



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

School  
Of  
English.

# BA English Language & Literature

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## What our students say

*“I’ve made great friends, studied something I love in the way I want to study it, in a department which supports me, and had a pretty good time.”*

*“Overall, I would say my studies have completely changed me. When I started here, I was shy and lacking confidence in my abilities. I feel I have blossomed into a more vocal and competent communicator. If I were to recommend this course and University to anybody, I’d do it with honesty and passion, as I feel it has nurtured me as an individual.”*

*“Lecturers are fantastic: passionate, eloquent and inspiring.”*



# English Language & Literature at Sheffield

Engage with the full range of English studies and develop your own interests through a wide-ranging but flexible degree programme. You will explore both English Literature and English Language (including Linguistics) as well as contemporary approaches to text analysis that bring the two areas together. Working with our specialist staff, you will investigate different areas at the interface of language and literature.

In the first year, you will take introductory modules in English Language and English Literature, ensuring that you have a good grounding in key skills. You will also take 'Practical Stylistics' which explores how studying the language of texts can enrich your understanding of literature.

In the second and third years you will continue to develop your understanding of the language of literature through specialist core modules. You will also choose modules from across the full range on offer in the School of English, including phonetics, language and gender, language acquisition, poetry, theatre, film and creative writing.

You will benefit from the exciting range of teaching on offer from the School of English, delivered by academics who are passionate about their subject area. Staff work closely with students to nurture their interests, encourage discussion and original thought. By studying such a diverse degree, you will have the skills to take you into any number of careers when you graduate.

Our programme offers:-

- **Extensive Choice:** core modules focusing on the interaction between Language and Literature and optional modules focus on either Language or Literature.

- **Flexibility:** to create your own pathway with the option to specialise more towards the Language or the Literature side.



- **Variety:** you can take modules from other areas within the School, for example Film, Theatre and Creative Writing.

- **World-class expertise and innovative teaching:** you will be taught by experts from one of the UK's largest groups of researchers working at the interface of Language and Literature'. The School of English was ranked 1st out of 89 departments in the UK for research environment and for the impact of our world-class research. (Research Exercise Framework 2014).

- **Excellent student experience:** 91% student satisfaction in the School of English (National Student Survey 2016).

- **Dedicated team:** Our team of five full-time academics will teach you the core literary-linguistic modules and you will have a dedicated personal tutor from our team who will support you academically and pastorally throughout your degree.

# The shape of your degree\*

## Your First Year

In the Autumn semester, you take

- English Language modules to provide an essential basis for more advanced linguistic study.
  - **Sounds of English:** an introduction to phonetics and phonology, focusing specifically on the sounds of the English language. The module is designed to provide a solid understanding of how speech sounds are made and how they function in use.
  - **Structures of English:** an introduction to syntax and morphology, focusing on the structure of contemporary English. The module is designed to equip students with the basic skills they will need to analyse English words and sentences.
- English Literature module
  - **Studying Prose:** an introduction to thinking, studying, and writing about prose fiction. We introduce the main elements of form and technique in literary fiction, and help you to develop the analytical skills necessary to produce your own sophisticated and original readings of texts. Texts studied include a diverse range of prose fiction from the 19th and 20th centuries.
- In addition, you choose between a Language module and a Literature one; the options include History of English, Introduction to Cinema and Introduction to Theatre.

In the Spring semester you take

- **Practical Stylistics:** the first of the core Language and Literature modules, which involves studying at the interface between the two disciplines. You will explore the language of literary texts and find out how we can use a range of linguistic models to investigate different textual effects. This module takes a practical and hands-on approach, and it will equip you with the linguistic and analytical tools you need to undertake your own stylistic analyses and uncover the inner workings of literary language.
- **Two further modules** which you choose from a range of options.



*Innovative teaching, excellent resources and varied assessment methods make the course extremely diverse. The support networks that are in place, such as the personal tutor scheme and office hours, help you to reflect upon your learning and progress.”*

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\*The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it is current and relevant. Individual modules may be updated or withdrawn in response to discoveries through our world-leading research, funding changes, professional accreditation requirements, student or employer feedback, curriculum review, staff availability, and variations in student numbers. In the event of a material change the University will inform students in good time and will take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.



## Your Second Year

You take two core English Language & Literature modules.

- **History of Persuasion** [Autumn semester]

You look at a number of text-types associated with particular domains: journalism, advertising, political speaking, science writing, and preaching and use the tools of stylistics and textual analysis to look at what counts as authoritative or persuasive communication in each area.

- **Writing the Real** [Spring semester]

This module explores the often problematic relationship between literature and 'the real world', using a range of stylistic approaches. We will explore 'the real' in a wide range of prose and drama texts, including works by George Eliot and Kurt Vonnegut.

- At least one module from English Language, and one from English Literature.

For your remaining 40 credits, you take at least 20 credits within the School of English, which may be within English Language or English Literature. You can choose to take 20 credits from outside the School of English, for example in a modern language, journalism, philosophy or history.

For further information on current modules\*, visit

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/current/level2](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/current/level2)

## Your Third Year

You take at least two specialist modules that bring language and literature together. These modules allow you to specialise and work with a member of staff on an area closely related to their research. The modules on offer may vary, but could include some or all of the following:

- Dialect in Film and Literature
- Narrative Style in the Contemporary Novel
- Cognitive Poetics
- Researching Real Readers
- Learning Across Cultures
- Language & Literature dissertation option.

You will then choose at least one module from English Language, and one from English Literature. For your remaining 40 credits, you will take at least 20 credits within the School of English which may be within English Language or English Literature.

For further information on current modules\*, visit

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/current/level3](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/current/level3)

# Assessment Methods

The essay is the staple of assessment for Language & Literature students, allowing you to develop your writing skills through a continual process of practice and feedback. There are also a small number of traditional timed exams. You'll also experience a range of other assessment methods such as creating websites, group presentations, complete learning journals or design posters.

## Our research-led teaching

Our academic staff are experts in their field and use their cutting-edge research to inform their teaching. Here are some examples of how our staff use their active research in different modules.

- Professor Joanna Gavins' research focuses on how literary language is conceptualised in the mind. She uses theories and frameworks from cognitive linguistics and cognitive psychology to examine the experience of reading literary language. Her Level 2 module, Language and Cognition, and her Level 3 module, Cognitive Poetics, are both based on her research in this area.
- Professor Jane Hodson researches the way in which non-standard varieties of English are represented in literature and she has recently completed a project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council which investigated dialect in Romantic period novels. This research informs her teaching on the level 3 module 'Dialect in Film and Literature'.
- Dr Gerry Howley's sociolinguistic research investigates Second Language Acquisition by migrants coming to live in the UK. Her work informs both her Level 2 module Language Politics and Language Policy, as well as a special subject module based on her research entitled Language, Migration and Identity.
- Dr Katherine Ebury has published a book and several articles on the influence of science on twentieth-century literature. Her work informs the level 2 module -Literary Mad Scientists- which considers how the ethics and ideas of science are represented in both science fiction and canonical literature.

Find out more about at:

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/people](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/people)



# Our Public Engagement

The School of English is renowned for its commitment to the wide dissemination of its research into the wider community in academia and beyond.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/activity](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/activity)

## Storying Sheffield

On the year two Storying Sheffield module our undergraduates work and study with people from the city with no family background in higher education to produce, record, and collect stories, fragments of stories, and many other diverse representations of the lives of Sheffield people, and the 'life' of Sheffield.

[www.storyingsheffield.com](http://www.storyingsheffield.com)



*In conversation during the Storying Sheffield project "Women of Steel", celebrating the efforts of Sheffield women in the steel industry during WWII.*

# Get involved in

## Student Research

From your first day on campus, there are opportunities to participate in the active research community in the School of English.

- Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE): Partner with a member of academic staff to assist with cutting edge research.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/sure](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/sure)

- Undergraduate Dissertations: In your third year you have the option to design and conduct your own supervised research, culminating in a dissertation.

## Make your voice heard!

From volunteering to student representation, part-time work, and Union sports and societies, there really is something for everyone. As part of the School of English you are part of a vibrant arts community, with access to unique opportunities in performance and creative writing.

## Developing your skills

The skills developed outside your study are also vital in developing a well-rounded CV. Many English students write for student newspapers and magazines, get involved with student radio or film societies, or volunteer in the community or local schools.

# Study Abroad

Many of our students choose to spend part of their degree studying, working or teaching in another country. There are three options:

- The **Study Abroad Programme** where you can choose to spend your second year at one of our partner universities in Europe, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore or the USA.

- The **Erasmus+ programme** offers opportunities to study at European universities including those in Finland, France, Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany.

- **Summer Schools** - global experiences for current and prospective students. You can spend up to eight weeks at a course at one of our partner universities in Europe or further afield.

*“One of the highlights of the Erasmus+ programme was being part of the Erasmus Student Network which gave me the opportunity to meet new people who were also studying abroad.”*

**Jade Chapman, BA English Literature, spent six months at Stockholm University**

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/ugc/studyabroad](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/ugc/studyabroad)



## Degree with Employment Experience

You can choose to spend a year in employment as a recognised part of your degree programme in the UK or overseas to gain additional skills and experience along with an insight into a particular industry or role.

Find out more at: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/placements/students/year](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/placements/students/year)

## Placements to Gain Work Experience

**On CampUS Placements:** 100 hour placements on a paid, project-based experience in a department at the University.

**Work Placements:** either in the UK or abroad.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/placements](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/placements)



Arts and Humanities Students at Graduation

## Your Career

*100% of graduates in work or further study after 6 months\**

Graduates from the BA English Language & Literature programme at Sheffield have followed a variety of career paths and taken on many different roles including\*:-

**Bid management consultant**

**Business account manager**

**Copywriter**

**Customer relations specialist**

**Digital communications assistant**

**English language teacher**

**English mentor**

**Executive officer**

**Language assistant and freelance editor**

**Marketing and publicity intern**

**Marketing assistant**

**Media executive**

**Production assistant**

**Research assistant**

**Secondary school teacher**

**TEFL/ TEFL Teacher**

**Website editor**

The major strength of all English graduates is the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. You will learn a valuable range of skills which will greatly enhance your employability in a range of professions. The skills you will develop include:

- independent working
- time management and organisation
- planning and researching written work
- articulating knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories
- leading and participating in discussions
- negotiation and team working to present ideas and information
- effectively conveying arguments and opinions and thinking creatively
- critical reasoning and analysis

You will also have the opportunity to participate in the wider community through collaborative working with local people or through volunteering projects.

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\*Destination of Leavers of Higher Education 2015/16. Data for UK, full-time, first degree graduates.

# Careers Support for you

Our excellent Careers Service offers advice and support whilst you are at Sheffield and for three years after you graduate. Visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/ugc/careers](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/english/ugc/careers) for information tailored to students in the School of English.



**Selma Willcocks: Marketing Manager at ArtsAdmin**  
**BA English Language and Literature, graduated in 2011**

*"The first job I had which overtook the 16hr job centre maximum was at the RSC as a Front of House Assistant which I took on in November 2011-2013. Whilst working at the RSC I applied and was successful in getting a Digital Communications placement with LIFT (London International Festival of Theatre). I was also, at the time, working at the University of Birmingham as a Support Worker for students with disabilities (thanks to experience doing just that at Uni of Sheffield)."*

*"I got the job at Artsadmin as Marketing Assistant, after 460 people applied, and started in March 2013. Since then I have moved to Marketing Officer and then Marketing Manager."*

# Sheffield – an extraordinary place.

You're choosing a city like no other.

A place which is home to hundreds of events with many festivals, covering music, art, film and much more and the largest theatre complex outside of London. With fantastic places to visit such as the Millennium Gallery and the Winter Gardens, Sheffield is a great place to live. Get a flavour at:

[www.ourfaveplaces.co.uk](http://www.ourfaveplaces.co.uk)



Find out more about why our students love living and studying in Sheffield at:

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/transform](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/transform)



The  
University  
Of  
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For more information about studying  
BA English Language & Literature at the  
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Website: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/english](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/english)

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**TOP 100**  
UNIVERSITY  
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