ENGLISH



ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Undergraduate Studies

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, means 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



6th
in the UK for Creative Writing
(out of 47, The Complete University Guide, 2027)

Contact details

Course enquiries

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Connect with us

@rhulenglish
@rhulcreativewriting
royalholloway.ac.uk/english

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. English is a close, inclusive community, which prides itself on:

- An environment that helps you to flourish. You will have a personal tutor who guides you through your studies. 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. Our modules cover topics ranging from children's literature and early modern witchcraft to the literary worlds of Jane Austen and J. R. R. Tolkien.
- 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 a substantial number of Fellows of the Royal Society of Literature and the English Association, two winners of the James Tait Black Prize for Fiction, prize-winning poets, and a Booker Prize nominee 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, Kayo Chingonyi, and author of the British Book Awards Book of the Year, 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. We prioritise 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 subjects, and even opt to study abroad for a 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.

Students can also book 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 and online projects. 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	UCAS code
BA English	Q300
BA English with Integrated Foundation Year	Q30F
BA English & American Literature	QT37
BA English & Creative Writing	QW38
ENGLISH AS A MAJOR SUBJECT	
BA English with Philosophy	Q3V5
JOINT DEGREES	
BA Comparative Literature and Culture & English	QQ23
BA Drama & Creative Writing	WW48
BA English & Classical Studies	QQ38
BA English & Drama	QW34
BA English & Film Studies	QW36
BA English & History	QV31
BA Modern Languages & English	RQ93
BA Music & English	WQ33

Studying here

Our learning community encourages you to develop your confidence, independence and creativity as a writer and thinker. You will be part of an outstanding learning environment, which features:

Readings and festivals

Regular readings on campus by celebrated authors and poets give you a chance to understand your pathways to success. Lecturers also run special interest reading groups on experimental novelists, American writers, Sci-Fi, Shakespeare, Tolkien, Old English, and more. For performers, we co-host the PLAY! Festival to showcase student work, and the Runnymede Literary Festival with Runnymede Borough Council.

Internationally recognised Creative Writing programme

Even if you are not taking a BA including Creative Writing, you can choose a specially designed course in years two and three of your degree.

Studying abroad

You can choose to study for an extra integral year at one of our partner universities in Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand or the USA. Students reading English & Modern Languages will spend their third year in a country appropriate to their chosen foreign language, and return to Royal Holloway for their fourth year.

Courses in other departments

In years two and three of your degree, we encourage you to take a course in history, drama, politics, or media arts, where it will support your literary studies. You will also have the flexibility to choose courses from unrelated subjects, like Management, where availability allows.

Research centres

English is home to two internationally renowned research centres: the Centre for Victorian Studies, and the Poetics Research Centre. While our postgraduate students are heavily invested in these centres, as an undergraduate you will also have access to their events and networks.



"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)

Student life

Student life is just that – a life and not just a programme of study. The Department of English and Modern Languages invests a lot in ensuring that our students have a fun, rewarding and rounded student experience. You will benefit from our:

- **Supportive and friendly community.** Students tell us how much they value their feeling of wellbeing and belonging in the Royal Holloway community, along with a sense of privilege to live and study on our picturesque campus.
- **Stunning campus with great facilities.** Set within a 135-acre parkland estate with a variety of woodland, meadows and watercourses, our campus boasts an impressive new library, which sits alongside our Founder's Building with its renowned art collection and magnificent Victorian architecture. At Royal Holloway, you will find ample space to read, study or unwind.
- **Student societies.** As a campus university, the student body has an exciting range of clubs and societies. The English Literature Society, Poetry Society, The Orbital magazine, Shakespeare Society, Royal Holloway Readers, Creative Arts Society, Debating Society, Writing Society and Musical Theatre Society are all popular with English students. Many other cultural, religious and political societies, as well as a wide variety of sports clubs, mean that there is something for everyone.
- **Prime location.** Our leafy parkland campus is only 10 minutes from London Heathrow Airport and 45 minutes by train to London Waterloo, giving you access to all the benefits of London's cultural and literary life, including the South Bank, Shakespeare's Globe, and the theatres of the West End. As a student of the University of London, you are also entitled to use the excellent University of London Library at Senate House.



"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

Your future career

A degree in English challenges and trains the mind, 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 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.

Royal Holloway runs an award-winning work placement scheme for students in their second year. 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.

1st

in the UK for Creative Writing graduate prospects: outcomes

(The Complete University Guide, 2027)

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 November 2026 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**

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