Welcome

I am delighted that you are considering studying with us. We are a friendly, creative and energetic department, with a commitment to excellence in both our award-winning teaching and research. Whatever your literary interests, you can choose from a diverse and extensive range of courses, covering works across time, cultures, genres, and geographies.

You will explore and debate cutting-edge ideas and, if you wish, pursue your own creative writing.

Engagement with, analysis of, and creation of literature, in all its forms, provide a lens through which we can understand and interact with the world around us. The study of literature provides an intellectual, cultural and academic stimulus to develop your thinking, so that you are prepared to consciously engage with the world today and in the future.

Our prize-winning creative and critical work, combined with our research strength, mean that you are learning from scholars who have international reputations as expert writers, critical thinkers and influencers in their fields.

I invite you to come and find out more at one of our open days, connect with us on social media, or visit our web pages.

Dr Vicky Greenaway
Head of Department

Contact details

Course enquiries
Professor Finn Fordham
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Connect with us

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royal_holloway_english
royalholloway.ac.uk/english

CREATIVE WRITING
(Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2020)
English at Royal Holloway

Offering more than 40 courses from across a thousand years of English, American and global literature, English at Royal Holloway is a particularly wide-ranging subject which allows you to follow your individual passions. The Department of English is a close, inclusive community, which prides itself on:

• **An environment that helps you to flourish.** You will have a personal tutor, small group tutorials, essay writing skills sessions, and a special course to help you make the transition to university. In addition to the state-of-the-art study facilities on campus, you can access central London resources, and develop your literary passions through a variety of inspiring events.

• **Award-winning teaching staff.** We write ground-breaking books, feature in the national media, advise national and international bodies, and have won numerous national prizes for teaching. You will have the opportunity to be taught by our senior scholars, who are outstanding researchers and committed teachers.

• **Inspirational creative writing community.** With an unprecedented seven Fellows of the Royal Society of Literature, two winners of the James Tait Black Prize for Fiction, prize-winning poets, and a BBC National Short Story judge for 2018 on our teaching staff, you will be taught by some of the best writers in the UK today. When you graduate, you will join the ranks of notable alumni, including the winner of the International Dylan Thomas Prize 2018, Kayo Chingonyi, and author of the *British Book Awards Book of the Year* 2017, Sarah Perry.

• **Our support for your future.** English is a traditional ‘premier league’ subject, valued by employers for the skills it develops in communication, critical thought and research. Our department prioritises employability, developing your skills with our careers team, while upholding the academic integrity of your prestigious University of London degree.

“The seminars and lectures have made me realise just how friendly all the lecturers are here, and how passionate they are about their degree: they love it just as much as you do, and they are always accessible.”

**Yasmin**
BA English (3rd year spent in South Korea)
Choosing your degree

Both our single and joint honours degrees offer you diverse and engaging opportunities to study literature across time and continents. We plan our degrees as journeys in three stages: foundation, consolidation, specialisation. Our first year gives you a grounding in new and familiar literature and ways of thinking. In subsequent years, you can follow your own interests to delve deeper and wider into the literary world. After your first year, you can also take courses in other departments, and even opt to study abroad for a year.

We pride ourselves on our designated ‘transition programme’ to help you make the move to university study, and a ‘step up’ programme to help meet the challenges of each new year. Teaching methods vary between seminars, lectures, small group teaching, individual supervision, online resources, and study and reading groups. Creative Writing is typically taught through workshops. Students can see their tutor for one-to-one feedback on written work, and all courses feature specific academic support weeks.

A dedicated writing tutor offers students personal sessions to improve essay writing skills. Library and IT training are available throughout the degree: we have a designated library professional for English students, who provides specialised support to enable you to make the most of our impressive library and learning resources.

Coursework essays are our main assessment mode, but we also offer assessed presentations, online projects and some traditional exams. Exam-free pathways are possible after the first year. We are unusual in still setting ‘formative’ or practice essays, and in offering individual feedback on all work to help you to achieve your best marks on assessed work.

Simply put, we will provide you with exceptional teaching and individualised support on degree programmes that offer you a wealth of flexibility and choice.

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

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<tbody>
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ENGLISH AS A MAJOR SUBJECT

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JOINT DEGREES

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<tr>
<td>BA Drama &amp; Creative Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA English and Digital Arts*</td>
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<td>BA English &amp; Classical Studies</td>
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<td>BA English &amp; Drama</td>
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<td>BA English &amp; Film Studies</td>
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<td>BA English &amp; History</td>
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<td>BA English &amp; Latin</td>
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<td>BA English &amp; Philosophy</td>
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<td>BA English and World Literature*</td>
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<td>BA Modern Languages &amp; English</td>
<td>RQ93</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Music &amp; English</td>
<td>WQ33</td>
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*in development
Studying abroad at the University of Sydney gave me the opportunity to develop myself academically and personally. Having the option to broaden my horizons beyond my degree allowed me to increase my employability, by studying subjects such as marketing at one of the world’s top universities. I learned to adapt to life in a new country; to live, travel and work completely independently; and developed lifelong friendships with people from across the globe.”

Jessica
BA English (3rd year spent in Australia)
During my time at Royal Holloway, I had plenty of opportunities to explore my interest in photography. On campus, I got to work with societies like Enactus to photograph their formal events and guest lectures, as well as shoot promotional material for graduate films, a campus-based start-up and the university magazine. The university has lots of societies to choose from. Approaching multiple societies to see if they have projects you can assist with is a great way to meet new people with varied interests and backgrounds!

Dev
BA English
Royal Holloway runs an award-winning work placement scheme for students in their second year. Department of English students have been placed with companies including: The Telegraph, the Press Association, literary agencies, publishers, and PR, TV, film, theatre, marketing and technology companies.

Our graduates find jobs in fields ranging from publishing, literary agency, and freelance writing, to cultural heritage, arts management, and theatre, and from finance, civil service, technology, and law, to media, PR, marketing, and management.

Some also go on to teaching or further degrees in literature and other fields.

According to ‘The Future of Jobs’ report by the World Economic Forum (2016), the top three skill sets required to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution will be complex problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity. A degree in English challenges and trains the mind in all three, along with developing excellent skills in:

- articulating knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories in writing and in speech
- leading and participating in discussions, and having confidence in your own opinions
- working with others when presenting and debating ideas and information
- conveying arguments, opinions, and independent and creative thought
- critical reasoning and analysis
- distilling information to pick out essential points, while conveying meaning precisely
- commanding a broad range of vocabulary, persuasive communication, and critical terminology
- planning, independent research and work, and time management.

Extra-curricular activities

We take your employability seriously. Whilst preserving the academic integrity of your degree, we have dedicated staff in the department who work with our alumni team, Careers & Employability Service, and Community Action team on a range of networking events and practical training opportunities, to support you to build a compelling CV alongside your studies.

While studying English will provide you with outstanding skills for whatever career you choose, it will also enhance your life. With an English degree you will understand the power of riveting stories, whether comic or tragic, real or fantastical; how that power is wielded in diverse ways; and appreciate beauty in its myriad forms, complex, simple, captivating.

This brochure was produced in May 2020 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.
Royal Holloway, University of London
• Learn from world leading experts
• Highly ranked for student satisfaction
• Beautiful campus in a safe location
• Vibrant and active community
• Award-winning careers service

Visit us to find out more
Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays