ENGLISH BA
UCAS CODE: Q300
2018 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus/english
This programme aims to provide a historically based overview of the literature of all periods, together with opportunities to specialise in particular periods of literature, in modern English language, and in non-period modules. Students are encouraged to develop their own interests and may choose from a wide variety of specialisms.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2018

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// Studying English at UCL provides you with an inspired setting: central London has long been the centre of British literary life and you will be surrounded by world-class libraries.

// UCL was at the forefront of the establishment of English literature as a university subject, and the department is regularly ranked amongst the best in the country. We are the only English department in the UK to maintain guaranteed one-to-one tutorial teaching across all three years of the course.

// UCL English Language & Literature has a strong tradition of links with the literary world. Practising writers are invited to give readings; there is a writer-in-residence programme; and a wide range of extra-curricular culture, media and journalism-based student societies.

// The wide-ranging nature of the department's optional modules is designed to give you an overview of developments in literary periods and movements over time, whilst also allowing you to pursue your own interests through specialised sign-up seminars and one-to-one tutorial teaching.

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

The Research Excellence Framework, or REF, is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. The 2014 REF was carried out by the UK’s higher education funding bodies, and the results used to allocate research funding from 2015/16.

// 85% rated 4* (’world-leading’) or 3* (’internationally excellent’)

Learn more about the scope of UCL’s research, and browse case studies, on our Research Impact website.

Degree structure

In the first year of your degree you will take four modules which constitute a foundation for the study of English literature. Students study eight further modules across years two and three (four in each year). Two of those eight are compulsory, the other six modules are chosen from a list covering many periods of English literature and various themes within the discipline.

The first year of the English BA acts as a foundation for the two following years, covering major narrative texts from the Renaissance to the present, an introduction to Old and Middle English, the study of critical method, and the study of intellectual and cultural sources (texts which influence English literature but which are not in themselves necessarily classified as such).

In second and third year you will study compulsory modules on Chaucer and Shakespeare and will choose six further modules from a wide range: from Old Icelandic to The Romantic Period to Literary Representations and the History of Homosexuality, and many more. American literature and literature in English from other countries also feature strongly.

Within these compulsory and optional papers you will work with your tutor and in seminars to focus your reading and essay writing around topics that interest you, within the parameters of your chosen modules. The degree thus combines breadth and depth with individual freedom to explore writers and ideas.

The course is deliberately structured to allow you to take whichever modules you want in whichever combinations you want.

Courses are assessed by a combination of regular tutorial essays and final exams at the end of the second and third years. Towards the end of the third year you will also write a longer research essay about a topic of particular interest.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Narrative Texts
- Criticism
- Intellectual and Cultural Sources
- Introduction to Medieval Language and Literature

Optional modules

- All first-year modules are compulsory.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Chaucer and his Literary Background

Optional modules

- You will normally select 3.0 credits of optional modules (see our department website for the full list, and under the Year 3 tab for an indicative sample).
Your learning

We teach in lectures, seminars and tutorials. Our one-to-one tutorial teaching is unique to English departments in the UK. Tutorials also provide the opportunity to discuss with your tutor your individual written work and academic progress, as well as raise any concerns or queries about your courses or other matters.

Assessment

Most modules are assessed by three-hour question papers. You will also be assessed in your third year by a 6,000-word research essay on a topic chosen by you with guidance from your tutor.

Your career

Good graduates in English are articulate, can write clearly, can undertake research and can present evidence for and against a case—all of which will make you highly employable.

Traditional career paths include publishing, journalism and teaching, but English graduates are also sought after by the civil service, local government, finance, business, the media and film. Some career destinations in recent years have included Deloitte, Waterstones, Oxford University Press, the BBC, Granada TV, Sotheby’s and Reuters in New York.

First career destinations of recent graduates (2013-2015) of this programme at UCL include:

- Higher Education and Events Co-ordinator, Shakespeare’s Globe
- Library Assistant, British Library
- Journalism Trainee, BBC
- Full-time student, GDL (Graduate Diploma in Law) at City University London
- Full-time student, MA in Journalism at New York University

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

The personal statement on your application is of great importance as we see it as an indicator of your ability to think and write about literature and your capacity and curiosity to learn. You should aim to give the fullest possible account of your literary interests, and focus your statement on telling us why you like a particular text or writer or literary movement. We want to see in your writing not just that you love English literature but that you have the literary critical ability to do well on the course.

Selected UK-based candidates whose UCAS applications meet our entry criteria and include a strong personal statement will be invited to an informal interview with two members of staff on a rolling basis between November and March. After the interview you will be asked to write a critical commentary on an unseen passage of prose or verse.

YEAR THREE

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Research Essay
- Shakespeare

Optional modules

- You will normally select 3.0 credits of optional modules, one of which would normally be Commentary and Analysis.
- Optional modules in the second and third years will include (amongst others):
  - American Literature to 1890
  - The Modern Period I
  - History of the English Language
  - Literary Linguistics
  - Literary Representations and the History of Homosexuality
  - London in Literature
  - Middle English II
  - Old English II
  - Old Icelandic
  - Renaissance Literature
  - The Eighteenth Century
  - The Romantic Period
  - The Victorian Period

Data taken from the 'Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education' survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2013-2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Grades
AAA

Subjects
English Literature (or combined Literature and Language) required.

GCSE
English Language at grade B, plus Mathematics at grade C. For UK-based students, a grade C or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA
Points
38 overall.

Subjects
A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects including English A1 at grade 6, with no score below 5.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS
UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES
(International foundation courses)
The Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES
The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2017/18 academic year and are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for 2018 entry will appear here as soon as they are available.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2017/18 - see below)
// Overseas: £17,710 (2017/18)

The UK/EU fee quoted above may be subject to increase for the 2018/19 academic year and for each year of study thereafter and UCL reserves the right to increase its fees in line with UK government policy (including on an annual basis for each year of study during a programme). Fees for overseas students may be subject to an annual increase in subsequent years of study by up to 5%.

Please see the full details of UCL’s fees and possible changes on the UCL Current Students website.

FUNDING
Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT
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EU referendum
For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK's decision to leave the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum

Disclaimer
This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus