

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN  
**English**



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## The School of English

The School of English at the University of Leicester is internationally recognised for excellence in both teaching and research. We offer outstanding teaching provision across the full chronological range of English literature and language, from the early medieval period to the twenty-first century. The broad coverage of our core courses provides a first-rate grounding in the subject, and our students are very well equipped to make informed choices about their specialisms and dissertation topics.

The School's lecturers offer an exciting array of modules in their own areas of research – research which has been recognised in the independent Research Assessment Exercise as being of world-leading and international importance. All our teaching is informed directly by our research findings and is delivered with the enthusiasm that can only come from those who are passionately engaged in advancing their fields of expertise.

The School provides an inspiring and welcoming environment in which to pursue English studies. As an English student you will be encouraged to explore your own ideas and to engage in debate with your peers and lecturers in small seminar groups and in one-to-one tutorials.

English is one of the most popular and exciting of the traditional Arts disciplines. It is a diverse and challenging subject, incorporating the study of some of the most provocative and intellectually rich texts ever written.

A degree in English not only offers you the opportunity to read and analyse these works, it also enables you to reflect on fundamental questions about culture, society, the individual, and the possibilities of literary expression.

Graduates of English are seen as literate, articulate and discriminating. Studying our subject fosters skills in analysing complex texts, researching problems and communicating findings effectively to different audiences. During your degree you will become practised in working independently and as part of a team to meet deadlines. It is no wonder that graduates of English are highly valued by employers in a broad range of areas from the media to accountancy, and from law to marketing.



“An English degree from Leicester is indispensable. We provide you with the knowledge, resources and skills to explore the English literary tradition and to understand why the English language and its related cultures are such vital components of the contemporary world.”

Professor Martin Halliwell,  
Head of English

## Why Study English at Leicester?

- **Student Satisfaction:** English students describe their courses stimulating and enjoyable. As a result, the School has achieved consistently excellent results in the annual National Student Satisfaction survey, with scores of 90% and over since the survey began.
- **League Table Success:** The Times Good University Guide 2012 ranks the School in the top 10 English departments in England.
- **Breadth of coverage:** The English BA covers both literature and language, with the expertise of staff ranging from Old English to the present day. As a result, you will graduate with a thorough knowledge of English literature from its beginnings in the Anglo-Saxon period through to the globalisation of English in the twenty-first century.
- **Personal teaching:** Students are taught each week in seminar groups of about twelve – an ideal size for detailed discussion of the issues raised in lectures and for the close reading of set texts.
- **Research-led teaching:** All our lecturers publish on their specialist subjects meaning that teaching in the school is informed by the very latest in ground-breaking research.
- **Career Prospects:** The School of English ranks among the top English departments in the UK for graduate prospects (The Complete University Guide 2012). We provide careers sessions especially tailored to the needs of English students. Our graduates have an excellent record of securing jobs in diverse, competitive fields.
- **Extra-Curricula Opportunities:** Each year the Literary Leicester Festival and the Creative Writing Lecture bring major authors onto campus to talk about their work. All year round, English students are active in student theatre, radio and print journalism. The English Society, run by students, organises events such as creative writing classes, theatre trips and the grand end of year ball.

## Our Degrees

### BA English UCAS code Q300

#### First Year

All first year students take four English modules devised to familiarize them with major developments in literature and language. In the first semester 'Reading English' is designed to build expertise in textual analysis, and is accompanied by lectures and workshops on the research skills required at university level. At the same time you also take 'The Novel' course, studying major writers in the development of this important genre. During the second semester 'Renaissance Drama' investigates the contribution of Shakespeare and his contemporaries to English literature, while the 'The History of the English Language' explores issues such as the origins of English and the relationships between language, gender, class and ethnicity. Throughout the year you also study an 'Option Subject' such as American Literature, Film Studies, History, Creative Writing, History of Art, or a modern language.

#### Second Year

All second year modules are taken within the School of English. During this year you discover literature from the early medieval period to the late eighteenth century. You will encounter

the warriors, monsters and dragons of Old English literature, the knights and ladies of Chaucer and Arthurian literature, the rich poetry of the Elizabethan age and the biting wit of Restoration satirists. The module 'Concepts in Criticism' introduces you to theoretical perspectives such as feminism, postcolonialism and psychoanalysis, examining how these ideas can be used to interpret literary works.

#### Third Year

In the third year you will study Romantic and Victorian authors such as

Keats, Byron, Dickens and the Brontës, along with twentieth and twenty-first century authors from Virginia Woolf to Salman Rushdie. You will also research and write a dissertation: an extended essay on a topic of your choice which you work on in one-on-one supervisions with a member of staff. In recent years, dissertation topics have included Black British theatre, Tolkien, classroom language, and film adaptations, as well as projects centred on established canonical authors such as Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Oscar Wilde. Finally, you chose two options from a range of 'special subjects'.

#### Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
Reading English	The History of the English Language
A Literary Genre: The Novel	Renaissance Drama: Shakespeare and his Contemporaries
Option Subject	Option Subject

#### Year 2

The Study of Language (Old English)	Concepts in Criticism
Chaucer and the English Tradition	Medieval Literatures
Renaissance Literature	From Satire to Sensibility: Literature 1660 – 1789

#### Year 3

Dissertation	Victorians to Modern: Literature 1870 – 1945
Romantics and Victorians: Literature 1789 – 1870	Postwar to Postmodern: Literature 1945 – Present Day
Special Subject 1	Special Subject 2

Module marks from years two and three count towards your final degree classification.

## Special Subject modules

In your third year you have the opportunity to study specific topics in great depth, with lecturers who have active research interests in those particular areas. The exact lists of 'special subjects' available differ each year, but a small sample of what we offer at the moment will illustrate the range of provision.

British literature from medieval to contemporary times is well represented here. Modules include 'The City in Renaissance Literature', 'Gothic Fiction', 'The Writings of George Eliot', 'Detective Fiction from Sherlock Holmes to the Second World War'; 'The Thatcher Factor: The 1980s in Literature' and 'Contemporary Women's Writing'.

A number of Special Subjects focus on American literature or European literature in translation, such as 'Coming of Age in America', 'American Masculinities' or 'the Novel in Nineteenth-Century Russia and France'. Others, such as 'Slang and the World Wide Web' or 'Words and the World' are language-based modules. The School also has a growing number of creative writing options such as 'The Forms of Modern Poetry', 'Writing Prose Fiction' and 'Understanding Screenplays'.



“The modules are exceptionally diverse, so it’s perfect for English enthusiasts – undoubtedly an incredibly engrossing and rewarding degree.”

Joyti Chandegra, English graduate

## BA English and History

### UCAS code VQ13

This degree offers you the chance to study two interlinking subjects, taught jointly by the School of English and the School of Historical Studies.

#### First Year

You take three modules in English and three in History. In English you study Reading English, The History of the English Language, and Renaissance Drama, while in History you are introduced to the Medieval, Early Modern and Modern Periods.

#### Second Year

Study is again divided equally between English and History, with modules on Chaucer, medieval and eighteenth-century literature, and on major historical ideas such as class, gender and ethnicity. You may also take one of the extensive menu of History options, or prepare for a dissertation in History.

#### Third Year

The third year offers you a wide range of options in English and History, from medieval to the twenty-first century, and a chance to specialise in chosen areas. You will do either an English or a History dissertation.

On this degree you are given the opportunity to transfer to the four-year degree to study for a year at one of the European partner institutions of the School of Historical Studies.

For more information please see [www.le.ac.uk/english](http://www.le.ac.uk/english) and [www.le.ac.uk/history](http://www.le.ac.uk/history). Please ask for our separate brochure with further details of this degree by filling out the 'request a prospectus form' on the University website or emailing [enquiry@le.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@le.ac.uk)

## BA English and American Studies

### UCAS code QT37

This degree offers you the chance to study two very closely related subjects, taught jointly by the School of English and the Centre for American Studies.

#### First Year

You take three modules in English and three in American Studies. In English you will study Reading English, The Novel and Renaissance Drama, while in American Studies you will explore Classic US Texts, Modern American Writing and American History from 1861 to 2001.

#### Second Year

Again study is divided equally between English and American Studies. English modules are on Renaissance Literature, Literature 1660-1789 and Concepts in Criticism. In American Studies you will explore ethnicity and diversity in American history, American literature of the twentieth century, and take a module in American film and visual culture.



#### Third Year

The third year offers a wide range of options in English and American literature, history or film and a chance to specialise in chosen areas. You will take either an English or an American Studies dissertation.

On this degree you are given the opportunity to transfer to the four-year degree, spending your third year abroad in the USA or in Europe at one of the partner institutions of the School of English and the Centre for American Studies.

For more information please see [www.le.ac.uk/english](http://www.le.ac.uk/english) and [www.le.ac.uk/americanstudies](http://www.le.ac.uk/americanstudies). Please ask for our separate brochure with further details of this degree by filling out the 'request a prospectus form' on the University website or emailing [enquiry@le.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@le.ac.uk)



### **BA French and English** UCAS code RQ13

### **BA Italian and English** UCAS code RQ33

### **BA Spanish and English** UCAS code RQ43

These three degrees are taught by jointly by Modern Languages and English. Your chosen degree will allow you to explore the literature, language and culture of English with French, Spanish or Italian. You divide your time equally in the first and second years between your chosen modern language and English. The third year is spent abroad at a partner university in France or a Francophone country (RQ13), Italy (RQ33) or Spain (RQ43). In the final year you will choose from a range of options in English and your other European language.

“The lecturers’ research means we are offered a really interesting choice of courses. The lecturers are at the top of their field which helps!”

Hannah Beddard  
English undergraduate

For further information on these courses see [www.le.ac.uk/ml](http://www.le.ac.uk/ml) or email [modern.lang@le.ac.uk](mailto:modern.lang@le.ac.uk)

### **BA Film Studies and English** UCAS code PQ33

### **BA History of Art and English** UCAS code VQ33

These two degrees bring together the exciting areas of visual and literary culture and are taught by the Department of History of Art and Film together with the School of English. You will divide your time equally in the first and second years between Film Studies and English (PQ33) or History of Art and English (VQ33) and in the final year you can choose to specialise

in English, Film or History of Art by writing a dissertation in your chosen field.

For further information see [www.le.ac.uk/arhistory](http://www.le.ac.uk/arhistory) or email [hstartfilm@le.ac.uk](mailto:hstartfilm@le.ac.uk)

### **Study Abroad: BA English EU** UCAS code Q300

Our students are given the opportunity to spend a year studying abroad. From the English BA you can elect to transfer to the four-year English (Year Abroad) BA, spending your third year in one of our prestigious partner institutions, which include several of the top ranked universities in Europe. The destinations currently on offer are Austria (Salzburg), Finland (Helsinki), France (Paris), Germany (Heidelberg, Leipzig), Italy (Bologna, Turin), Switzerland (Geneva) and The Netherlands (Amsterdam). At these institutions you will study language and literature courses with English as the language of instruction. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience life in a different country while enjoying the support offered by their host universities.

## Your Learning Experience

Students studying English at Leicester benefit from a wide range of teaching and learning experiences. The two primary methods of teaching are lectures and seminars.

Typically, a lecture involves one tutor and a relatively large group of students. It provides an opportunity for the tutor to present new material and to highlight the key aspects of texts and topics. Lectures are delivered with the aid of multimedia technology, offering a visually and aurally stimulating route to learning.

Seminars involve a group of about twelve students led by a tutor. Each week students engage in considerable reading and independent research in order to prepare for each seminar. Seminars are a forum for detailed analysis, evaluating texts, and raising any questions you might have.

You study three modules during a semester, with each module involving at least one lecture and one a seminar each week. In a normal week you will also attend additional lectures, workshops and events.

Other teaching and learning activities include study skills sessions, introduced film-screenings, autonomous learning groups, and, for dissertations, one-to-one supervision. Additionally, all



lecturers provide online access to learning resources via Blackboard, the University's virtual learning environment.

### Student Support

Each student is allocated a personal tutor at the beginning of the first year. You are encouraged to meet up on a one-to-one basis at least once each semester and can call into your personal tutor's office hours whenever you wish.

This gives you the opportunity to discuss your academic progress, receive support, and get advice on course choices and career decisions. All members of staff have office hours for individual consultation and you are encouraged to make full use of these. Recent first-years have also benefitted from a learning group scheme, in which new students assist one another in settling into the academic and social life of the university while preparing work for seminars.

## Assessment

Students are assessed using a variety of methods to ensure that a wide range of knowledge and skills are tested over the degree. Coursework greatly predominates over examinations, with modules assessed either by different forms of coursework or by a combination of coursework plus exam. By the time you complete your degree you will have written essays ranging from 500 to 5000 words, participated in group work assignments and carried out extended individual research projects. Oral presentations are a common feature of the assessed and unassessed work for modules so you will also have gained valuable experience in presenting on a range of topics.

## Learning Facilities

With a recent £32 million refurbishment, the David Wilson Library now combines stunning contemporary design with state-of-the-art technology to provide an inspirational place to study. The new library houses the Student Learning Centre (dedicated to helping students with their academic needs) and the Careers Service.

The University provides access to over a million printed volumes and a digital library of some 18,000 journals, electronic books and databases. At the University of Leicester we have over 1,100 computers available on campus for your use. English undergraduates become proficient at using electronic resources, but students also have the opportunity to access the rare books and manuscripts held in the library's 'Special Collections' to pursue their research.

## Graduate Destinations

A degree in English is highly flexible, equipping you with creative, critical, and research skills that are attractive to employers in many professions. You will enter the job market with superb oral and written communication skills, valuable problem-solving and research experience and a record of delivering results independently and as part of a team.

Research carried out for the government reveals within 6 months of graduation 93% of recent Leicester English students were in employment or had won places on postgraduate or professional courses (DLHE survey 2011). Destinations for recent graduates include work in public relations, the civil service, teaching, publishing, journalism, accountancy and law.

## How to Apply

For details of current entry requirements please see the University of Leicester's prospectus available at [www.le.ac.uk/study](http://www.le.ac.uk/study)

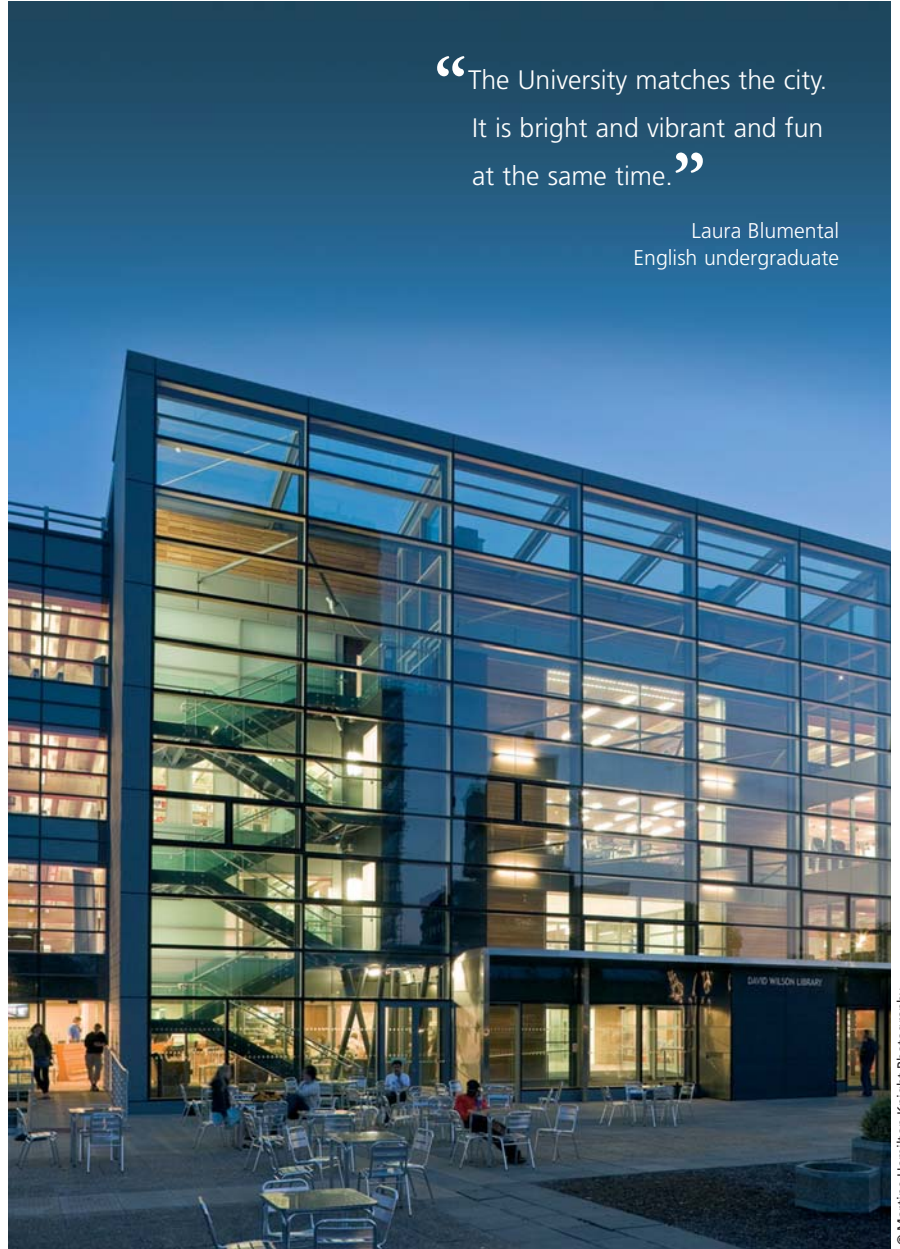


## Open and Visit Days

The University holds Open Days in July, September and October when all those interested in our courses are welcome to visit the School of English. In addition, all applicants who are offered a place are invited to one of our UCAS Visit Days held between January and March. All Open and Visit Days offer the opportunity to see the campus and accommodation, as well as the chance to talk with an admission tutor, other academic staff and students. You are very welcome to bring a friend or relative any time you want to visit the University and we are happy to answer queries by phone or email. Find out more about our open days at [www.le.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.le.ac.uk/opendays)



Curve Theatre



The University's David Wilson Library

## The University and the City of Leicester

### About the City of Leicester

Leicester is a lively and diverse city and the tenth largest in Britain. It has all the activities and facilities you would expect, with a friendly and safe atmosphere. The city centre is just a short walk from campus so you'll never be far from the action.

Leicester's diverse heritage is reflected in a dazzling array of festivals and cultural experiences including the largest Diwali celebrations outside India, the UK's longest running Comedy Festival, the eclectic Summer Sundae Music Festival, and the University's hugely successful book festival – Literary Leicester.

Recent developments have led to the opening of the world-class Curve Theatre and Phoenix Square Independent Arts Centre in the new Cultural Quarter, which complement Leicester's existing array of cinemas, theatres, museums and galleries.

The sparkling Highcross complex features 110,000 square metres of retail therapy, bars, cafés and restaurants. For those with independent tastes Leicester Lanes houses a variety of boutiques and specialist shops.

As you would expect from a true student city, there is a huge range of bars, clubs and live music venues that

cater for all kinds of tastes. Food lovers are treated to a fantastic selection of restaurants, with specialities available from every corner of the world.

We are passionate about our city and so are our students, many of whom settle here after graduation.

### About the University

Some universities consider their primary purpose to be high quality research, others concentrate on excellent teaching. Here at Leicester we think that the two are not only complementary, they're inseparable. We believe that teaching is more inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in world-changing research – and that research is stronger when delivered in an academic community that includes students.

We think that a university should be about empowering people to explore what they don't know. We achieve this through passionate, dedicated research and teaching.

When we were named University of the Year for 2008-9 by the Times Higher Education, the judges applauded Leicester's very different approach, calling us "elite without being elitist." Of Britain's top 15 universities only one – Leicester – exceeds its government benchmarks for inclusivity.



Our dedication to providing an excellent student experience can be seen in our consistent performance in the National Student Survey. Since the launch of the survey in 2005, Leicester has consistently featured amongst the top 10 universities in England for student satisfaction.

With these ideas at heart, Leicester is reframing the values that govern academia and re-defining what a university needs to be in the 21st century; we are constantly finding new ways of being a leading university.

## For further information please contact

The Admissions Secretary

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