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 thematic modules. Students are encouraged to develop their own interests and may choose from a wide variety of specialisms.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2019

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

- Studying English at UCL provides you with an inspiring 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 programme.

- 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 extracurricular 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.

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 the 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 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 programme is deliberately structured to give you maximum freedom to choose modules in whichever combination.

Modules are assessed by regular tutorial essays and final examinations 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).
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

Your learning

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

Assessment

Most modules are assessed by examination, which usually entails three-hour written papers. However, for up to two modules you may submit longer essays in place of a desk examination. In addition, throughout the three years of the programme you will receive a mark based on your tutorial essays at the end of each term. 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. These transferable skills will make you highly employable in the eyes of a wide range of employers.

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 include Deloitte, Oxford University Press, the BBC, Granada TV, the British Library, Waterstones, Sotheby's and Reuters in New York.

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

- Archive Graduate Trainee, Royal Botanic Gardens
- Higher Education and Events Co-ordinator, Shakespeare's Globe
- Journalism Trainee, BBC
- Full-time student, GDL (Graduate Diploma in Law) at City University, London
- Marketing Executive, Great Western Railway

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 in your UCAS 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 love 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 programme.

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. These are held 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 poetry or prose.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAA. English Literature (or combined Literature and Language) required.

Contextual Offer: ABB. A in English Literature (or combined Literature and Language) required.

GCSE
English Language at grade B or 6, plus Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 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-requirements

IB DIPLOMA
Standard Offer: 38. A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects including English A1 at grade 6, with no score below 5.

Contextual Offer: 34. A total of 16 points in three higher level subjects including English A1 at grade 6, with no score below 5.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME
As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/access

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)
UCL 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 achieving 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 2019/20 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2019/20 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2019/20)
// Overseas: £19,970 (2019/20)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

Additional costs
If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

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.

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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/ucl-and-europe

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