



# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

[birmingham.ac.uk/english](http://birmingham.ac.uk/english)

## English at Birmingham

The Department of English Literature at the University of Birmingham is one of the leading departments for the postgraduate study of English Literature and Culture in the UK, offering expert teaching and research supervision across the full chronological range, from Old English to the present day. We have a commitment to a rich diversity of theoretical, historical and intellectual approaches to our subjects.

The University has been ranked as one of the world's top 50 institutions in which to study English Language and Literature in the 2019 *QS World Rankings*. We also received excellent results in the most recent Research Excellence Framework exercise, with over 85% of our research judged to be 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent', making the Department an ideal place to undertake postgraduate study.

The postgraduate community in the Department is an active one, with conferences, reading groups and events run by postgraduate students as well as academic staff.

You will also have the opportunity to participate in an annual department Graduate Conference organised by a graduate student committee and attended by staff and students.

Our postgraduate programmes have an excellent staff-to-student ratio which enables students to develop their own research with support and guidance via expert, tailored supervision.

Our lively postgraduate community also offers excellent routes in to the research of English Literature through our PhD and MA by research programmes.

## Programmes

- Literature and Culture MA
- Medieval Studies MA (Medieval Literature pathway)
- Comparative Literature and Critical Theories MA
- English Literature PhD/MA by Research



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**EXCELLENT**

\*REF 2014





## STUDENT PROFILE

'I completed both my BA and MA in the Department of English Literature at Birmingham. Throughout my time in the department I have always felt encouraged and supported by the members of academic and administrative staff who comprise it. Having had such a positive experience, I knew the benefit of having established working relationships with the staff in the department and school.'

'I passionately believe in the power of literature to inspire original thought, debate and ultimately change, in both society and culture. Throughout both my undergraduate and postgraduate studies here at Birmingham, I had developed a fascination with the empathetic quality of literature; the power of literature to take us outside of ourselves and provide insight and understanding into the experiences of others. The opportunity to engage in three years of in-depth study in English Literature therefore offered me the chance to not only engage in three years of research into my research specialisms, but also to develop a more comprehensive understanding of how literature and narrative informs and influences our responses to the world around us. On a more practical level, I also aspire to a career in literary academia for which a PhD provides essential training and experience.'

**WILLIAM BATEMAN,**  
PhD English Literature



### Your career prospects

Birmingham's English Literature postgraduates develop a range of skills including presentation, communication and analytical skills, as well as the ability to work independently, think critically and develop opinions.

### Scholarships

Each year, the College of Arts and Law offer a number of funding opportunities for English Literature students. For more information, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/calffunding](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/calffunding)

### Your learning

There is an active postgraduate community within the department, with conferences, reading groups and events run by students and academic staff. Students are encouraged to take part in research centres such as the American and Canadian Studies Centre, Birmingham Eighteenth Century Centre, Centre for Contemporary Literature and Culture, Centre for Literary Editing and the Materiality of the Text, Centre for Modernist Cultures, Nineteenth-Century Centre, and the new Digital Cultures Centre, which includes the game studies group, Play/Pause.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in an annual department Graduate Conference for postgraduate students. This is organised by a graduate student committee who are in charge of curating the theme and call for papers, putting together the programme, and managing a small budget to cater the event.

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This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication but may be subject to change (November 2019).