



University of  
Reading

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

# MA ENGLISH LITERATURE

“ It’s a great course – you get a lot of free rein in deciding what you want to study, but there’s still a lot of support and advice available if you need it. The staff are fantastic and you have a great opportunity to make friends with similar interests too. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Reading and I recommend it highly! ”

Elle Codling



## MA English Literature

The MA English Literature presents students with an exciting range of topics and periods, from medieval texts to minority literatures in contemporary Britain. We deploy our distinctive research strengths, and our world-leading literary archives, to produce a degree that embodies the best of contemporary critical and archival work.

### Reasons to study at Reading

- Our Department of English Literature is one of the oldest in the UK, with a long record of expertise
- We have recently been ranked 6th in the UK for the quality of our research publications<sup>1</sup>
- You will receive significant individual support and attention in our small and friendly department.
- The University has internationally significant literary archives to which you will have access from day one, as we develop your research skills.

### What you will study

Our teaching within the MA in English Literature is informed by the Department’s internationally recognised and world-leading research across the historical spectrum, with distinctive strengths in Book and Publishing Studies, Early Modern Literature, Poetry and Poetics, Samuel Beckett Studies, Children’s Literature and Postcolonial and World Literatures.

### Core modules

In the autumn semester, you will take a core module, Materiality and Textuality, which introduces you to research, editorial, and bibliographical techniques, with an emphasis on working in our literary archives. Over the summer you will write a 15,000-word dissertation on a topic of your choice, with individual guidance from an expert.

## Optional modules

You will also select one optional module in the autumn semester, and two further optional modules in the spring semester.<sup>2</sup>

- Opening Up Medieval English Texts
- Early Modern Literature
- Romantics and Victorians
- Modern and Contemporary Literature
- Samuel Beckett
- Contemporary Literature & Ethnicity
- Modern Literary Feminisms: Theories/Praxis/Texts
- Women’s Rights, Women’s Writing
- Publishing and the Business of Books.

Part-time students will undertake one module per semester over two years, with the Materiality and Textuality module being compulsory in the autumn semester of year one.

### How will you study

You’ll learn in small seminar groups, and sometimes hands-on in our unique archives. You’ll receive individual guidance on your essays, and your dissertation will be individually supervised by an expert in the area. You’ll also be welcomed at our special events, including research seminars, guest lectures, and events held by our prestigious research centres.

### Preparing for your career

In addition to expertise in English literature, you’ll develop skills in independent thinking and writing. Recent MA graduates have pursued careers in media research, teaching, museums, libraries, archives, and politics. Our master’s programmes also provide research training, so you’ll be equipped to progress to PhD study or a career in a research organisation such as a thinktank or heritage body.

<sup>1</sup>Times Higher Education analysis of the latest Research Excellence Framework 2021 – English Language and Literature, when scoring by GPA Output.

<sup>2</sup>Availability of modules depends on staff availability and student choices.



## **MA ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**i** For more information, please contact:

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