Welcome!

Welcome to the Victorian Studies Centre at Leicester. Our Centre is the longest-established Centre for the study of Victorian literature, history and culture in Britain. It has been central to the development of the Victorian Studies discipline globally, and we are delighted to welcome you to be a part of its work. The MA brings together a unique group of students from diverse academic and cultural backgrounds. Your experience and range of perspectives enrich both the course and the experience of your peers and tutors. Everyone has a worthwhile contribution to make and student input plays a key part in making the year an intellectually invigorating and rewarding one for all concerned. We very much hope that you will participate fully, not only in your seminar groups, but also in the Spring Seminar series run by the Centre, and that you will make the most of all the opportunities open to you at Leicester.

The M.A. in Victorian Studies is an interdisciplinary course which is taught by members of the School of English, together with members of the School of Historical Studies, the Centre for English Local History, the Centre for Urban History and the Department of History of Art and Film. Members of staff are all concerned to make this year stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding, and are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us whenever you need to.

On behalf of all the tutors on the MA, may we wish you an enjoyable and successful year.

Dr Claire Brock
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<th>Key Dates 2015-16</th>
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<td><strong>2015</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1 and Autumn Term begin</td>
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<td>Wednesday 30 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00am Postgraduate Induction event in Attenborough University Film Theatre</td>
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<td>5.00pm Postgraduate Reception in Belvoir Belvoir City Annexe, Charles Wilson Building</td>
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<td>Wednesday 7 October</td>
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<td>First semester seminars begin</td>
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<td>Friday 11 December</td>
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<td>Autumn Term ends</td>
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<td><strong>2016</strong></td>
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<td>Monday 11 January</td>
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<td>Spring Term begins</td>
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<td>Friday 22 January</td>
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<td>Semester 1 ends</td>
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<td>Monday 25 January</td>
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<td>Semester 2 begins</td>
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<td>Friday 27 March</td>
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<td>Spring Term ends</td>
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<td>Monday 2 May</td>
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<td>May Day Bank Holiday: the University will be closed on this day and there will be no classes</td>
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<td>Summer Term begins</td>
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<td>Semester 2 and Summer Term end</td>
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<td>Friday 30 September</td>
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<td>12.00noon Dissertations due</td>
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Course Outlines and Information

Semester 1

EN7001 Bibliography, Research Methods and Writing Skills
Team-taught module
This module is compulsory for MA students in the School of English and in the Victorian Studies Centre. It meets on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to 12.00 noon in the first semester.

HS7501 Victorian Society
Convenor: Dr James Moore
We will study the Victorians by getting as close as we can to their own view of themselves. Our thinking, therefore, will engage with nineteenth-century ideas and feelings. In that sense Victorian Society will resemble a literature module. But we will also endeavour to see those ideas and feelings in their time and place. In that sense Victorian Society will resemble a history module. Throughout, the meaning of 'Victorian' will stretch beyond Queen Victoria’s reign. We will be concerned with what historians call ‘the long nineteenth century’ – 1790 to 1914.

You will also take one of the following optional modules in semester 1:

EN7127 Literature and Culture in 1859
Convenor: Professor Gail Marshall
In publishing terms, 1859 was an extraordinary year. It saw the publication (or the start of the serialisation) of a number of books which would become defining texts for the Victorian period. Culturally and politically, 1859 was a year in which Britain continued to enjoy and to consolidate its position as a world leader in industrial and political terms. There will be opportunity during the module for independent research into the events of 1859.

EN7128 The Brontës
Convenor: Dr Julian North
This module offers you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the fiction of Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë. You will extend your knowledge and understanding of the Brontës by thinking about their work analytically and critically in relation to the literary and historical contexts within which the sisters wrote and were received. You will be encouraged to pay attention to the differences between their writing as well as to their common ground, and to situate the novels in relation to women’s fiction at the period, issues of genre (e.g. gothic and realism) and thematic issues such as marriage, gender and sexuality, education, work and religion. We will also consider the power of the ‘Brontë myth’ in relation to biography, the heritage industry and criticism of the novels.
Semester 2

EN7021 Approaches to Victorian Literature and Culture

Team-taught module

The module takes three different approaches to the study of Victorian literature and culture. The first is to look at the *oeuvre* of a particular author, considering the development of an author’s ideas and literary techniques across their career, and examining their writing in different genres. The second is to consider a particular theme in Victorian literature and culture, tracking this concern in writing (and the visual arts) across the entire period, and examining how the theme is dealt with in radically different ways in a variety of genres. The third is to focus on a particular portion of the Victorian age, attempting to understand how literary texts produced in that historical ‘moment’ engaged both with contemporary events and with each other.

The optional modules for semester 2 are to be confirmed.

Compulsory Dissertation (60 credits)

Students will submit a 15,000-word dissertation (this length is subject to confirmation by the University) by Thursday 30 September of the year in which they submit their proposal.
What to Do: FAQs

What happens when I arrive at Leicester?

During the first week you will attend a number of introductory lectures and talks in the School of English. A programme for your induction week is enclosed.

There will also be other University-wide activities including the Freshers’ Fair and events in the Halls of Residences. You will have time and opportunities to meet new friends and find your way around the campus and city.

Where can I get further information about my course?

Each MA programme has a Course Handbook; this is updated each year and contains important information on class schedules, reading lists, marking criteria and so on. This can be found online [http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/existing-staff-and-students](http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/existing-staff-and-students).

After you have arrived at the University and registered online, you will be given access to Blackboard, the University’s online learning system. This will supply information about each module, including lecture and seminar materials, module descriptions and assessment information. You will also find a link to the Handbook webpage on Blackboard.

A further good resource is the Facebook group that has been set up for the Society of Postgraduates in English Language and Literature ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/208586385844425](https://www.facebook.com/groups/208586385844425)). Lastly, the School office is open for students’ queries 9 am-5 pm, Monday to Friday, and is located in room 1514 on the 15th floor of the Attenborough Tower. If you need to contact the office, the telephone number is (0116) 252 2620. The Programme Administrator is Simon Poole (englishma@le.ac.uk).

How will I be taught?

For each core module, there will typically be a two-hour seminar every week. All students take a two-hour research methods module at 10.00am-12.00noon on Wednesday mornings in semester 1. The other core modules run at 2.00-4.00pm on Wednesday afternoons, in both semester 1 and semester 2.

Most option modules are taught through fortnightly, two-hour seminars. Timetable information for these will have been circulated when you were asked to choose your options during the summer.

What are seminars?

Seminars are small groups of between five and thirteen students, chaired by a tutor. They are designed to encourage you to develop your understanding of the subject through friendly and informal discussions with your tutor and peers. For this reason, your role in a seminar is an active one, contributing to the discussion with points and questions. You may be asked to give a presentation in order to introduce a topic and to open discussion. Seminars are not just to provide you with notes that you can regurgitate in essays, but to foster lively and engaged debate, in which you are able to share opinions and learn from each other.

How do I know what dissertation topics can be supervised?

The School of English web pages list the research specialisms and publications of all colleagues; it is advisable to check the profile pages of colleagues working in Victorian Studies to make sure that your topic falls within their areas of expertise.
If I take a part-time job, is there a limit on the number of hours I can work?

The University sets a maximum of 15 hours per week for term-time work. You should therefore endeavour to keep the number of hours of paid employment in term-time to a minimum. The Career Development Service, based in the Percy Gee Building, publishes vacation work and placement opportunities. This service provides advice on a host of other employment-related issues, including what to do after you graduate.

What is a Personal Tutor?

Each student is allocated a personal tutor at the beginning of term. Normally you will have the same personal tutor throughout the period of your degree. Your tutor will be available to discuss matters of a general academic nature, or to provide personal support, for example if you are experiencing difficulties as a result of illness. They will also advise on concerns related to equal opportunities, and be able to put you in touch with a range of specialist advisers within the University.

How can I get involved?

Our main forum for student input is the Student-Staff Committee. The Postgraduate SSC is attended by both tutors and student representatives from each year, and meets to discuss issues that affect all areas of the School, its postgraduates, and their degree courses. Most importantly, the committee is an essential channel for constructive feedback to be given by students to the School on modules and courses, and it offers the opportunity for students to initiate improvements wherever possible. Volunteering to be a representative is the best way to get your views heard. If you are interested in becoming a member of the PG SSC, or wish to know more about it, contact the convener of the committee, Dr Julian North (jrn8@leicester.ac.uk). But you can also make your views known by contacting committee members directly. In any case, PG SSC postgraduate members will make themselves known and can be approached at any time with any concerns, suggestions, and compliments.

You might also like to join the Society for Postgraduates in English Language and Literature. The Society is a thriving group that enriches the social and academic lives of its members. Further information about the Society can be found later on in this Welcome Pack.

What are research seminar series?

The School of English organises a number of research seminar series at which academics and researchers present their latest work. The usual format is a paper lasting 45 minutes to an hour, followed by time for discussion and questions. Research seminars are an excellent ways to hear about new ideas and develop your own understanding of a field, especially because they often feature internationally renowned speakers.

The regular seminar series are ones for the Early Modern (Renaissance), Victorian and Modern periods and one on Linguistics. Your course tutors may direct you to go to particular events, but you are also welcome to go along to any series or any attend any individual research seminar that interests you. The schedules for research seminars will be advertised at the start of each term.

Where can I buy books?

The University Bookshop is located in the David Wilson Library building. Any book not in stock can be quickly provided to order, and a wide range of further materials, such as maps, cards and stationery items, are also stocked. The Bookshop is open on week days from 9.00-5.30 (5.00 outside term time), and from 10.00-2.00 on Saturdays. Further information can be found here: https://shop.le.ac.uk.
You could also use various local charity and second-hand booksellers, or buy your books from online booksellers.

The Society for Postgraduates in English Language and Literature

Who we are

SPELL is the social and academic society for postgraduates in the School of English. Throughout the academic year we co-ordinate various formal and informal events in order to support research, to facilitate networking, and to foster a friendly and sociable atmosphere among our students.

Social Events

We host a number of regular events throughout the year, including a welcome reception at the start of term, a Christmas social event, and several instalments of our Postgraduate Forum. We also try to organise as many extra social events as possible; these have recently included theatre and cinema trips, a Shakespeare workshop with the 1623 Theatre Company, and a creative writing day within the department. We look forward to many more of these events in the coming year - and to welcoming many new members to join us.

The SPELL Committee is focused on reaching out to all postgraduates in the School of English and hope to craft a number of events that everyone can enjoy. Please get in touch with any member of the committee if you have any suggestions or ideas for future events.

Postgraduate Forum

The Postgraduate Forum is a warm and collegial environment where postgraduates in the school of English can present on any topic to a group of their peers. We invite papers of around twenty minutes on any aspect of your research, with discussion, drinks, and snacks provided in between. This is a great environment in which to hear about the exciting research being carried out by our students, and to participate in the lively debate within our department. We are also keen to get our MA postgraduates involved with the Forum, and so proposals for short research papers are very much welcomed from these students.

Fees and Further Information

The new membership year will begin at our welcome reception at the beginning of term.

If you would like to join the Society, please see the SPELL web pages on the School of English site (http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/studentresources/societiesandcommittees/society-for-postgraduates-in-english-language-and-literature-spell-1) or join our Facebook Group page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/208586385844425.
Key Contacts: School of English

Head of School
Dr Philip Shaw  Ps14@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2632

Change of Programme, contact:
Course Convenor, Dr Claire Brock  Cb178@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2533

Change of Module, contact:
Programme Administrator, Simon Poole  englishma@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2620

Student-Staff Committee, contact:
Dr Julian North  jrn8@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2776

School Office
The School Office is on the 15th floor of the Attenborough Tower in room 1514. It is open for all postgraduate inquiries from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

englishMA@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2620

Postgraduate students have pigeonholes on the 16th floor of the Attenborough Tower; here you will also find the postgraduate noticeboard and the coursework submission box.

University Facilities and Services

AccessAbility Centre  accessible@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 5002
Accommodation Office  accommodation@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2428
Careers Service  careershelp@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2004
Education Unit  educationunit@le.ac.uk  (0116) 223 1228
English Language Teaching Unit  eltu@le.ac.uk  (0116) 229 7859
IT Services  ithelp@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2253
Library  library@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2043
Mental Well-being  mentalwellbeing@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2283
Registration  registry@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2448
Security  control@le.ac.uk  (0116) 252 2011
Student Counselling  counselling@le.ac.uk  (0116) 223 1780
Student Healthy Living  healthyliving@le.ac.uk  (0116) 223 1268
Student Support Service  ssds@le.ac.uk  (0116) 229 7753
Student Welfare Service  welfare@le.ac.uk  (0116) 223 1185