MRes

English

Study mode	**Duration**	
Full-time	12 months	Apply by: **11 September 2026**
Part-time	24 months	Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The English MRes allows you to develop and complete a one year full-time or two year part-time independent research project in English Language and/or Literature, in the context of a structured programme of study. The MRes provides excellent preparation if you're intending to undertake a PhD in English, but is also a good choice if you wish to pursue a research project for purposes of professional development or personal interest.

Introduction

As well as completing a bespoke research skills module you will be working individually with your supervisor(s) throughout the course, and you will become part of the vibrant research community within the English Department and the School of the Arts.

Recent MRes projects have encompassed a broad range of topics, including an investigation of adolescents' language attitudes towards Liverpool English, a study on code-switching in Spanish-English bilingual children, an analysis of the poet figure in Shelley's Alastor; or, the Spirit of Solitude, and an exploration of queer racialised identities in contemporary theory and novels.

Please consult the English Department staff pages to learn more about our members of staff and the topic areas for which we can offer supervision.

Do not hesitate to [get in touch with the programme director](#) if you have any further questions.

What you'll learn

- Independent research skills
- How to identify key primary and secondary resources relevant to your field of research
- How to produce a preliminary and preparatory piece of work
- Critical writing skills
- Presentational skills for advanced study in English Literature or English Language
- Knowledge and confidence to reflect critically and creatively on the practices, contexts and real-world applications of the study of English Literature and English Language.

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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

You will choose one of the optional modules.

Students studying the English pathway must take one of the optional modules listed above.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH RESOURCES (ENGL703)	15

Optional modules	Credits
RESEARCH SKILLS AND PRACTICE (ENGL700)	15
RESEARCH SKILLS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGL699)	15

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

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
FEASIBILITY STUDY (ENGL704)	30
DISSERTATION (ENGL705)	120

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

Final project

You will complete your dissertation over the summer.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (ENGL705)	120

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

All MRes English students will complete a taught research skills module in Semester one, with one on-campus session per week, shared with the relevant MA cohort.

Class sizes for all master's programmes in the Department of English tend to be small, and a typical class will include no more than 10 students. The other 3 modules (ENGL703 Research Resources, ENGL704 Feasibility Study and ENGL705 Dissertation) involve a total of at least 30 hours of one-to-one meetings with the supervisor(s), who will guide students through their self-directed study and independent research.

How you're assessed

The assessments for the research skills module depend on the discipline (ENGL699 for English Language or ENGL700 for English Literature) but may include written work (such as a review article and an updated research proposal) as well as alternative forms of assessment (e.g., a radio essay on an aspect of your research).

Two further modules (ENGL703 Research Resources and ENGL704 Feasibility Study) are assessed via an annotated bibliography and a sample chapter, respectively, allowing students to focus on work that is directly relevant to their dissertation (ENGL705, 30,000-35,000 words).

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.

Careers and employability

The MRes English provides students with rigorous training in research methods in their chosen discipline as well as experience with independent research and self-management. The professional skills that students will develop upon completion of the programme will prepare them well for a wide range of potential employment areas.

While the MRes is particularly suitable for graduates looking to continue to a PhD, career pathways also include jobs in the arts, culture, creative and heritage sectors, including journalism, copywriting, management in arts and culture organisations and 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 - £5,238
Part-time place, per year - £2,619

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £25,350
Part-time place, per year - £12,650

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. The University may administer inflationary rises to international fees in subsequent academic years as you progress through the course.

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

Please note, this programme may have additional costs associated with it depending on your choice of a lab or computational/fieldwork-based project.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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.

You will be asked to submit a sample of your written work, which is 2,000-3,000 words in length, as part of the application process. This could be an essay from your undergraduate studies or a similar piece of writing.

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 MRes, 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

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-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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