



ENGLISH & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

gold.ac.uk/english

Undergraduate

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Cervantes. Bukowski.
Kureishi. Plath. English
and Comparative
Literature at Goldsmiths
is critical and creative.

From classical literature
and linguistics to
creative writing and
contemporary fiction,
we combine a core of
modern specialisms with
coverage of literature that
goes from the 14th to
the 21st century.

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Why choose English at Goldsmiths?

We're engaged. You'll get involved in a cultural sphere beyond your studies. Stay in touch with current debates through our dedicated Writers' Centre, the Goldsmiths Prize for boldly original fiction, and our speaker series which has featured guests such as Will Self, Alan Bennett, Ian McEwan, Sharon Olds and four Nobel Prize laureates.

We're nurturing. You'll be part of a large department that offers personal support. You can take advantage of our personal tutor system, learn from an approachable team of academic staff and join the student-run English Society.

We're vibrant. You'll learn from renowned contemporary writers and be part of a hub of literary excellence in one of the first departments in the UK to offer creative writing. You'll surround yourself with students as talented as you - our graduates have gone on to win prestigious awards, including the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year, the European Union Prize for Literature and the Dylan Thomas Prize.

We're among the best in the world. We've been ranked in the world's top 100 universities for English language and literature by the QS World University rankings by subject 2017.



OUR DEGREES

- BA (Hons) English
- BA (Hons) English & American Literature
- BA (Hons) English & Comparative Literature
- BA (Hons) English with Creative Writing
- BA (Hons) English Language & Literature
- BA (Hons) English & Drama/ Drama & English
- BA (Hons) English & History
- BA (Hons) Media & English
- Integrated Degree in English (including Foundation Year)

BA (Hons) English

3 years full-time, or 4-6 years part time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english

You'll take an historical view of writing in English and specialise in your areas of interest, from thematic and genre-based approaches to literature, to comparative analysis and literary theory.

In your first year you'll take four compulsory modules that provide you with a broad foundation in literary and cultural studies. In Explorations in Literature you'll read primary texts and discover (or rediscover) a range of writers and cultures so that you'll be able to make informed choices among specialised modules later in your degree.

In your Approaches to Text module you'll look at the essential concepts in modern literary study, including: literary language; convention and genre; prosody and poetic forms; narrative voice and structure; texts in performance and larger questions of interpretation. As part of this module you will also benefit from weekly Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions to develop your study and writing skills.

Literature of the Victorian Period takes you through verse, drama, fiction and non-fictional writing in Britain and Ireland from 1837-1901, with special attention to the impact of science, the place of women, and ideas of nationality.

In Engaging Poetry, you'll cover the topics of Forms of Poetry, History of Poetry, the Practice of Poetry, and Close Readings. Chronological issues will blend with more individualised approaches to the reading and understanding of poetry, and attention will be given to verse forms from medieval to modern lyric.

In your second year you'll choose between four and eight modules from a range that's characterised by a wide literary, historical and contextual scope (see page 14). Half of these will encompass pre-1800 literature.

In your third year, you'll write a dissertation and choose from a range of options based on your areas of interest (see page 16).

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

- Explorations in Literature
- Approaches to Text
- Literature of the Victorian Period
- Engaging Poetry

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Pre-1800 English literature options such as:

- Old English
- Shakespeare
- Literature of the English Renaissance
- Literature of the Later Middle Ages: Society and the Individual

Remaining options from the range available (see page 14)

You may also apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange, and study for a term in another European university this year.

Year 3

Dissertation

Plus options from the range available (see page 16)

You also have the opportunity to apply for a single-term Work Placement this year

BA (Hons) English & American Literature

3 years full-time, or 4-6 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-american-literature

You'll read a range of literary and critical works from both sides of the Atlantic, exploring the critical concepts and ideologies that characterise the American nation.

You'll take compulsory modules in American literature throughout the programme, starting with an introduction to American literature and culture in your first year. In this module you'll cover the five topics of Colonial America, The Founding Fathers, Native Americans, Manifest Destiny, and The South. As part of your first year you will benefit from weekly Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions to develop your study and writing skills.

In your second-year compulsory modules, you'll address the key ways in which the American literary tradition differs from its English counterpart and discuss the writers of the so-called 'American Renaissance' - Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville and Whitman. You'll also deepen your understanding of the key concepts in American literature, covering topics such as The American City, Politics and Paranoia, and Gender in American Culture and Countercultures.

In your third year you will complete your 6,000-8,000-word dissertation, which you must pass in order to complete the degree. You can also explore your own interests by choosing from a long list of modules that range from Greek Tragedy and Theories to Modern Poetry, from Caribbean Women Writers to The Art of the Novel.

BA (Hons) English & Comparative Literature

3 years full-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-comparative-literature

Enabling you to study literature and culture across linguistic and national boundaries, this degree offers you the opportunity to read a generous range of works within a comparative context.

Your programme is flexible, allowing you to specialise in the areas that interest you, whether they lie in American, British, European, Caribbean or other postcolonial literatures, historical periods, or literary themes and genres. You'll take compulsory modules in comparative literature in your first and second years, alongside your choice of modules from a wide selection from the Department (see page 14).

In your first year you'll discover what comparative literature is and how comparatists compare. You'll be introduced to what has traditionally been the main focus of comparative literature: the study of themes, genres and movements across national literatures, as well as the relation between literature and the other arts. You'll develop and enhance your appreciation of the ways in which comparative literature involves the study of literary and other texts across cultures, and consider patterns of connections in literature across both time and space. You will also benefit from weekly Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions to develop your study and writing skills.

Your compulsory comparative literature module in the second year takes you through literature and the arts during three major periods of European cultural history - typically the Renaissance, Romanticism and the Fin de Siècle. You'll investigate cross-national influences across a broad range of works, and observe assimilation through translation and imitation in a variety of genres and media.

Your final year is your chance to explore your specialisms in a dissertation as well as choosing from a wide range of modules available in the Department (see page 16).

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Explorations in Literature
 Approaches to Text
 Literature of the Victorian Period
 Introduction to Comparative Literature

Year 2

Compulsory module:

Studies in Comparative Literature
Remaining options from the range available including one pre-1800 module (see page 14)

You may also apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange, and study for a term in another European university this year

Year 3

Dissertation

Plus options from the range available (see page 16)

BA (Hons) English with Creative Writing

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-creative-writing

You'll develop your intellectual curiosity and creativity by combining the study of English literature with the practice of creative writing. You'll hone not only your analytical and critical abilities but also your imaginative skills. In your first year you will also benefit from weekly Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions to develop your study and writing skills.

You'll take compulsory modules in creative writing throughout the programme alongside options from the wide range available in English and Comparative Literature (see pages 14-17).

In your creative writing workshop in your first year, you'll explore the genres of poetry and fiction to lay the foundations of your own creative writing practice. You'll combine writing exercises with critical analysis of literary works from a broad range of cultures and eras, with the opportunity to discuss your own work.

In your Year 2 Creative Writing module you'll choose between a workshop in prose fiction or in poetry, to develop your writing and your own body of creative work.

In your third-year creative writing module, you'll develop your own writing skills in the context of a critical awareness of recent writing, recent literary concerns and cultural theory, and knowledge about writing and publishing issues. You'll interact within a community of writers supportive of the development of your work, with small-group work leading into one-to-one surgeries as you prepare your final portfolio of creative work.

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Explorations in Literature

Approaches to Text

Foundation Workshop in Creative Writing

Introduction to Literature of the Victorian Period

Introduction to Poetry

Year 2

Compulsory module:

Creative Writing Workshop

Plus one or two pre-1800 English literature options

Remaining options from the full range available (see page 14)

Year 3

Compulsory module:

Project Development

Plus options from the range available (see page 16)

BA (Hons) English Language & Literature

3 years full-time, or 4-6 years part-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-language-literature

You'll gain an in-depth understanding of the English language based on critical analysis of literary and non-literary genres, including print and digital media. You'll examine everyday and institutional spoken language, ranging from gossip and friendship-talk to political speeches, news and job interviews, while enjoying illuminating debates across both literature and linguistics.

You'll take compulsory linguistics modules in your first and second years, starting with an Introduction to the Study of Language. This explores the relationship between language, culture, social structure and cognition, and familiarises you with the terminology and theories that will underpin your further study of the English language. In your first year you will also benefit from weekly Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions to develop your study and writing skills.

In your second-year compulsory module, Varieties of English, you'll explore how and why language is used differently in relation to region, gender, ethnicity, age and social class. You'll discuss questions such as whether women and men speak differently, the nature of slang, how and why adolescents differ from adults, and what the public stereotypes about speakers with 'non-standard' accents are. What is 'standard English'?

In your third year you'll have the option of completing your dissertation on either language or literature, alongside advanced modules from either discipline. You may, for example, take a module on language and the media, in which you'll be introduced to a semiotics approach to the analysis of media texts. You'll compare and analyse media and literary genres, and develop your critical awareness of a variety of linguistic techniques for analysing media discourse types and genres.

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Explorations in Literature

Approaches to Text

Introduction to the Study of Language

Plus

Engaging Poetry

Or

Literature of the Victorian Period

Year 2

Compulsory module:

Varieties of English

Plus one or two pre-1800 English literature options

Remaining options from the range available (see page 14)

You may also apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange and study for a term in another European university this year

Year 3

Dissertation in either discipline

Plus modules such as:

Approaches to Language and the Media

Language and Gender

and other options from the range available (see page 16).

You'll 'major' in either language or literature to match your dissertation choice

BA (Hons) English & Drama/Drama & English

3 years full-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-drama

You'll combine the study of literatures in English with the study of theatre and performance, so you'll have insights from a range of perspectives to develop your analytical and imaginative skills.

You'll study a range of literatures, including modules focusing on pre-1800 literature. You'll study theatre and other performance media, covering aspects of theatre history, performance theory, dramaturgy and approaches to production.

In your first year, for example, you'll gain some practical experience of producing theatre in the Drama Production: Summer Projects module, directed by professional practitioners. You will also benefit from weekly Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions to develop your study and writing skills.

In your second year you'll take one compulsory module, Questions of Performance, then choose from a range of Drama and English module options to suit your interests (see page 14 for English modules).

In the third year, you have the choice of taking the English & Drama Pathway, or the Drama & English Pathway. Both options include an interdisciplinary dissertation and contemporary dramaturgy modules, in which you'll analyse texts and live performances, and adapt work from other media for the stage. You'll also take a selection of English modules (see page 16).

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Analytic Vocabularies
Introduction to Dramaturgy
Drama Production: Summer Projects
Explorations in Literature
Introduction to Poetry
Introduction to Literature of the Victorian Period

Year 2

Compulsory module

Questions of Performance
Plus one option from:
Modernisms and Postmodernity A (theory) and B (options)
Elements of Theatre History
Plus four English options (see page 14)

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Interdisciplinary dissertation
Contemporary Dramaturgy: Research and Exploration
Contemporary Dramaturgy: Independent Practice
Drama & English Pathway
Culture and Performance: Critical Theory
Culture and Performance options
Plus two English options

English & Drama Pathway
Four English options (see page 16)

BA (Hons) English & History

3 years full-time, or 4-6 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-english-history

In your first year, you'll be introduced to essential concepts in literary study, read a wide range of works covering the major literary genres, and become aware of changing views of the past. You'll choose between learning about cultural history, intellectual history, modern political history, or religion, peace and conflict.

You'll be introduced to the skills of the historian, encouraging you to analyse societies and their structures in a way that will inform and complement your literary studies. You'll also have the opportunity to apply your academic skills within the workplace, through our History at Work scheme. You will also benefit from weekly Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions to develop your study and writing skills.

Your second year consists of an interdisciplinary module or modules, plus a combination of English and History modules. For English, you might want to: examine the literature and ideas of the 16th and 17th centuries; investigate how the concept of the American nation state was produced in 19th-century literature; make a literary and cultural analysis of Shakespeare's work; and, for History: explore the transmissions of knowledge along the Silk Roads; examine the development of a European identity in the Middle Ages; investigate the recent history of a range of European countries; or learn how to utilise new media in order to communicate historical information.

In the third year you'll complete an interdisciplinary written project and continue to deepen your knowledge by balancing your previous year's selections in English and History. You might: take a creative writing option; explore the close relationship between literature and film in the 20th century; investigate gender and culture in medieval Europe; consider contemporary moral problems; or study aspects of African or South Asian history.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:
Literature of the Victorian Period
Approaches to Text
Concepts and Methods in History
Plus one History module such as:
Dictators, War and Revolution
Religion, Peace and Conflict
Ideas and Identities

Year 2

English/History interdisciplinary module
Plus one History option
Plus one pre-1800 English option
Plus additional English or History modules to complete your choice

Optional History at Work placement in Year 2 or Year 3, or apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange and study for a term in another European university

Year 3

Interdisciplinary Project
Plus modules to balance your second-year choices (if you took more History modules in Year 2, you take more English modules in Year 3, and vice versa)

BA (Hons) Media & English

3 years full-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-media-english

You'll hone your creative writing and editorial skills under the guidance of working screenwriters, fiction writers, radio dramatists and editors while creating a portfolio of project work throughout the programme.

You'll explore your passion for literature and develop key skills in critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and communication at the same time.

In your first year you'll take your first creative writing module in which you'll explore the various forms of narrative fiction in media and develop an original idea into one of those forms, whether it be a film or TV screenplay, a radio play or a short story. You will also benefit from weekly Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions aimed at developing your study and writing skills.

Your second year is an opportunity to work on a longer creative writing project. This is in addition to your choice of modules from the Department of English and Comparative Literature (see page 14).

Your final-year creative writing project will be more narratively complex and is a chance for you to demonstrate your understanding of how to work with fiction writing (and writers) from the production side (film, TV, publishing). You'll choose from a range of advanced Media and English options alongside your project.

Integrated Degree in English (including Foundation Year)

1 year (Foundation) + 3 years (undergraduate degree)
gold.ac.uk/ug/integrated-degree-english

You'll combine your keen interest in the subject of English with the skills and confidence to progress to the BA English degree following successful completion of the foundation year.

In this foundation year you'll take five modules that introduce you to studies in English literature and set you up with the skills you'll need to succeed:

- Poetry from the 16th Century to the Present Day
- 16th- and 17th-Century Literature
- 18th-Century Literature
- 19th-Century Literature
- 20th-Century Literature

You'll also attend study skills sessions, which will develop your academic confidence and abilities. Throughout the programme you'll be supported by subject tutors who will provide consistent and ongoing tuition. You'll also be allocated a Personal Tutor throughout the programme.

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Creative Writing (Script and Short Story): Introduction
 Key Debates in Media Studies
 Film and the Audiovisual
 Explorations in Literature
 Approaches to Text

Year 2

Compulsory module:

Creative Writing (Script and Short Story): Intermediate

Plus two Media options such as:

Media, Memory and Conflict
 Television and After
 Money and the Media

Plus English and Comparative Literature options (see page 14)

Year 3

Compulsory module:

Creative Writing (Script and Short Story): Advanced

Plus one or two media options such as:

Strategies in World Cinema
 Media Audiences and
 Media Geographies

Plus modules from English and Comparative Literature options (see page 16), one of which may be a dissertation

Typical Year 2 options

Drama and Transgression:
From Prometheus to Faust
European Cinema
Inventing the Nation: American
Literature in the mid-19th Century
Language Learning and Teaching
Literary London
Literature of the Later Middle Ages:
Society and the Individual
Moderns
Old English
Post-Victorian English Literature
Restoration and 18th-Century
Literature
Sensibility and Romanticism:
Revolutions in Writing and Society
Shakespeare
Varieties of English

All the above are taught over two terms.
There is, in addition, a range of shorter
single-term modules such as:

Black British Literature
Contemporary Arab Migrant Writing
Hollywood Cinema: Filming the Nation
(two modules)
Narratives of the Great War (1916-1922)

Varieties of English

You'll explore how and why language is used differently in a range of contexts. You'll examine language variation in relation to region, gender, ethnicity, age and social class; you'll consider how individuals are able to shift their style of speaking from one situation to the next and discuss the attitudes that people have towards different varieties of English. Your class will discuss questions such as: do women and men speak differently? What is slang? How and why do adolescents speak differently from adults? What are the public stereotypes about speakers with 'non-standard' accents? What is Standard English? Throughout your discussions, you'll study various examples of spoken and written language and examine the role of literature and the media in representing language variation.

Literary London

During the 19th century, London easily outstripped all other contenders as the largest and most vibrant metropolis in the world. Inevitably, the city, with its extraordinary contradictions, was intimately involved with some of the century's most major literary developments. You'll focus on representations of the metropolis by a range of writers living and working in London across the period, and in so doing cover a range of genres (poetry, biography, essay, novel, crime writing) and subjects (everyday life, government, poverty, religion, law, empire).

Hollywood Cinema

Through two single-term modules, which you can take individually or in sequence, you'll be provided with an analytical overview of some of the major areas of Hollywood cinema and its connection to the wider cultural landscape of the United States. You'll explore topics such as the rise of cinema and modernity, narrative cinema, definitions of melodrama, noir, Westerns and psychoanalysis, femininity and masculinity - among others.

Typical Year 3 options

The Art of the Novel
Caribbean Women Writers
Creating the Text
Decadence
The Emergence of Modern America
Language and the Media
Modern American Fiction
Modern Poetry
Modernism and Drama (1880-1930)
Postcolonial Literatures in English
Professional Communication
Studies in Literature and Film

All the above are taught over two terms.
There is, in addition, a rotation of
single-term shorter modules such as:

American Crime Fiction
Contemporary African Migrant
Literature and Film
Language and Gender
Surrealism and Revolution

The Art of the Novel

The module explores the history of the Western novel's development since 'Don Quixote' by focusing on representative landmarks of 'realism' and later modernist and postmodernist novels. We investigate a number of theoretical problems including those of narrative voice and strategy and of mimesis in the novel. Major texts might typically include: Cervantes, 'Don Quixote'; Austen, 'Emma'; Balzac, 'Père Goriot'; Flaubert, 'Madame Bovary'; Kafka, 'The Trial'; Proust, 'Swann's Way'; Calvino, 'If on a Winter's Night a Traveller'.

Studies in Literature and Film

You'll explore the relationship between literature and film in the 20th century. You'll look at texts and films from various national traditions, to examine the particular characteristics of literature and film as they respond to one another, and to establish the precise nature of the cross-connections. The first term explores how film has responded to the challenge of literature, and the second, how modern and contemporary writers have responded to the challenge of film.

Caribbean Women Writers

You'll explore representative African-Caribbean and Indian-Caribbean women's writing - prose and poetry - since the 1960s, with comparative study of black women's writing in non-Caribbean contexts. Your principal texts might typically include: Gilroy's 'Boy Sandwich'; Collins' 'Angel'; Hodge's 'Crick Crack Monkey'; Riley's 'Waiting in the Twilight'; Senior's 'The Arrival of the Snake Woman'.

OUR STUDENTS



Harry
English/Drama

“Studying both English and Drama you get the best of both worlds; it means you can choose from a wide range of courses within the degree that contrast but occasionally overlap and inform each other. English and Drama students experience a range of approaches: theoretical, practical, historical and literary. I may begin the day with a class on late-Elizabethan sonnets but in the afternoon I’m working in the studios on a devised piece inspired by German Expressionism. So far the degree has been consistently stimulating and surprising.”



Karen
Media/English

“Goldsmiths has had an effective influence on how I analyse and relate to a new challenge. It prepared me to always question what I’m presented with. I was lucky enough to be involved in student media as Deputy Editor of Smiths Magazine, and Student Co-ordinator for the English and Comparative Literature department, and through both roles I learnt how to be practical, organised and intuitive, which was a challenging and refreshing escape when heavily involved in academia.”

As a Goldsmiths English graduate you'll have a choice of a wide variety of careers, including journalism, editing, writing, advertising, marketing and public relations, teaching, events management, information management, and archivism, among others.

That's because you'll have the skills that will set you up for success across all sectors: critical and analytical skills, proficiency in assessing evidence, the clear expression of ideas, and the ability to bring together insights from a range of subjects. You'll be able to solve problems, to think creatively, and to communicate your ideas with clarity.



Career journeys

Alistair (English),
Producer at BBC Radio 1

"I produce the weekly Dan and Phil Show on air on Radio 1, which aims to bring the sound of the internet onto the radio. I also lead the station's interactive team in innovation so look to incorporate new and exciting digital experiments into the Radio 1 output, whether that is creating virtual nightclubs from Ibiza, letting the audience remix Radio 1 content, or flying indoor live streaming blimps.

During my degree I developed valuable skills in being able to consume and interpret large volumes and different kinds of texts, and in nurturing my ability to think creatively and having faith in the independence of my thought processes. Goldsmiths is the kind of

place where you'll find a lot of people who are prepared to question things, and this has helped me in my career. I met people from all around the world and travelled a lot during and after university to visit them and was fortunate to study with a huge variety of people from a wealth of different backgrounds."



Jen (Media/English),
Coordinator for
Press & PR at the Goethe-
Institut London, and a
freelance literary translator

"I attribute my continued focus on creative writing, literary translation and academic translation, as well as writing's place and impact on society, to my time at Goldsmiths.

My course's allowance for a specialisation in creative and journalistic writing

meant that I could hone my writing alongside academic subjects, and courses that I attended in both the Media and English departments still inform my creative projects now.

I have had my writing published in a number of publications, and have had my fiction put to music and played on BBC radio. After graduating and interning for a year I studied for a Masters in German Language, Culture and History at UCL, which gave me the knowledge I needed to adapt my writing and journalistic skills and literary and sociological knowledge into my current career as a literary translator and as the Coordinator for Press and Public Relations at the Goethe-Institut in London. My first book-length translation is being published by Bloomsbury this year."

Watch Goldsmiths graduates talk about how their experiences at university have given them a real advantage in their career: vimeo.com/channels/career

