of your own choosing, explore literature in relation to a major cultural theme and, as a writer, focus on developing a portfolio. In addition, you choose one further module focusing on either literary study or your own writing in a specific genre.

## Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

## Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

## Year 1

### Core Modules

#### Literature in Time

This module traces the long history of English literature, exploring a host of authors, including Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, the Romantics, and the Victorians, as well as moderns such as Woolf and contemporary figures such as Grace Nichols and Paul Muldoon.

#### Introduction to Creative Writing

This module introduces you to the art of creative writing at university level. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the development of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay.

#### The Arts and Identity

This module explores the role of the arts in building community, identity and confidence. You will engage with a variety of different art forms (such as painting, theatre, fiction and film) and develop your own voice via collaborative projects such as a podcast, video essay, or presentation.

### Optional Modules

+ World Literatures

+ British Cinema





## Year 2

### Core Modules

#### Critical Theory

This module explores literary criticism's rich theoretical life via concepts such as the body, race, gender, violence, God, time, death, war, animal etc. We consider thinkers such as Marx, Freud and Nietzsche as well as many more recent figures.

#### Developing Your Writing Practice

This module enables you to develop the art of creative writing at university level. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the writing of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay.

#### Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact  
Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions  
Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts  
Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

### Optional Modules

- + Medieval Literature
- + Early Modern Literature
- + American Literature
- + Victorian Literature
- + Literature and Sacred Texts
- + Critical Practice
- + Literary Adaptation
- + Writing Poetry
- + Writing Fiction
- + Playwriting
- + Writing the Queer

## Final Year

### Core Modules

#### Advanced Creative Writing Workshop

This module equips you to advance your writing toward professional levels. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the writing of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay.

#### Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice  
Queer Futures  
People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action  
Confronting the Climate Crisis  
The Power of Ideas  
Artistic Fusions  
Futures Beyond Borders

### Optional Modules

- + English Literature Dissertation
- + Postcolonial Literature
- + Shakespeare
- + Romanticism
- + Austen and the Brontës
- + Modernism
- + Literature and Environment
- + Gothic and Science Fiction
- + Special Topics in Theory
- + Writing for Young People
- + Writing Games
- + Writing Graphic Novels

# English Literature and History

## BA (Hons)

**Explore a vast range of literary works, from ancient myth to the contemporary graphic novel, and study a host of historical moments, from Viking seafaring to the rise of human rights.**

In your first year you survey literature from Chaucer to the present day and explore the long history of revolution. In addition, you study either literature in relation to other art forms or history in relation to global issues as well as choose two further modules focusing on either literature or history.

In your second year you explore the rich conceptual dimensions of both literary and historical study. In addition, you explore how your studies relate to the worlds of work and choose three further modules focusing on either literature or history.

In your final year you explore your studies in relation to a major cultural theme and choose three to five further modules that focus on either literature or history, including the option to research, with one-to-one tutorial support, a literary or historical topic entirely of your own devising.

### Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

### Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

## Year 1

### Core Modules

#### Literature in Time

This module traces the long history of English literature, exploring a host of authors, including Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, the Romantics, and the Victorians, as well as moderns such as Woolf and contemporary figures such as Grace Nichols and Paul Muldoon.

#### Revolutions in History

Explore a concept fundamental to history: historical change. We discover what it looks like and how it happens. You will investigate a series of political, economic, social, environmental, and cultural events that have been identified as revolutionary.

#### Plus one from:

#### The Arts and Identity

This module explores the role of the arts in building community, identity and confidence. You will engage with a variety of different art forms (such as painting, theatre, fiction and film) and develop your own voice via collaborative projects such as a podcast, video essay, or presentation.

#### Thinking Globally

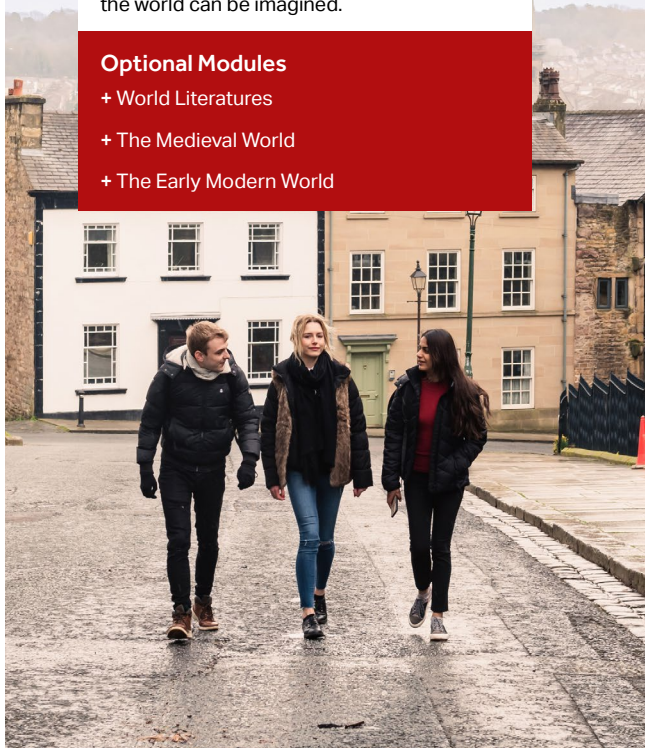
What does it mean to think in and about the world? This module will draw on disciplines from across the School of Global Affairs to think about the very different ways in which the world can be imagined.

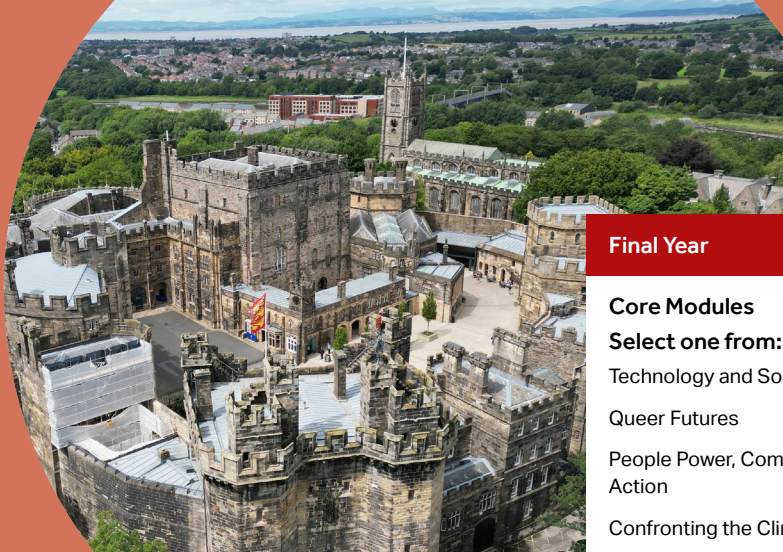
### Optional Modules

+ World Literatures

+ The Medieval World

+ The Early Modern World





## Year 2

### Core Modules

#### Critical Theory

This module explores literary criticism's rich theoretical life via concepts such as the body, race, gender, violence, God, time, death, war, animal etc. We consider thinkers such as Marx, Freud and Nietzsche as well as many more recent figures.

#### Who Makes History?

Who makes history? You will meet the women and men who have helped shape the discipline of history, delving into their life and works. You'll explore how their experiences and opportunities shaped their careers and what questions spurred their curiosity.

#### Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact

Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts

Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

### Optional Modules

- + Medieval Literature
- + Early Modern Literature
- + American Literature
- + Victorian Literature
- + Literature and Sacred Texts
- + Literary Adaptation
- + Critical Practice
- + Body, Mind and Society
- + Information and Misinformation

## Final Year

### Core Modules

#### Select one from:

Technology and Social Justice

Queer Futures

People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action

Confronting the Climate Crisis

The Power of Ideas

Artistic Fusions

Futures Beyond Borders

### Optional Modules

- + English Literature Dissertation
- + Shakespeare
- + Romanticism
- + Modernism
- + Austen and the Brontës
- + Gothic and Science Fiction
- + Special Topics in Theory
- + Postcolonial Literature
- + Literature and Environment
- + History Dissertation
- + The Use and Abuse of History
- + Vikings and Sea-Kings: The Irish Sea Region, 794–1079
- + From Rebellion to Revolution: The War for the Throne, 1199–1265
- + Participation, Splendour, and Violence. The Italian City-States, c.1100–1350
- + Intelligent Design? Science, Religion and the Idea of Design in Nature, 1450–1800
- + Paradise Lost: Colonisation and the Jamaican Environment, 1655–1838
- + The East India Company: Merchant State, 1600–1857
- + Victorian Bodies: Sex, Gender, Race, and Power in Global Britain
- + Big Data and Dead People: Digital Histories of Crime, Justice and Punishment, 1760–1925
- + Forging India: South Asia from Empire to Nation, 1829 – 1964
- + Advertising and Consumerism in Britain, 1853–1960
- + From Balfour to Brexit: Britain as a Great Power since 1914
- + Gender Identities in the People's War: Experiences, Representations and Memories
- + Fascism, Revolution and War in Spain: The Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939
- + Dangerous Thoughts: Soviet Dissent, Human Rights and the Cold War
- + A Global History of the Cold War

# Film and English Literature

## BA (Hons)

**Explore storytelling by blending aesthetics with practical film production and study a vast range of literary texts from ancient myth to the contemporary graphic novel.**

In your first year you explore film from both theoretical and practical perspectives, study literature in relation to historical change, and explore both film and literature in relation to other art forms. In addition, you choose from the optional modules British Cinema or World Literatures.

In your second year you study global cinema, study and practice the adaptation of literature to film, art, and music, and explore how your studies relate to the worlds of work. In addition, you choose two further modules, focusing on either film or literature.

In your final year you research, with one-to-one tutorial support, a filmic-literary topic of your own devising, explore your studies in relation to a major cultural theme, and choose three further modules focusing on either film or literature.

### Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

### Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

## Year 1

### Core Modules

#### Introduction to Film Studies

This module explores film theory, analysis, and history alongside practical filmmaking. You'll examine cinematography, editing, sound, and performance through case study films while tracing global cinema's cultural and political impact. Hands-on workshops develop technical skills, culminating in a group film project that deepens your understanding of form, storytelling, and cinematic traditions.

#### Literature in Time

This module traces the long history of English literature, exploring a host of authors, including Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, the Romantics, and the Victorians, as well as moderns such as Woolf and contemporary figures such as Grace Nichols and Paul Muldoon.

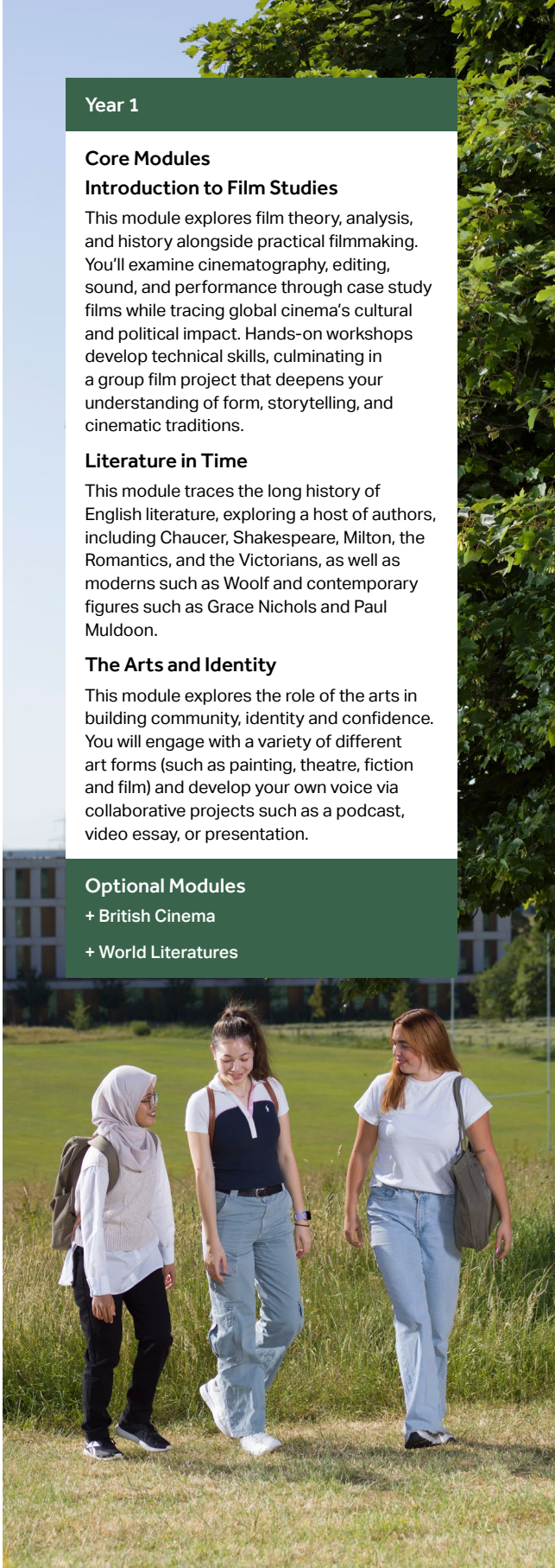
#### The Arts and Identity

This module explores the role of the arts in building community, identity and confidence. You will engage with a variety of different art forms (such as painting, theatre, fiction and film) and develop your own voice via collaborative projects such as a podcast, video essay, or presentation.

### Optional Modules

+ British Cinema

+ World Literatures





## Year 2

### Core Modules

#### Global Cinemas: Forms, Debates, Histories

This module examines global cinema's stylistic, industrial, and cultural diversity, analysing films across historical and regional contexts. Through screenings, lectures, and discussions, you'll explore key cinematic movements, authorship, and genre evolution, developing critical perspectives on film history, digital technologies, and the social, political, and industrial impact of cinema.

#### Literary Adaptation

This module explores the adaptation of literature to other media - film, art, music. You will both study adaptations and produce your own. This could be written, visual, musical, digital, textile or even take the form of an analogue game.

#### Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact

Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts

Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

### Optional Modules

- + Early Modern Literature
- + Victorian Literature
- + Critical Theory
- + Critical Practice
- + Film Genre 1: Classic Hollywood Genres
- + Film Theory and Aesthetics
- + Film, Gender, Race and Ideology
- + Short Film Production

## Final Year

### Core Modules

#### Film and English Independent Project

This module represents the culmination of your studies in film and English literature, offering the opportunity to undertake an in-depth, self-directed research project that draws on both disciplines. You will propose a topic of your own choosing and work closely with a supervisor who will support you in refining your research focus, methodology, and structure.

#### Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice

Queer Futures

People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action

Confronting the Climate Crisis

The Power of Ideas

Artistic Fusions

Futures Beyond Borders

### Optional Modules

- + Shakespeare
- + Romanticism
- + Gothic and Science Fiction
- + Postcolonial Literature
- + Film Genre 2: Contemporary Global Genres
- + Film Industries: Practices and Movements
- + Film Cultures: Circulation, Exhibition, Audiences
- + Experimental Cinema: Creative Practice

# Staff *profiles*



**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.

+ Publications include: *Reading and Mapping Fiction: Spatialising the Literary Text* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) and *Romantic Cartographies: Mapping, Literature, Culture, 1789–1832* (Cambridge University Press, 2020)



**Michael Greaney**

**Professor in English Literature**

My research is on literary fiction 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 worked extensively on Joseph Conrad, on contemporary fiction, and on the question of what (if anything) novels can do with, or say about, characters who are asleep. In recent years my research has focused on Jane Austen, and my latest book examines her writings via 26 key words, tropes or images from A is for Accident to Z is for Zig-zag. The book has its origins in my undergraduate seminars on Austen, and I'm grateful to our students who've helped me shape and articulate my ideas on her fiction.

+ Publications include: *Sleep and the Novel: Fictions of Somnolence from Jane Austen to the Present* (Palgrave, 2018) and *An A-Z of Jane Austen* (Bloomsbury, 2022)



## Liz Oakley-Brown

### Professor in English Literature

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.

+ Publications include: *Shakespeare and the Translation of Identity in Early Modern England* (2011) and *Shakespeare on the Ecological Surface* (Routledge, 2023)



## Kwasu Tembo

### Lecturer in English Literature

I've always been interested in the polymaths of the 16th century onward. What fascinates me is their intellectual agility, the perspicuity of their thought, and their seemingly unending curiosity. The elisions they're able to foster between ostensibly disparate subjects – from mathematics to abstract dance, trout fishing to anamorphism – always struck me as the correct and most enriching way to learn. I've found that since my undergraduate days at University of Victoria (BC, Canada) through to my doctoral work at University of Edinburgh, English literature has been the most generous and encouraging aegis under which to pursue similar polyvalent lines of flight. It is in this discipline that I found not only the intermedial texts to ground and expand my sense of knowledge, but also the theoretical tools to bring them together in the most rigorous interdisciplinary way. It was English literature that reaffirmed and rearmed my instincts and provided me with the vocabulary and conceptual frames through which to reify them with verve and precision. Lancaster is very much imbued with this spirit of endeavour and cross pollination of ideas and praxes. I count myself exceedingly lucky to find myself exploring and expanding my sense of self, the world and my modest contributions to it in and through the vast array of paths generously laid out before me here.

+ Publications include: *Genndy Tartakovsky: Sincerity in Animation* (2022).

# Careers and employability

Employers have always valued the critical and readerly skills that our graduates have developed through studying English literature, as well as their ability to write in a lucid and focused manner. This can be seen in our excellent graduate prospects.

## Subject-specific support

A degree in English literature can underpin many careers and we recognise the need to think ahead to life after graduation. We therefore offer literature-specific careers support, including talks and visits from former students of ours now in various worlds of work.

## Careers service

Both during your degree and after you graduate the University provides dedicated, specialist support. Our careers service has connections with some of the world's top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across diverse sectors. They organise 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 workshops on topics such as writing an effective 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.

## Postgraduate study

A degree from Lancaster will equip you to pursue your academic studies further. Some of our graduates go on to postgraduate study elsewhere, whilst a good number elect to continue their studies with us, choosing to stay for our English literature master's degrees.



## Graduate destinations

Our recent graduates have gone on to an exciting range of jobs, including:

- + Cyber Security Expert
- + Public Relations Executive
- + English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- + Digital Marketing Executive
- + Copywriter
- + Publishing House Sales and Production Manager
- + Research Associate and Rights Assistant for publishing house
- + Social Media Officer
- + Trainee Teacher
- + TV journalist
- + Film-maker
- + Novelist
- + University lecturer
- + Civil Servant
- + Chartered Surveyor



## Taylor

### BA Hons English Literature and Politics, 2020

I'm Taylor and I studied at Lancaster from 2017 to 2020, leaving with a degree in English literature and Politics. In January, I've since gone on to become a Policy Advisor in the Department for Work and Pensions. Studying English Literature at Lancaster meant engaging with a wide variety of texts, exposing me to a diversity of cultures and perspectives. My degree provided me with the analytical tools and the intellectual curiosity required to proceed to a career in the Civil Service and I know that my time at Lancaster will stand me in good stead throughout my career.



[lancaster.ac.uk/english-literature](https://lancaster.ac.uk/english-literature)

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: [lancaster.ac.uk/study](https://lancaster.ac.uk/study) for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: [lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](https://lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).