

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2025/26

Date created: December 2020

Last amended: 09/06/2025

Version no. 2

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

MA Modern and Contemporary Literature
Postgraduate Diploma in Modern Literature*
Postgraduate Certificate in Modern Literature*

MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing
Postgraduate Diploma in Modern Literature and Creative Writing*
Postgraduate Certificate in Modern Literature and Creative Writing*

Notes

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

[HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100319	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 Modern and Contemporary Literature/ MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing is 12 months

The maximum period of registration for the full time MA Modern and Contemporary Literature/ MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing 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 Director of Postgraduate Study 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

N/A

7. Programme aims

The programme aims to

- To enable students to examine modern literature from four conventional approaches (the study of an author, a movement, a genre, a decade) and to reconsider these from the perspective of cutting-edge literary and cultural theory
- To develop students' ability to initiate and to carry out independent research
- To foster students' independent thinking and judgment, and to further their skills in critical analysis, writing, and bibliography and research methods
- To equip students with relevant presentational skills
- To prepare students for future careers and/or further postgraduate work by enhancing the following transferable skills: accessing, retrieving, organising and presenting information from a variety of sources; thinking clearly and independently; presenting complex ideas and arguments clearly and effectively in both verbal and written forms; writing and presenting to a professional standard; the effective solving of technical and intellectual problems; working with others in gathering, analysing and discussing information; managing and organising time; using up-to-date IT.

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?
Advanced knowledge of particular aspects of the subject and of the scholarly registers and methodologies needed to discuss it.	Independent research, seminars, supervision.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.
Understanding of central features of craft of writing.	Seminars, workshops, supervisions, digital discussions	Creative writing and reflective commentaries.

ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Author-, period-, movement-, and genre-based study contextualised by literary and cultural theory.	Independent research, seminars, supervision.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Mastery of bibliography and research methods, writing, oral and critical skills. Practical control of central features of craft of writing.	Research Methods core module in all aspects of the topic. Seminars, workshops, supervisions, digital discussions.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation. Creative writing

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.	Independent research, seminars, supervision	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to organise research material to publication/conference standard; to distinguish between the relevant and irrelevant and to present clear oral and written arguments.	Seminars and supervision plus formal presentation.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to analyse and critically assess a variety of complex textual, conceptual and historical issues, to assess the relevance of a wide range of primary and secondary sources, to sustain an independent argument at an advanced level.	Seminars and supervision	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.

b) Transferable skills**i) Research skills**

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Progressive improvement in the ability to locate, organise and marshal evidence, report on findings, analyse complex ideas and comment on them in seminars; conference presentation skills; group work; peer assessment	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal presentation.

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to deliver oral presentations to professional standard, to respond to questioning, to write clearly and cogently.	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions; supervisions and feedback from reviews, tutors and fellow students in group work	Seminar and dissertation presentations, group work.

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to present research clearly and effectively using appropriate IT skills.	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal 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.	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?
Knowing how, and when, to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to comment on ideas in seminars; group work; peer assessment.	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions; pre-dissertation proposal session and dissertation proposal presentation.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal presentation.

vii) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Identifying crucial critical issues, identifying a sound research project, drawing up a realistic research timetable, time management in writing and presentation, and reflecting on and revising results	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal presentation.

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; Careers Service.	PDP

10. Special features

Students recognise their development of transferrable skills through reflective discussion in personal tutor meetings at the beginning and end of each semester.

Independent learning, research-based problem solving, oral and written communication skills.

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
<p>Research-briefed Bringing staff research content into the curriculum.</p> <p>Research-based Framed enquiry for exploring existing knowledge.</p> <p>Research-oriented Students critique published research content and process.</p> <p>Research-apprenticed Experiencing the research process and methods; building new knowledge.</p>	<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 in the field, 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 twentieth-century and contemporary literature. 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: seminars and assignments encourage independent thinking. Students hone their analytical 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 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. The Centre for New Writing organises talks from notable authors, along with creative writing workshops in which postgraduate students often participate. Students can publish book reviews on the Creative Writing at Leicester blog. 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. An annual Creative Writing showcase at Literary Leicester enables students to present their work to the public. Students can discover strategies for encouraging public engagement with research through an annual Joe Orton and Sue Townsend bike ride, part of the Leicester Comedy Festival.

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 annual training from the university and other bodies (such as the English Association) which updates their knowledge of educational best practice. They engage in peer observation of teaching to encourage reflection and development and to ensure diversity of teaching and learning strategies.

11. Indicators of programme quality

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.

The following additional progression requirements for this programme have been approved:

- 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.
- Students who meet progression requirements can proceed to the dissertation stage; additionally, students who have successfully completed at least one creative writing option module may, if they wish, proceed to writing a creative dissertation.

In 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/exit 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 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	EN7922 North American Indigenous Literatures	Semester 1 optional module not offered
2025/26	EN7242 Old Haunts	Semester 2 optional module added
2025/26	EN7921 Bodies, 1850-1918	Semester 1 optional module added
2025/26	EN7246 Roman Remains	Semester 1 optional module added
2025/26	EN7124 Evolution and Entropy	Semester 2 optional module added
2025/26	EN7128 The Brontës	Semester 2 optional module added

MA Modern and Contemporary Literature

MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	45 credits	30 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	15 credits	30 credits	n/a
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	60 credits	n/a

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 I	15 credits
Semester 1	EN7031	Modern and Contemporary Literature and Theory I	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7032	Modern and Contemporary Literature and Theory II	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7033	*Critical Dissertation (MA Modern and Contemporary Literature.) or	60 credits
Semester 2	EN7044	*Creative Dissertation (MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing)	60 credits

*Compulsory only for the degree of M.A.

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	EN7133	Poetry Writing and Contemporary Poetry	15 credits
Semester 1	EN7141	Literature and the Environment – Global Eco-Fiction	15 credits
Semester 2	EN7135	Writing Fiction	15 credits
Semester 2	EN7142	The Stream of Consciousness Novel	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	EN7252	Twenty-First Century 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 optional module in Semester 1 and two optional modules in Semester 2.

The following options are open to students: available optional modules offered on MA Victorian Studies, MA English Literature. Students will normally be restricted to ONE 15 credit option from a programme other than MA Modern and Contemporary Literature, subject to the agreement of programme convenors:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	EN7921	Bodies, 1850-1918	15 credits
Semester 1	EN7246	Roman Remains: Classical Antiquity in the Drama of Shakespeare and his Contemporaries	15 credits
Semester 2	EN7140	Charles Dickens: A writer in progress	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
Semester 2	EN7214	Evolution and Entropy: Changing Representations of the Sciences in Victorian Literature	15 credits
Semester 2	EN7128	The Brontës	15 credits
Semester 2	EN7242	Old Haunts: The Ghost Story in Medieval and Early Modern Culture	15 credits

Students who successfully complete a Critical Dissertation may graduate with an MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature.

Students who successfully complete a Creative Dissertation may graduate with an MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature and Creative Writing.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

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