



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MA

English Literature: Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Literature

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

Join us at our Postgraduate Open Events

Meet us on campus or online in March 2026 to find out more about master's degrees and research opportunities at Liverpool.

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About this course

The Renaissance and 18th-Century Literature MA Pathway draws together two of the richest and most fascinating periods in English literary history, encouraging you to think of them as being both in continuity and in contest with one another.

Introduction

The Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Literature MA pathway covers writers such as Shakespeare, Marlowe, Cavendish, Pope, Swift, Behn and Equiano, and offers modules that consider: how literature responded and contributed to major social and political developments such as the rise of international travel, slavery and empire (including the role of Liverpool in that process); the transition from Renaissance alchemy to modern science; the literary contests fought over form and style across both periods; the theory and practice of scholarly editing; and Shakespeare's dialogue with both contemporaries and later eighteenth-century adapters.

Drawing upon the Department's significant research and teaching strengths in these periods in Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Literature, the pathway also offers the opportunity to visit local cultural institutions such as the Walker Art Gallery and International Slavery Museum.

Conversation with other students and researchers through departmental talks, seminars, conferences, and associated research centres such as the Liverpool Medieval and Renaissance Research Centre and the Eighteenth-Century Worlds Centre will help you situate that reading within a thriving academic context.

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 Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century 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 or from the wider Faculty 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>SHAKESPEARE & CO (ENGL751)</u>	15
<u>EDITING THE EARLY MODERN (ENGL752)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>VICTORIAN MURDER AND OTHER CRIMES (ENGL763)</u>	15
<u>SCIENCE FICTION AND/AS THE ARCHIVE (ENGL781)</u>	15
<u>VICTORIAN APOCALYPSE (ENGL764)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>SHAKESPEARE & CO (ENGL751)</u>	15
<u>EDITING THE EARLY MODERN (ENGL752)</u>	15
<u>THE MODERN (ENGL770)</u>	15
<u>LITERATURE AND CRISIS (ENGL771)</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>LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE (ENGL750)</u>	15
<u>DISSERTATION PREPARATION PROJECT (ENGL701)</u>	15
<u>HAUNTED: SHAKESPEARE AND THE GOTHIC IN RENAISSANCE AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE (ENGL774)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE (ENGL750)</u>	15
<u>YORE VICTORIANS (ENGL760)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>READING VICTORIANS (ENGL762)</u>	15
<u>THE CONTEMPORARY (ENGL772)</u>	15
<u>THE BODY (ENGL773)</u>	15
<u>FICTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY (ENGL782)</u>	15
<u>BODIES IN SPACE (ENGL783)</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

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. 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 writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

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-session English course length you require.

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

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