Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2026/27

Date created: 10/06/2025 **Last amended:** 19/05/2026 **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 or part-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.

The normal period of registration for the part-time MA in English Literature is 24 months. The maximum period of registration for the part-time MA in English Literature is 48 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

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
- Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy [log in 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.	Dissertation; presentations and essays, especially on the period-focused modules Discoveries, Victorian Perspectives, Twentieth-Century Movements and Early Modern Ghost Stories.
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.	Dissertation; presentations and essays, especially on the cross-period modules Family in Literature, Stolen Stories, and Twentieth-Century Movements; critical review on Advanced Research Methods.

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate skills in practical textual analysis, editing and contextualisation, and compiling bibliographies.	Advanced Research Methods module, comprising of seminars, workshops, and lectures.	Essays, presentations, and dissertation; bibliography and presentation on Introduction to Postgraduate Study and critical review on Advanced Research Methods; critical commentary on The Body in Literature.

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; bibliography and presentation on Introduction to Postgraduate Study; modules involving unorthodox documentary material, such as Ghost Stories, Twentieth-Century Fiction, and The Body in Literature.

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 Introduction to Postgraduate Research and Advanced Research Methods with assessed bibliography and critical review.

a) 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.	Introduction to Postgraduate Research and Research Methods and Writing Skills modules, dissertation presentation sessions, seminars.	Advanced Research Methods critical review and presentation; presentation on Dissertation module; essays on modules such as Family in Literature, Twenty-First Century Fiction, and Stolen Stories; academic integrity exercise on Introduction to Postgraduate Research.

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 Advanced Research Methods module, dissertation presentation sessions.	Essays, presentations, and dissertation throughout entire degree.

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	Introduction to Postgraduate Research module, dissertation presentation, seminars.	Essays across modules; the critical review on Advanced Research Methods; bibliography presentation on Introduction to Postgraduate Research, dissertation presentation.

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.	Advanced Research Methods 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	Advanced Research Methods 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; dissertation module, requiring participation in practice sessions for 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; authentic assessment on Discoveries; self-commentary on Poetry Writing.

10. Special features

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. **Research-based** Framed enquiry for exploring existing knowledge. **Research-oriented** Students critique published research content and process.	Research and research processes are central to the MA programme. From the first, students will be given explicit guidance on constructing their own independent projects and research questions, and taught how to frame their enquiries and engage with a range of primary materials and archives, and to evaluate different methods and methodologies. Staff research is likewise deeply embedded in the module provision. • Research-briefed: All modules have been designed around staff specialisms, and are focused on the research interests of their respective teaching teams. Individual seminars will be research-led, typically delivered by staff-members who have published and are continuing to publish in their areas, and who have knowledge of the wider field of literary and cultural studies, and relevant expertise at theoretical, methodological and practical levels. • Research-based: Since English as a discipline requires close engagement with primary materials, the degree will develop students' research and analytic skills, through seminar discussion as well as formal assessment. Students will encounter material drawn from multiple historical and geographic cultures, and representing an equally wide range of voices and positions: many modules are trans-historical, tracing cultural tendencies from the late medieval period to the present day, and more yet invite consideration of a wide range of materials, including pamphlets, oral sources, and new media, as well novels and poetry. Preparatory exercises and assignment questions will ensure that their engagement takes place in a secure and guided framework. • Research-oriented: Core and supporting reading and other seminar preparation will introduce students to published scholarship in a variety of fields; seminar discussion will be specifically focused on evaluating and

Research-apprenticed Experiencing the research process and methods; building new knowledge.	interpreting critical material, and exploring different techniques for assessing the validity of sources and their arguments. Essays and other assessed exercises will explicitly require students to analyse and appraise critical materials, and to emulate and apply their methodologies. • Research-apprenticed: The capstone of the MA will be the third-semester dissertation, a longform research project which will require them to formulate, manage and complete a substantial piece of independent analysis, developing not only their own research questions and objectives, but demonstrating planning and organisational skills (e.g., drawing up their own working timeframe and marshalling appropriate resources). It will require in-depth analysis, and call for students to assess the reliability of information, digest complex information into an accessible and structured form, and generate new findings, insights and conclusions.

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:

Students will be invited to see themselves as part of a learning community from the first. Informal induction events will ensure that they meet their fellow students and tutors early; these events will be shared with the Media cohort to foster a sense of wider post-graduate community in the School of Arts, Media and Communication. Students will also be invited to attend research seminars and other extracurricular activities that take place throughout the teaching year, and will be communicated via Blackboard and email. During the third semester, the convenor of the Dissertation module will continue the successful Library Café initiative, a monthly drop-in for students writing their dissertation to ask any questions and raise any concerns they may have. Teaching events such as the peer-led formative presentation session on Advanced Research Methods will also encourage students to see themselves and one another as a source of peer support.

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 attend the School of Arts, Media and Communication Pedagogy Forum, which explores educational best practice, innovations, and how they can be incorporated into curricula and programme-delivery across the School.

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.

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 he or she 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

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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	Module	Change
2026/27	JO7002 Journalism Across Borders	New optional module, replacing HA7300 *Researching Film History*
2026/27	EN7921 Bodies, 1850-1918	New optional module
2026/27	EN7133 Poetry Writing	Previously *Poetry Writing and Contemporary Poetry*

MA English Literature

Credit breakdown

Status	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	45 credits	15 credits	n/a
Optional	15 credits	45 credits	n/a
Dissertation			60 credits

180 credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 2026/27

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	EN7400	Introduction to Postgraduate Research	15 credits
Semester 1	EN7401	The Family in Literature	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7402	Advanced Research Methods	15 credits
Term 3	ENXXXX	Dissertation	60 credits

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	EN7403	Stolen Stories: Texts Rewriting Texts	15 Credits
Semester 1	EN7133	Poetry Writing	15 Credits
Semester 1	JO7002	Journalism Across Borders	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7404	Discoveries	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7405	Victorian Perspectives	30 Credits
Semester 2	EN7406	Twentieth-Century Movements	30 Credits
Semester 2	EN7407	Early Modern Ghost Stories	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7921	Bodies, 1850-1918	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7252	Twenty-First Century Fiction	15 Credits
Semester 2	EN7135	Writing Fiction	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.

Students take one 15-credit of option module in Semester 1 and 30 credits of option modules in Semester 2.

The modules Poetry Writing and Writing Fiction are shared with the MA in Creative Writing.

The outline above relates to the one-year, full-time iteration of the MA. The structure of the two-year, part-time MA is as follows:

Year 1
Semester 1: Introduction to Postgraduate Research; The Family in Literature.
Semester 2: Advanced Research Methods; a 30-credit Option. [90 credits total]
Year 2
Semester 1: Choice of 15 credit Option; and submission of formative dissertation proposal.
Semester 2: Choice of 15-credit Option; Dissertation (begins January) [90 credits total]

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See taught postgraduate module specification database (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).