

Lancaster
University



English Literature
Undergraduate Degrees
2024



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- Cover image shows students at Lancaster Priory
 in Lancaster city.



Welcome

Studying English Literature at Lancaster University is an exciting, varied and unique experience. The subject is taught by eminent critics and scholars whose research advances knowledge of both literature and the world.

We offer a firm grounding in all periods of literature from the Middle Ages through to the twenty-first century, as well as literature from beyond these shores, in translation. Our many areas of research specialism include literature and history, literature and place, literature and religion, literature and politics, Gothic literature, science fiction, graphic fiction, literature and maps, literature in performance, literature's intersections with other media, and creative criticism. Our teaching is shaped by this lively and diverse research culture.

A degree in English Literature from Lancaster prepares you for a whole range of careers: we are ranked 4th for English Graduate Prospects in the Guardian University Guide 2023. 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 and creative environment in which to undertake your studies. Members of staff lead reading groups, organise open lectures and special workshops, arrange theatre visits, and ensure that our students make the most of the historic city of Lancaster by organising a year-round series of free events in and around the spectacular Lancaster Castle, where the University has its own new seminar suite.

Our students contribute to the lively departmental culture by coordinating writing groups, performing readings, and running four journals, *Flash*, *Lux*, *Cake*, and *Errant*.

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 such celebrated authors as poets Paul Muldoon and Paul Farley, novelist Jenn Ashworth, and playwright Tajinder Hayer.

Finally, I should add that we place great emphasis on the pastoral support that we provide to our students. This includes each student having an Academic Advisor, a tutor from within the Department who stays with you throughout your degree and meets with you once a term for a one-to-one tutorial to support and oversee your academic progress. It also includes informal events, such as our annual May Social at Lancaster's medieval Priory and our student-led summer Shakespeare production at the Castle.

I do hope that we will welcome you to Lancaster soon.

Professor Sharon Ruston
Head of Department

English Literature at Lancaster



- The Storey, Castle Quarter

Shakespeare

We currently offer a year-long Shakespeare option, which enables students, if they wish, not to sit an exam but take part (either onstage or backstage) in a full-scale Shakespeare performance at Lancaster's spectacular medieval castle.

Wordsworth

The Department enjoys a formal partnership with the Wordsworth Museum at Dove Cottage, once the home of William Wordsworth at Grasmere in the nearby Lake District. We currently offer all our students an Annual Study Day at Grasmere, including access to manuscripts and introductions to museum and curatorial work.

Castle Quarter

We run an extensive programme of regular literary events, involving world-leading scholars and authors, many taking place in the city's Castle Quarter. Both tutors and students are also very much involved in Lancaster's wonderful annual city-run LitFest.

Creative Criticism

We are pioneers in enabling students to explore creative modes of literary criticism, rigorous acts of reading that work beyond the limits of the conventional academic essay.

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 or our vacation travel opportunities.



- The Lake District National Park



**96% of research
is world-leading
or internationally
excellent**
*Research Excellence
Framework (REF) 2021:
English Language and
Literature*




4th
**for English Graduate
Prospects**
*Guardian University
Guide 2023*



7th
in the UK for English
*Guardian University
Guide 2023*

Degrees and entry requirements

Degree	Award	Duration	UCAS code	Typical offer
English Literature	BA (Hons)	3 years	Q300	AAB
English Literature and Creative Writing	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 Philosophy	BA (Hons)	3 years	QV35	AAB
English Language and Literature	BA (Hons)	3 years	Q302	AAB
English Literature and Politics	BA (Hons)	3 years	QL32	AAB
Film and English Literature	BA (Hons)	3 years	PQ33	AAB
Chinese Studies and English Literature	BA (Hons)	4 years	T1Q3	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

 Study abroad options

 Placement year options

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements

www.lancaster.ac.uk

Teaching and learning

Teaching

At the heart of English Literature at Lancaster is the small-group seminar 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 studies.

You will be taught by scholars and critics who both research and publish in a host of fields ranging from 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 the history of fashion.

Contact hours

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

Some modules are assessed by a combination of coursework and examination; however, many modules are assessed by coursework only. Indeed, some of our modules incorporate innovative assessment methods which enable students to explore radically creative 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.


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. This is an opportunity to explore an author or topic or genre that particularly interests you.

Further opportunities

The Department is always looking to provide additional opportunities for students. These currently include workshops and tutorials with the poet Paul Muldoon and with the graphic novelist Mary Talbot. In addition, selected students present their work at an annual public literature seminar at the Castle.

Why not follow us on social media to see what we are up to -

 [@lancaster_words](https://twitter.com/lancaster_words)

 [@elcw_lancasterwords](https://www.instagram.com/elcw_lancasterwords)



Your global experience

Study abroad

The study of English Literature can be enhanced by examining literatures in English produced in other national contexts, such as the USA or Australia, or by learning how other Europeans view the English literary tradition. You can apply to study abroad for a year at one of our partner universities in Australia, Canada, Switzerland or the USA. 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.



- Sydney, Australia

Vacation travel

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

You can also attend summer schools at one of our many overseas partners.

Find out more about study abroad and vacation travel:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience



- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Your work placement



A highlight of my final year was undertaking the work placement module, which gave me the unique opportunity to bring my research interests to a professional setting. I spent a week in the beautiful village of Chawton, working alongside the curators at the Jane Austen House Museum – gaining hands-on experience designing and maintaining exhibits, as well as creating a tour of the house based on my research around Austen's posthumous fragment, *Sanditon*. The experience was highly valuable. It was especially gratifying, and inspiring, to be welcomed as an equal in a professional environment that so directly mapped onto my literary interests.

This placement opened my eyes to the inner workings of the heritage industry, whilst expanding my understanding of how literary research can be translated into a public-facing environment. I highly recommend the placement module to anyone wishing to expand their understanding of what opportunities lie beyond their English Literature degree, as I found my experience both challenged and solidified my confidence in my professional and academic skills.

Catryn Thomas

BA (Hons) English Literature



As part of my placement year degree, I worked at London-based broadcast TV company A+E Networks as an On Air Intern. My responsibilities included preparing schedules for UK and international channels, liaising with voiceover artists, organising launch campaigns, and compiling graphic plans transmitted on air.

The experience has enhanced many of the skills that I am developing on my degree, such as critical thinking, high-quality writing, and organisation. As an English student, I brought both curiosity and creativity to the placement, particularly to the launch campaigns that I led. One of these included a company-priority launch for one of our best performing UK channels. This responsibility gave me the chance to use, within a business setting, many of my reasoning and verbal skills. Indeed, my background in literature gave me a unique perspective and one that helped produce successful results.

The placement has been an invaluable experience, and given me the skills, industry knowledge, and workplace etiquette to feel confident in my job search after university.

Jess Thomas

BA (Hons) English Language and Literature (Placement Year)

Degree structure

BA (Hons) 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 Literature in Time

This broad introductory module will show how literature from the Middle Ages to the contemporary period has responded to moments of crisis, upheaval and radical change. Through engagement with both famous and less well known texts from the Renaissance, Victorian, Romantic, and modern periods, the module will explore many and varied possible approaches to reading literature. You will be introduced to the key debates in literary study such as decolonisation, authorship, and adaptation.

The course concludes with a range of mini-modules designed with an eye on employability. You will choose one from such as: Mediaeval Manuscripts in the Digital Age; Creating a Literary Podcast; Building Minecraft Worlds for the Teaching of Literature; Creating a Literary Tour; Reading Lancaster Priory; and Re-writing *Waiting for Godot*.

OPTIONAL 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 Borges, 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, for example, Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*.

This course begins with conventional or traditional forms of essay-based assessment and concludes with a creative-critical project which introduces you to the possibilities afforded by creative modes of literary criticism.

OPTIONAL Literature, Place and Space

This module organises your study of literature through the frame of space, exploring a wide range of major ancient, modern, and contemporary texts, all of which relate to such particular places as archive, castle, mountain, sea, border etc.

OR

OPTIONAL Creative Writing

This module is focused on the development of your own writing. You will experiment with forms and genres, explore new approaches to drafting and editing, and learn to respond to the work of fellow students.

OR

OPTIONAL Minor Module

You can select a module in another subject to complement your study of English Literature.

Information contained in this booklet with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research. Please check our website for the latest information. www.lancaster.ac.uk

Year 2

CORE The Theory and Practice of Criticism

Drawing on our distinguished history in literary theory, this year-long module enables you to explore both what literary criticism currently *is* and what it may yet *become*. You will have the opportunity to consider a whole range of major theoretical and philosophical concepts, such as the body, race, gender, violence, ecology, God, time, death, war, self, suffering, desire, space, home, the Other, the animal, and the unconscious.

You will be introduced to many fascinating modern thinkers, ranging from Marx, Freud, and Nietzsche, through to more recent figures such as Simone Weil, Walter Benjamin, Jacques Derrida, Judith Butler, Fred Moten, Cornel West, Sara Ahmed, and Slavoj Žižek. You will have the opportunity to write in both short and long form, to present orally alongside fellow students, and to explore, if you wish, radically experimental modes of theoretical writing.

Beyond English Literature

We offer a rolling programme of employability-focused events to all students in the Department. It will help to enhance your existing knowledge of careers, employability and graduate possibilities.

OPTIONAL Select 5-6 modules. At least one must be pre-1800 (marked *)

Love, Sex and Death in Early Literature*

Read texts from the late medieval period through to late seventeenth century by such as Milton, Donne, and Wroth, and study how ideas about love, sex and death were shaped by discourses of religion, science, gender, marriage, and the body.

Power, Politics and Place in Early Literature*

Explore the late medieval interest in spiritual and earthly travel as well as the episodes of power, revolution, and restitution that characterised Stuart rule (1603-1688).

Revolutionary Romanticism

Explore the cultural impact of the French Revolution, and examine a range of radical texts, including the poetry of Anna Barbauld, William Blake, and William Wordsworth, and the prose of Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine, and Mary Wollstonecraft.

Romantic Subjectivity and the Self

Examine the relationships between politics, poetics, and subjectivity in second-generation poetry, the slave narratives of Olaudah Equiano, Mary Prince, and the orientalism of Coleridge and de Quincey.

Victorian Experiments

Explore the Victorian interest in experimentation via the literature of the period, including novels, short fiction, and poetry. Authors often studied include: George Eliot, Charlotte Bronte, H.G. Wells, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and Arthur Conan Doyle.

Victorian Beliefs

This module examines how Victorian writers and thinkers reflected at length on matters of belief. Authors usually studied include: Oscar Wilde, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell, and Christina Rossetti.

Empire and Liberty: American Literature Pre-1900*

Explore how American Literature has evolved from its colonial origins, Native American Oral Literature and the writings of De Las Casas, Bradstreet, Rowlandson, Jefferson, and Franklin.

America Revisited

Explore American writing as part of a 'cultural declaration of independence' in the 19th century, with particular focus on literatures of dissidence. Key writers usually include: Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Jacobs.

Colonial and Postcolonial Literature

This module explores colonial writing at the end of empire, the explosion of new national literatures in the era of decolonisation, and contemporary writing that draws on and reinvents these decolonising commitments.

Contemporary World Literature: Migration and Displacement

Explore contemporary creative representations of migration in multiple modes - considering exile, expatriation, travel, urbanisation, and statelessness in fiction, memoirs, poetry, visual media, and philosophy.

Literature, Film and Media

Explore the relationship between literature and both film and other visual media, across a range of periods. The module ends with a creative-critical project that may take any form – textual, visual, or even material.

Degree structure

BA (Hons) English Literature

Year 3

CORE Dissertation

This is an opportunity to devise, research, and produce a long-form study of a literary topic of your own choosing. You will be free to experiment in style and to explore authors not otherwise studied here, and throughout you will have one-to-one tutorial support.

+

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

You can choose to study:

+ One 30-credit module plus four 15-credit modules

OR

+ Two 30-credit modules plus two 15-credit modules

30-credit modules

Our modules are typically designed around the current research of members of staff, so are subject to frequent changes. This list, therefore, is offered as a snapshot of some of our current modules rather than as an indication of what will be running in future years. Typically, there is a choice of around three 30-credit and twenty 15-credit (see page 14) modules each year. At least 15 credits at Year 3 must be pre-1800 courses (marked *).

Shakespeare*

This year-long module examines Shakespearean drama in its own time, as a platform on which debates about agency and government, family, and national identity were played out. By examining texts from across Shakespeare's career, we will explore their power to shape both thought and feeling in their own age and also in ours. The course will consider how, both in the past and present, Shakespeare's texts exploit the emotional and political possibilities of poetry and drama. As part of their assessment for this course, students may opt to take part in a full-scale public performance of one of the plays we have studied; this is usually staged at Lancaster Castle.

Modernism: Then and Since

This year-long module examines the early twentieth-century explosion of literary experimentation known as Modernism, and explores how Modernism continues, through and beyond the Second World War. In Michaelmas Term we explore 'Modernisms Then' (c1900 to c1939) where all students study major modernist texts – usually work by such as T. S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Jean Rhys, and authors involved in the Harlem Renaissance. In Lent Term we explore 'Modernisms Since' (c.1939 on) where each student chooses two 4-week min-modules from a range of options – such as: 'British Migrant Modernisms'; 'Late American Modernisms'; and 'The Later Samuel Beckett.'

Gothic Entanglements: Bodies, Spaces, Texts

This year-long module offers an in-depth exploration of the Gothic mode from the vantage point of the early twenty-first century. It is split into five sections: Defining, Localising, Salvaging, Haunting and Transforming. These themes have been chosen to enable the combination of traditional Gothic concepts (ghosts, monsters) with new theoretical ideas addressing a range of topics including gender, sexuality, decolonisation, and environmental crisis. A small selection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century texts, incorporating both canonical and less familiar works, introduce key concepts and establish a foundation for approaching a diverse and challenging collection of contemporary works. These will cover anglophone writing in a variety of literary forms, including long and short-form fiction, drama, and the graphic novel.



15-credit modules

The modules below are offered as a snapshot of just some of our current modules rather than as an indication of what will be running in future years. Typically, there is a choice of around twenty 15-credit modules each year.

Medieval Theatre: Before Shakespeare*

What did theatre look like before Shakespeare? How were devils and vices, divinity and virtue, coronations and carnivals staged during the Medieval period? This module will introduce you to a range of medieval drama, including mystery cycles, civic pageantry, and morality plays, as we explore the weird and wonderful drama of towns, cities, and courts. As well as reading texts, you will watch recordings of modern performances of medieval theatre.

Premodern Gothic*

The Gothic, and the rise of the Gothic novel, belongs to a history that goes back to long before the eighteenth century. This module therefore coins the term 'Premodern Gothic' to consider some of the ways in which a range of generically diverse texts produced in England between c.1450 and 1600 engage with Gothic tropes and sensibilities (ghosts, vampires, castles, darkness, magic, terror, and wonder etc.) long before the rise of the Gothic novel.

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 Shakespearean 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 dramatised a range of sexual orientations, representing female desire and staging same-sex desire at the same time.

Jane Austen

This module will give you the opportunity to study all the major works of one of the most celebrated novelists in English literary history. It will combine close attention to the stylistic textures and narrative strategies of Jane Austen's fiction with broader consideration of key themes and preoccupations such as friendship, desire, matchmaking, snobbery, illness, resistance, transgression and secrecy.

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, from the seventeenth century on, have come to writing, what they have chosen to write, and how.

Postcolonial Environments

This module explores how postcolonial writing grapples with environmental change, crisis and collapse. You will read a wide range of twentieth and twenty-first century literature from places such as South Africa, Nigeria, Israel/Palestine, and indigenous North America, and thus develop an understanding of modern and contemporary postcolonial/world literatures, and the environmental sensibilities they articulate and contest. Topics may include land, enclosure, waste, toxicity, climate change, and urban space.

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 ten-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. You will have the chance to develop skills around a special project or activity carried out in the school related to the teaching of English. The module is currently assessed by an end-of-term essay.

Work Placement: Culture, Heritage and the Creative Industries

In Lent Term of year three there are opportunities to undertake an assessed work placement module. The placement takes place at a relevant host organisation, with typically 30-40 hours spent on placement. Previous students have been placed at organisations such as publishers, museums, newspapers, heritage sites, and arts venues.

Other 15-credit modules include:

- + The Places and Spaces of Children's Literature: 18th to early 20th Century
- + The Bible and Literature
- + The Byron Shelley Circle
- + Literature and the Visual Arts
- + Literature and Religion at the Fin de Siècle (1880-1914)
- + Between the Acts: Inter-war Writing from 1918-1939
- + Literary Film Adaptations: Hollywood 1939
- + Urban Gothic in 20th and 21st Century Fiction
- + Science Fiction in Literature and Film
- + Children in Horror Fiction and Film
- + 21st Century Theory
- + Contemporary Middle Eastern Literature



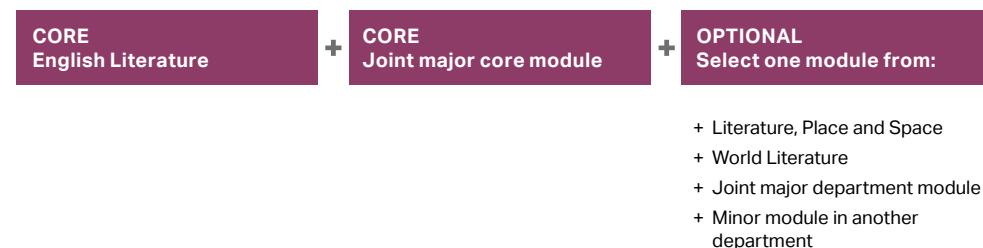
Joint degrees

with English Literature

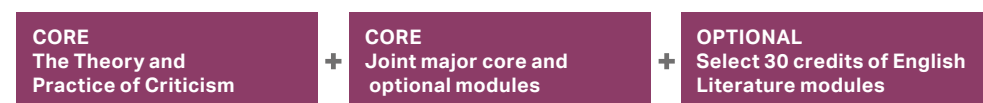
In addition to combining English Literature with Creative Writing (see Creative Writing booklet), you can study English Literature as part of a joint major degree with the following subjects:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| + Chinese Studies | + History |
| + English Language | + Philosophy |
| + Film | + Politics |
| + French Studies | + Spanish Studies |
| + German Studies | + Theatre |

Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



You can find out more about English Literature module options on pages 12-15.

Visit www.lancaster.ac.uk/study to find out more about your joint degree module options.

Issy's international placement year



As part of my joint degree in English Literature and German Studies, I undertook an international placement year in Germany. I studied at the University of Heidelberg and lived in a student flat in the centre of the city.

The placement year was not without its challenges. On top of the usual tasks anyone is faced with when moving to a new country, my year abroad also took place during lockdowns and Brexit – which made for an interesting combination. Nevertheless, I very much enjoyed living in Germany and the year was invaluable in the skills it gave me. Heidelberg is an incredibly beautiful city and throughout the year I felt more and more at home.

The most useful skill I took from the placement year was the ability to better deal with adversity and stressful situations. From trying to integrate into a new culture, to exploring different cities around the country, to obtaining the correct documentation, I accomplished more in that year than I thought I would ever be capable of.

The confidence from successfully completing the year abroad has stayed with me and I am much better at dealing with any challenges given, academic or not. I definitely feel that I performed stronger and more confidently in my final year and now during my MA due to my placement year experiences, and would recommend a year abroad to anyone looking for a new and exciting challenge.

Issy Hill

BA (Hons) English Literature and German Studies, graduated in 2022, now studying MA in English Literary Studies at Lancaster

Meet our staff



Dr Brian Baker Senior Lecturer in English Literature 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.

+ Publications include: *Contemporary Masculinities in Fiction, Film and Television* (Bloomsbury, 2015); *Argo-0* (Steel Incisors, 2023)



Professor 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)



Dr Michael Greaney Senior Lecturer 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)



Dr 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.

+ Publications include: *Shakespeare and the Translation of Identity in Early Modern England* (2011) and *The Rituals and Rhetoric of Queenship: Medieval to Early Modern* (with Louise Wilkinson; 2009)

Life on your degree

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. Here are some examples of previous student-led activities:

- + Discussed their poetry with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Paul Muldoon
- + Participated in a graphic novel writing workshop with graphic novelist, Mary Talbot
- + Attended a lecture on God and fiction given by former Archbishop, Rowan Williams at the ancient Lancaster Priory
- + Taken a student production of *The Canterbury Tales* to the Edinburgh Festival
- + Read poetry at the Department's May Social at Lancaster Priory
- + Presented work at a public literature event at the Castle
- + Attended a lecture by Terry Eagleton at the Castle
- + Participated in Queer, Science Fiction, and Literature & Religion reading groups



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.

Find out more:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award

Student-run journals

We 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 incisive and original work from students across the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. *Errant* is dedicated to creative-critical writing and hosts occasional special seminars.

Find out more:

lancaster.ac.uk/literary-lancaster



Lauren's career path

Being able to study in such a historic city as Lancaster was a dream come true. Studying English and History meant I got to explore the best of both subjects, which compliment each other greatly. Balancing these two subjects enhanced my organisation skills, while transforming me into an independent thinker with the ability to critically analyse and organise large quantities of information. The modules I took provided me with a large transferable skill set that could be applied to a number of careers.

Whilst a lot of my time at university was spent curled over books in the library, the opportunities at Lancaster meant I gained invaluable experiences alongside my studies. Working as Student Fundraiser for the Alumni Department, being elected as the Taekwondo Society General Secretary, and traveling to China for an intercultural exchange program are just a few examples of the range of activities that enriched my time as a student.

One of the highlights of my time at university was volunteering with the Peter Scott Gallery, a small public gallery located in the centre of campus. Over the three years I volunteered there, I learned so much about collections management, heritage software, and events management.

During this time, I discovered I wanted a career in heritage, specifically digital archiving. I decided to stay on for another year to study for an MA in Digital Humanities, a discipline that merges the best of traditional humanities study with digital technology. Through this degree, I earned a placement with a National Lottery Heritage Funded project at Halton Mill, preparing an online exhibition about Lancaster's industrial history, which gave me a special edge in applying to jobs, despite graduating during the pandemic.

After completing my MA, I secured a position as a Consultation Officer for the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport with the TV Special Projects Team learning all about the operations of Public Service Broadcasters. I now work as a Content Metadata Coordinator for the BBC Studios' Global Operations department, working behind the scenes in their TV catalogue to deliver programmes around the world. My role is research-heavy and allows me special access to the BBC television archives where I get to explore historic programming and even get previews of new shows!

Lauren Snooks

BA (Hons) English Literature & History (2020) | MA Digital Humanities (2021)

Your future career

Placements and internships

Throughout your degree, we encourage you to gain work experience that helps give you a head start in your chosen career. A wide range of placements and internship opportunities are available, including credit-bearing modules that provide work experience in creative, cultural and heritage organisations or schools. You can read more about these on page 15. We also offer the option of a placement year with the majority of our degrees, which will boost your employability.

Placement-year degrees

With most of our degrees you can take a placement year, where you apply to spend Year 3 working in a professional paid role in a sector of your choice. Securing a placement is a competitive process, so we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance throughout your second year.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences internship scheme

As a student with us, you can apply to the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) Internship Scheme that offers exclusive opportunities that are ring-fenced for students in the Faculty. A myriad of paid, sector-specific internships are available each year in the summer vacation and part-time during term time. Just to give you a taster, some of the past employers include Carnegie Publishing, Lancaster Arts, More Music, The Dukes Theatre, Comma Press, Deco Publique, Crowberry Consulting, Fairfield Association, Active Lancashire and National Trust.

Discover more:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/FASS-placements

Subject-specific support

A degree in 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 Service, as well as visits from potential employers and alumni of the Department.

Careers Service

Both during your degree and after you 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.

Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers



Where will your degree take you?

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.

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 from a range of Masters degrees in English Literary Studies.

Careers

Our recent graduates are working in 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



for English graduate prospects
Guardian University Guide 2023

Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2024–25 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2023). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University's reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University's liability can be found in the Student Contract at www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

English Literature
and Creative Writing



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www.lancaster.ac.uk/english

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