



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MA

English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Literature

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Your postgraduate studies on the Modern and Contemporary Literature MA pathway will be shaped and informed by leading international researchers in the literature and culture of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Introduction

Our research and teaching focuses on some of the most critical and pressing issues of our time, including contemporary racism as a legacy of transatlantic slavery in neo-slave narratives; surrealist depictions of climate change; global feminisms; the precarity of whiteness in American novels; and the crisis of post-modernity in contemporary writing. Tutors contributing to the pathway include New Generation Thinkers, award-winning writers and critics, and members of the Global Literatures Research Group.

Regular visits by a range of international writers and poets, in association with the Centre for New and International Writing, will enhance your study. In the past we have welcomed writers including George Saunders, Nuwar Alsadir and Jay Bernard. The pathway integrates teaching with Liverpool's host of world-class cultural institutions and venues, such as the Everyman Theatre, the International Slavery Museum, Tate Liverpool and the Liverpool Biennial.

Please note: when applying, please choose 'MA English Literature' from the list of programmes. You should specify the specific pathway which you wish to study in

your personal statement.

Who is this course for?

The MA is particularly suitable for graduates looking to pursue careers in the arts, culture, creative and heritage sectors, including journalism, copywriting, management in arts and culture organisations and teaching.

What you'll learn

The MA in English Literature provides students with rigorous academic training in the broad interdisciplinary field of literary history, theory and culture. The professional skills that students will develop upon completion of the programme will prepare them well for a wide range of potential employment areas.

Departmental support includes:

- Dedicated to small group teaching
- Diverse and international student community
- Connections with local and national arts and literature institutions
- Access to the largest Science Fiction archive in Europe
- Vibrant and active research environment linked to the Centre for New and International Writing and the Literature and Science Hub Life, as well as other department-based research centres
- Interdisciplinary teaching and research environment.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

Students opting for the Modern and Contemporary Literature pathway are expected to take 30 credits of pathway-specific required modules and at least 30 credits of optional modules from their chosen pathway, in addition to the 90 credits of required English research modules (**ENGL700**, **ENGL701** and **ENGL702**). If a student wishes, and with agreement of the pathway director, up to 30 credits of modules (normally no more than 15 credits in any given semester) may be taken from other pathways within the English module list.

Please note: programme and module details are illustrative and subject to change.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>RESEARCH SKILLS AND PRACTICE (ENGL700)</u>	15
<u>THE MODERN (ENGL770)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>SCIENCE FICTION AND/AS THE ARCHIVE (ENGL781)</u>	15
<u>LITERATURE AND CRISIS (ENGL771)</u>	15
<u>VICTORIAN APOCALYPSE (ENGL764)</u>	15
<u>SHAKESPEARE & CO (ENGL751)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>EDITING THE EARLY MODERN (ENGL752)</u>	15
<u>THE MODERN (ENGL770)</u>	15
<u>GENRE DEFINITIONS (ENGL780)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>THE CONTEMPORARY (ENGL772)</u>	15
<u>DISSERTATION PREPARATION PROJECT (ENGL701)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>THE BODY (ENGL773)</u>	15
<u>HAUNTED: SHAKESPEARE AND THE GOTHIC IN RENAISSANCE AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE (ENGL774)</u>	15
<u>LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE (ENGL750)</u>	15
<u>YORE VICTORIANS (ENGL760)</u>	15
<u>READING VICTORIANS (ENGL762)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>THE CONTEMPORARY (ENGL772)</u>	15
<u>FICTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY (ENGL782)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>DISSERTATION (ENGL702)</u>	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching on the MA in English Literature is delivered through a combination of seminars and tutorials held on campus. Depending on which module options are taken, there may be lectures and separate seminar sessions scheduled, but all classes will take place on campus in person. Class sizes for Masters programmes in the Department of English tend to be small, and a typical class in English will include between 8-10 students.

How you're assessed

Students on the English MA will for the most part be assessed by a combination of formative and summative coursework. This will take a number of different forms, including essays, essay plans, research proposals, and a dissertation. In addition,

students will be assessed by presentations in certain modules. Other assessment formats may apply also depending on the options modules taken.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

The MA in English Literature will provide you with rigorous academic training in the broad interdisciplinary field of literary history, theory and culture. The professional skills that you will develop upon completion of the programme will prepare you well for a wide range of potential employment areas.

The MA is particularly suitable for graduates looking to pursue careers in the arts, culture, creative and heritage sectors, including journalism, copywriting, management in arts and culture organisations and teaching.

Graduates wishing to continue academic studies will find a supportive and nurturing research environment that prepares them well for doctoral-level research activities. Career pathways that follow this route include employment in higher education (teaching and/or research), or teaching at secondary and further education levels.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies.**

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in English studies or a closely related subject.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [**University of Liverpool International College**](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MA, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no	40 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
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component below 4.0

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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