MA

Publishing

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

About this course

The MA in Publishing combines the industry expertise of our on-site publishing house (Liverpool University Press) with the academic excellence of a Russell Group institution, currently ranked within the world top 100 for English (QS World University Rankings 2025).

Introduction

The programme has a specific focus on academic and trade publishing, and offers in-house professional support alongside the industry knowledge of our esteemed delivery partners at Liverpool University Press (LUP).

Your future employability is a key consideration of the programme. You'll have the opportunity to undertake relevant work experience, and will develop industry-standard digital skills (in the use of Adobe Creative Suite, for example). Career coaching will be provided by the LUP team, and you'll be prepared for entering the job market through support to develop your CV and participation in a mock interview. You'll gain insight into editorial, production and marketing, and see the global publishing industry in practice through a subsidised visit to the London Book Fair.

LUP is the third oldest university press in the UK, and this new MA is the first in the Russell Group to be co-developed with an on-site academic publisher. It builds on the existing strong

relationship between the Department of English and LUP, best exemplified by the successful and award-winning *Pavilion Poetry* imprint.

Who is this course for?

This programme is ideal for graduates of humanities or social science subjects who are interested in pursuing a career in publishing, book/journal production or related fields.

What you'll learn

- A broad grounding in the principles of contemporary publishing practices
- How to apply appropriate digital publishing technologies in the production of texts
- How to source and evaluate appropriate material to assemble into a publishable collection
- An understanding of various of roles and responsibilities in the publishing industry, including editorial, production and marketing
- How to plan and undertake an independent research or practical publishing project.

Course content

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

Semester one

You'll take three compulsory modules and choose one optional module.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH SKILLS AND PRACTICE (ENGL700)	15
COMMISSIONING AND PRODUCTION IN CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHING (ENGL715)	15
SALES AND MARKETING IN CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHING (ENGL717)	15

Optional modules	Credits
SHAKESPEARE & CO (ENGL751)	15
EDITING THE EARLY MODERN (ENGL752)	15
VICTORIAN GOTHIC (ENGL761)	15
VICTORIAN MURDER AND OTHER CRIMES (ENGL763)	15
THE MODERN (ENGL770)	15
LITERATURE AND CRISIS (ENGL771)	15

Optional modules	Credits
GENRE DEFINITIONS (ENGL780)	15
SCIENCE FICTION AND/AS THE ARCHIVE (ENGL781)	15
LITERARY TRANSLATION AND GLOBAL MARKETS (MODL508)	15

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

Semester two

You'll take three compulsory modules and choose one optional module.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
FROM MANUSCRIPT TO DIGITAL PRINT (ENGL714)	15
GENRES IN CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHING (ENGL716)	15

Optional modules	Credits
WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT (ENGL795)	15
LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE (ENGL750)	15
LITERATURE AND SCIENCE (ENGL754)	15
YORE VICTORIANS (ENGL760)	15

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

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

Final project

Your studies will conclude with an independent project conducted over the summer. This may be either a research project, or a practical publishing project.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
PUBLISHING PROJECT (ENGL722)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

The principal mode of delivery will be a two-hour seminar which will promote group discussion and team working. This will be complemented by practical sessions using

Adobe Creative Suite and in the University's Special Collections and Archives, as well as masterclasses from external partners (such as authors, publishers or agents). In-person teaching will be supplemented by technology supported learning (e.g. Canvas discussion boards).

How you're assessed

The programme uses a diverse range of authentic assessment methods which are keenly aligned with the demonstration of practical skills used within the publishing industry. Examples include:

- A video presentation pitch
- Promotional flyer and information sheet
- Marketing plan for a publication
- SWOT analysis of a genre publisher
- CV, cover letter and application/interview strategy for a role in industry
- Copyediting and typesetting a text for digital publication.

Each module includes (shorter) formative and (longer) summative assessments as a feedback/forward mechanism.

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

This programme is designed specifically with employability in mind. You'll gain industry insight with publishing professionals to discuss career options and pathways, alongside software training to foster practical skills. You'll also have the opportunity to arrange a period of work experience at a publishing house of your choice, and the LUP team will provide career coaching which includes CV development and mock interviews.

Graduates will be well-equipped to seek employment in a variety roles in the publishing industry or the wider bookselling trade, such as commissioning, sales, marketing, publicity, rights management, bookselling. Explore our [Publishing Work Placement Opportunity](#) for some examples of the roles which former Department of English students have secured following an undergraduate work placement with LUP.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

∧ [Back to top](#)

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

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £28,000

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

Optional field trip to London Book Fair (subsidised; student cost TBC). We estimate that students will need to budget a maximum of £100 towards the cost of travelling to/from their optional work placement.

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 undergraduate degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This should be in a humanities or social sciences subject, eg English Literature, Communication Studies, Media, History, Business, Marketing. Applicants will be required to submit a sample of written work, eg an essay from their undergraduate studies as part of the application process.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

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

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.

[∧ Back to top](#)