

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2025/26

Date created: 01/12/2020

Last amended: 09/06/2025

Version no. 2

1. Programme title(s) and code(s)

MA in English Literature

Postgraduate Diploma in English Literature*

Postgraduate Certificate in English Literature*

* An award marked with an asterisk is only available as an exit award and is not available for students to register onto.

a) [HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100320	100%

2. Awarding body or institution

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods

The normal period of registration for the full-time MA in English Literature is 12 months. The maximum period of registration for the full-time MA in English Literature is 24 months.

5. Typical entry requirements

Normally an upper second-class honours or equivalent degree in English. Those without such qualifications are either required to satisfy the Chair and Admissions Tutor in a qualifying exam (usually an essay) or are required to satisfy the University that previous training and experience provides sufficient qualification. Applicants whose first language is not English must meet the University's requirement in their IELTS (or equivalent) score of 6.5 with 6.0 in reading and writing elements.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

No accreditation of prior learning is currently recognised on this programme.

7. Programme aims

The programme aims:

- to enable students to pursue their particular interests within English literary studies, from the medieval period to the present day, by offering a range of specialist taught option modules and individual supervision for dissertations;

- to equip students with advanced research skills in order to enable them to carry out independent research to postgraduate standard;
- to facilitate independent scholarly enquiry, thinking and judgement;
- to prepare student for future careers or further postgraduate work by enhancing transferable skills including: accessing, retrieving and evaluating information from a range of sources; presenting material clearly and effectively in both oral and written formats; managing and organising time.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Education Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#) [Login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate detailed knowledge of specific periods and types of literature, and of associated critical discourse.	Seminars, private study and dissertation supervision.	Essays, presentations, and dissertation: e.g. EN7241 Authorship and Authority; Option module specifications; EN7227/8 Dissertations.
Demonstrate an understanding of research methods appropriate to these periods or topics.		

ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate an understanding of the editorial and contextual issues affecting interpretation, the processes surrounding the production, transmission, and reception of texts at different periods, and an ability to carry out formal and thematic analysis of literary representations of different kinds.	Seminars, private study and dissertation supervision.	Essays (notably ILOs for EN7723 Editing and Textual Cultures), presentations (including EN7227/8 dissertation presentations), and dissertation writing.

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate skills in practice textual analysis, editing and contextualisation, and compiling bibliographies.	10-week Research Methods and Writing Skills module, comprising of seminars, workshops, and lectures.	Essays, presentations, and dissertation. Notably, ILOs featured on EN7001 'Research Methods', EN7223 'Editing'

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Analyse and evaluate a range of primary and secondary sources, and incorporate relevant material into written work and oral presentations.	Seminars, private study, and dissertation supervision.	Essays, presentations, and dissertation. See, for example, ILOs for all literature Options, EN7223 'Editing', and EN7227/8 Dissertations.

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present information clearly and effectively, both orally and in written form, to a high-quality graduate standard.	Seminars, private study and dissertation supervision.	Essays, presentations and dissertation. ILOs for all modules.

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Discriminate between competing critical sources in different media.	Seminars and private study.	Essays, presentations and dissertation. Notably ILOs for EN7223 (involving reflection on interpretation of critical editions in electronic and print media).

b) Transferable skills

i) Research skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Locate and retrieve information relevant to the task in hand, analyse and marshal complex ideas, and report on findings.	Research Methods and Writing Skills module, assessed and unassessed dissertation presentation sessions, seminars.	EN7227/8 presentations and dissertation; presentation EN7001'Research Methods'; Essays on modules such as EN7223 'Editing', EN7241 'Authorship and Authority', Options.

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present ideas with clarity and in an appropriate register, both orally and in written form.	Presentation for Research Methods and Writing Skills module, assessed and unassessed dissertation presentation sessions.	Essays; EN7001 'Research Methods' presentation; EN7227/8 assessed and unassessed dissertation presentations and dissertation.

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate familiarity with means of data presentation appropriate to different kinds of material	Research Methods and Writing Skills module, assessed and unassessed dissertation presentation, seminars.	Essays across modules, notably EN7223 'Editing,' requiring reflection on critical editions; EN7001 'Research Methods' presentation; EN7227/8 assessed and unassessed dissertation presentations.

iv) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to present research clearly and effectively using appropriate IT skills. Locate and critically assess relevant research materials in electronic databases and the internet.	Research Methods and Writing Skills module; seminars; supervised research; presentation sessions.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal presentation.

v) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to locate, organise and marshal evidence, report on findings; understanding and analysis of complex ideas. Respond clearly and confidently in group work and seminar presentations, as well as assessment	Research Methods and Writing Skills module; seminars; supervised research; presentation sessions.	Essays, oral presentations, group work, dissertation.

vi) Working relationships

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Participate in large and small group discussions and give constructive feedback on formal and informal presentations by others students.	Seminars and presentation sessions.	seminar participation; EN7227/8 dissertation modules, requiring participation in practice sessions for assessed and formative presentations.

vii) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Balance preparation and assessment demands of concurrent modules.	Seminar and meetings with personal tutor.	Seminar participation and prompt submission of written work.

viii) Career management

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Consideration of career plans; self-reflection in terms of intellectual and personal strengths and weaknesses; awareness of career options	Personal Tutor system; Career Development Service.	self-reflection in the context of Personal Tutor meetings and on modules (e.g. EN7223 seminar featuring editorial job roles)

10. Special features

On this programme students take either a 15,000 word or 25,000 word dissertation. The programme will therefore provide a solid foundation for further postgraduate study and will also appeal to those intending to pursue careers in other areas.

10a. Research-inspired Education

Students on this programme will advance through the four quadrants of the University of Leicester Research-inspired Education Framework as follows:

RiE Quadrant	Narrative
Research-briefed Bringing staff research content into the curriculum.	<p>Training in advanced research skills is fundamental to this programme. Students develop their knowledge of literature in English and related fields through work with internationally recognised experts, exposure to the latest research, and assessments structured to hone abilities in investigation, analysis and communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research-briefed: Teaching is delivered by leading experts in literature from the medieval period to the twenty-first century. Core and option modules draw directly on staff's published work and work-in-progress, giving students immediate access to cutting-edge research in literature and related fields. Research-based: Through workshops and seminars, students select and develop their own specialisms, building knowledge of existing work in these areas. Research-oriented: Students explore current research and case studies. They hone their skills through critiquing the work of experts, while reflecting on their own research methods and analysis. Research-apprenticed: Students train in research methods, analysis, and argument. In assignments ranging from journal reviews to oral presentations, they develop advanced research skills, and advanced
Research-based Framed enquiry for exploring existing knowledge.	
Research-oriented Students critique published research content and process.	
Research-apprenticed	

Experiencing the research process and methods; building new knowledge.	skills in oral and written communication This culminates in a dissertation in which they work one-on-one with a supervisor managing their own extended project in their specialism.
--	---

As part of studying at a research-intensive university, students on this programme have the following extra or co-curricular opportunities available to them to gain exposure to research culture:

Research seminars, talks by visiting authors, creative writing workshops and informal book groups are among the extra-curricular activities that go on through the year in the School of Arts, Media and Communications. 'Research seminars' are talks in which speakers from the university or invited scholars reveal their latest research and present it for discussion. Seminar series of this kind are run in areas including Victorian Studies and Translation Studies. The Centre for New Writing organises talks from notable authors, along with creative writing showcases in which postgraduate students often participate. A highlight of the year is the annual Literary Leicester festival, which has featured prize-winning authors from around the world, and a lively assortment of public events and workshops.

Teaching on this programme will be research-informed (it draws consciously on systematic inquiry into the teaching and learning process itself) in the following way:

The School supports all staff involved in teaching to gain an accredited Higher Education teaching qualification, in which they demonstrate their use of teaching theory to support their own practice and reflect on their current teaching and continuing professional development.

Staff on the programme participate in training from the university and other bodies (such as the English Association) which updates their knowledge of educational best practice. Additionally, several module tutors have developments in education (historical or contemporary) as a specific research interest. They share their knowledge of teaching and learning developments with colleagues and students, including as seminar content on the programme.

11. Indicators of programme quality

The MA in English Literature offers students the opportunity to work across the wide range of specialisms in English literature covered by staff within the School of Arts, Media and Communication. Staff based in English can offer expert teaching and supervision in all periods of English literature from the late medieval to the present. This MA programme is designed to provide a strong grounding in research methods that can be applied to all periods of English literature.

External Examiners have confirmed that the assessment strategy, standard of achievement, design and delivery of the curriculum are effective and of similar standard to other comparable programmes in the sector

12. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of taught postgraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

13. Progression points

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

A Board of Examiners meeting will convene at the conclusion of the taught part of the course, to assess whether students can proceed to the dissertation stage in line with the requirements set out in regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes. In accordance with Senate Regulation 6, cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress they will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate award where appropriate.

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

15. External Examiners reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

16. Additional features (e.g. timetable for admissions)

N/A

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2025/26

Date created: Click or tap here to enter text.

Last amended: 09/06/2025

Version no. 2

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

Updates to the programme

Academic year affected	Module	Update
2025/26	EN7134 Queer Fiction	Semester 1 optional module added
2025/26	EN7141 Literature and the Environment – Global Eco-Fiction	Semester 1 optional module added in place of EN7134
2025/26	EN7246 Roman Remains: Classical Antiquity in the Drama of Shakespeare	Option module moved from Semester 2 to Semester 1
2025/26	EN7242 Old Haunts: The Ghost Story in Medieval and Early Modern Culture	Option module moved from Semester 1 to Semester 2
2025/26	EN7922 North American Indigenous Literature	Semester 1 option module not offered
2025/26	EN7125 Victorian Lives: Life Writing in the Victorian Period	Semester 1 option module not offered

MA English Literature

Credit breakdown

Status	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period	
Core taught	45 credits	30 credits	n/a	
Optional	15 credits	30 credits	n/a	

Status	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period	
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	60 credits	90 credits: students taking the 90-credit dissertation do not take 30-credit core module in semester two.

180 credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 2025/26

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	EN7001	Research Methods and Writing Skills	15 credits
Semester 1	EN7223	Editing and Textual Cultures	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7241	Authorship and Authority	30 credits
Term 3	EN7227	Dissertation	60 credits
Term 3	EN7228	Dissertation	90 credits

Notes

Students may either study EN7241 Authors and Authority, 45 credits of optional modules and a 60-credit (15,000-word) EN7227 Dissertation, OR study 45 credits of optional modules and a 90-credit (25,000-word) EN7228 Dissertation.

Full-time students take one optional module in Semester 1 and two optional modules in Semester 2.

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	EN7242	Old Haunts: The Ghost Story in Medieval and Early Modern Culture	15 Credits
Semester 1	EN7246	Roman Remains: Classical Antiquity in the Drama of Shakespeare and his Contemporaries	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	EN7126	Women in Literature, Culture and Society, 1850-1900	15 Credits
Semester 1	EN7133	Poetry Writing and Contemporary Poetry	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7128	The Brontës	15 Credits
Semester 1	EN7141	Literature and the Environment – Global Eco-Fiction	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7252	Twenty-First Century Fiction	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7140	Charles Dickens: A Writer in Progress	15 Credits
Semester 1	EN7921	Bodies, 1850-1918	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7124	Evolution and Entropy: Changing Representations of the Sciences in Victorian Literature	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7142	The Stream of Consciousness Novel	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7135	Writing Fiction	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7254	Abolition and Adventure: Narratives of the Atlantic World	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7126	Women in Literature, Culture and Society: 1850 -1900	15 Credits

Notes

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See taught postgraduate [module specification database](#) [Login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).