Courses

Why study English literature and community engagement at Bristol?

The part-time BA English Literature and Community Engagement is unique. It offers you a chance to gain an undergraduate degree from the University of Bristol while attending one night per week (either a Tuesday or Wednesday from 6 pm to 9 pm), and to share what you are learning in the wider community.

The Department of English has an international reputation for its scholarship and teaching. Our part-time degree, like the full-time BA English, emphasises small-group teaching and gives you an opportunity to study the chronological movements of English literature and some of its most recent developments.

Our students range in age from early 20s to late 70s. The course recruits students from an exceptionally wide range of social, educational and ethnic backgrounds. Most of our students work full time or part time, a few are retired, many have family or other commitments. Some students start the course soon after completing an A-Level or Access course, while others have been out of education for up to 40 years. This diversity is an important part of what makes any discussion on the course wide ranging and widely informed – and we believe that it also helps make the course a shared adventure.

Become an arts student at Bristol and you will be joining a diverse group of staff, students and subjects united by a fascination in exploring how humans express their experiences. From 2018 we are offering you even greater opportunities to explore subjects beyond your core studies and an average of ten or more contact hours per week. Through our innovative curriculum we ensure you develop the key skills and attributes employers seek while receiving a first-class education.
What will you study?

The first two years are introductory, providing training in the skills and conventions of academic writing and the skills and practices of community engagement. In these two years, you undertake two broad ways of reading units; units focusing on poetry and drama; and units that introduce concepts relevant to using literature in the community. In years three to six you study five period units covering poetry, drama and prose from the middle ages to the present day.

Teaching

The course consists of seminars, workshops, oral presentations and individual consultations with tutors. The core of any English degree at Bristol is small-group teaching because we believe that this best allows us to support your individual response to the course. You are encouraged to become a critical reader and to develop your own sense of what you believe literature to be – refusing to simply accept received critical opinion unthinkingly, while acknowledging the need to understand previous scholarly debates.

Course structure

As well as completing a full degree after six years, students may also opt to leave after year two with a Certificate or year four with a Diploma. Units may vary, but in recent years have included:

First year
• Ways of Reading 1: Forms and Approaches
• Poetry
• Introduction to Literature and Community Engagement 1.

Second year
• Ways of Reading 2: Critical Thought and Theory
• Early Modern Drama
• Introduction to Literature and Community Engagement 2.

Third year
• Literature in its time 1: Medieval to Renaissance
• Between Men and Women: Gender in Literature
• Literature and Community Engagement in Practice 1.

Fourth year
• Literature in its Time 2: From Milton to Johnson
• Postcolonial Literature
• Literature and Community Engagement in Practice 2.

Fifth year
• Literature in its Time 3: Romantic and Victorian Poetry
• Literature in its Time 4: Nineteenth-Century Prose
• Special Author Study.

Sixth year
• Literature in its Time 5: Twentieth-Century Poetry and Prose
• American Literature.

Plus one of the following:
• Dissertation
• Research Project on Literature and Community Engagement.

‘Progressing through the course has been a fascinating process. As I came to university later in life, and was the first person in my family to do so, I have really appreciated the nurturing environment which enables us to develop our thinking and confidence. It is a magical, creative process, which is especially precious, as elsewhere in our lives we are often caught up in the day-to-day responsibilities of work and family commitments.’

ELCE Graduate
Many students on this course continue in an existing career while pursuing their studies. A number of students have pursued new projects or promotion in their employment on the basis of their degree. Some students choose to undertake their community engagement project in their place of work if agreement is reached with their employer.

The development of a broad range of communication skills and evaluative techniques that an English degree provides is considered very favourably by employers. The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are valued in every part of the employment market. Recent Bristol English graduates have been successful in obtaining employment in the media, journalism, publishing, the theatre, arts administration and various kinds of teaching, as well as in industry, commerce, law, computing, accountancy, human resources and social work. Some have written successful novels, plays and poems.

The Bristol Skills Framework enables our students to recognise their development in academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

**Careers and graduate destinations**

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).

**Making your application**

Typical offer for BA English Literature and Community Engagement*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-english for other qualifications.

A-levels No previous qualifications required.

Access No specific qualifications required for entry. Applicants with a relevant Access to HE Diploma should have at least 39 credits at Merit and/or Distinction, or a good pass in the University’s own Reading English Literature (REL) ‘access’ module.

English Language Profile A†

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

†For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection Application form and interview.

Deferred entry Considered but places are limited to ensure fairness to applicants applying the following year.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2017); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

Applicants will be required to complete an application form and will normally be invited to attend an interview.

Each application is judged on its own merits and we welcome applications from potential students who may have no prior qualifications and who are able to demonstrate their readiness to undertake the course through the personal statement and at interview. Applicants may be asked to complete a piece of written work as part of the application process.

The Department of English also runs a range of short taster courses that prepare students for degree-level study, including the six-month course Reading English Literature: A Pathway to Further Study. More information is available on the department website: bristol.ac.uk/english/study/part-time.

Further information

Find out more about the BA English Literature and Community Engagement: bristol.ac.uk/english/study/part-time/elce-course.
Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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