

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

School of Humanities and Performing Arts

Programme Specification

M.A. English Literature

6046 (Full-time route)

6047 (Part-time route)

Pending Minor Changes Approval

Date of implementation: September 2019

1. MA English Literature

Final award title: MA English Literature

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)

- PG Cert
- PG Dip

All at Pass, Merit or Distinction

UCAS and JACS codes are not applicable to this programme.

2. **Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. **Accrediting body(ies)**

N/A

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

The M.A. English Literature allows students the chance to study literature and culture through thematically conceived modules. Drawing on staff expertise, the programme covers a broad range of periods from the early modern period to the present. Through a range of exciting thematic modules, it addresses key areas of literary and cultural studies today, and it encompasses interdisciplinary dialogues and methodologies. The MA provides specialist research training and support for students who wish to pursue doctoral work in the future. It also cultivates key skills transferable to employment beyond academia, in fields such as arts management, heritage and education, for example.

This M.A. is distinctive in four key ways:

1. Its thematic modules allow students to trace ideas and representations of 'modernity' across different historical moments. This encourages critical thinking across historical periods as well as an acknowledgement of historical

and cultural specificity. It also offers students the opportunity to study contemporary literature which does not currently form part of undergraduate core studies at Plymouth.

2. The programme offers students optionality in the form of an Independent Project module. Students may opt to take this elective module rather than one of the taught elective module options on offer in Semester 2. This enables them to tailor their programme according to their own particular interests or employment ambitions.
3. The programme makes use of distinctive local resources, such as the University Rare Books collection, The City Museum & Gallery (including the Cottonian collection), the Port Eliot estate and Saltram House.
4. The programme is particularly good at catering for part-time students, because Elective modules are rotated annually, ensuring that students on the part-time route have a fresh choice from year to year.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA subject benchmarks for English do not exist at PGT level. However, generic QAA FHEQ benchmarks for Level 7: masters are as follows:

Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7 on the FHEQ and SCQF level 11 on the FQHEIS: master's degree

The descriptor provided for this level of the frameworks is for any master's degree which should meet the descriptor in full. This qualification descriptor should also be used as a reference point for other qualifications at level 7/ SCQF level 11 on the FQHEIS, including postgraduate certificates and postgraduate diplomas.

Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline

- conceptual understanding that enables the student:
 - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in
 - the discipline
 - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

And holders will have:

the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
- the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

These benchmarks are mapped against MA English Literature Learning Outcomes in in section 13 of this document.

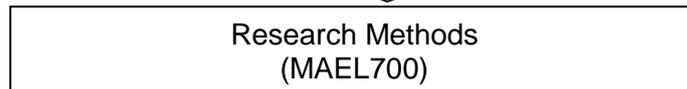
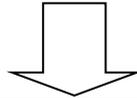
6. Programme Structure

- All students take MAEL700 (30 credits).
- They also take a further 90 credits of Elective taught modules of their choice.
- They take a dissertation module (MAEL701)

Programme Structure Diagram Overview 6046 (Full-time route)

SEMESTER 1

All students take the Core module Research Methods



And then also take in semester 1....

One Elective Module which will be drawn from a rotating suite of the following modules: MAEL702; 703; 704; 705; 706; 707; 708; 709

SEMESTER 2

Students choose 2 modules from the following elective options:

Elective Module which will be drawn from a rotating suite of the following modules:
MAEL702; 703; 704; 705; 706; 707; 708; 709

Elective Module which will be drawn from a rotating suite of the following modules:
MAEL702; 703; 704; 705; 706; 707; 708; 709

Independent Project MAEL710

Alongside their chosen modules, students will also undertake preparations for their Dissertation module MAEL 701, including preliminary research and proposal writing.

SEMESTER 3

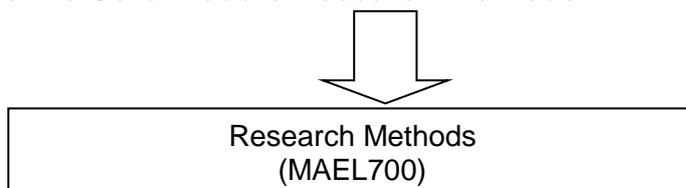
All students take

Dissertation module MAEL701

Programme Structure Diagram Overview 6047 (Part-time route)

YEAR 1, SEMESTER 1

All students take the Core module Research Methods



YEAR 1, SEMESTER 2

Students choose 1 module from the following:

Elective Module
which will be
drawn from a
rotating suite of
the following
modules:
MAEL702; 703;
704; 705; 706;
707; 708; 709

Independent
Project MAEL710

YEAR 1, SEMESTER 3

Part-time students will not take a module in Semester 3 in their first year, although they may start researching for their dissertation.

YEAR 2, SEMESTER 1

One Elective Module which will
be drawn from a rotating suite of
the following modules: MAEL702;
703; 704; 705; 706; 707; 708;
709

YEAR 2, SEMESTER 2

Students choose 1 module from the following:

Elective Module
which will be
drawn from a
rotating suite of
the following
modules:
MAEL702; 703;
704; 705; 706;
707; 708; 709

Independent
Project MAEL710

(N.B. This is only
an option if they
have not taken it in
their first year!)

Alongside their chosen modules, students will also undertake preparations for their Dissertation module MAEL 701, including preliminary research and proposal writing.

YEAR 2, SEMESTER 3

All students take

Dissertation module MAEL701

In 2019-20 the following elective modules will run:

Semester 1: MAEL 704 The Haunted Mind: Ghosts 1750 to the present

Semester 2: MAEL 703 The Legacy of War: Fiction of the 1920s and 1930s
MAEL 708 Poetry and the Modern Self

7. Programme Aims

1. Give students a thorough grounding in the current debates and research methodologies at the forefront of English studies
2. Enable students to develop advanced research skills and techniques such as usage of appropriate specialist databases, and the deployment of appropriate research strategies
3. Develop students' skills in appropriate and self-critical expression of original ideas, particularly through academic writing and presentations
4. Aid students in developing project management skills through their completion of a dissertation involving goal-setting, the exercise of critical judgment, and time management, as well as the production of high- quality work
5. Help students to critically evaluate current research, advanced scholarship, and methodologies pertinent to the discipline
6. Introduce students to a chronologically diverse range of material including contemporary texts not covered on our core UG offering
7. Aid students in making creative and meaningful thematic connections between disparate texts
8. Give students the opportunity to set their thematically based study alongside an awareness period specificities to enable them to calibrate these approaches
9. Engage students with debates and resources specific to scholarship of a range of historical eras in the 'long modern' period, and cultivate an awareness

of the differences between them.

10. Engage students with a range of cultural and philosophical formulations of 'modernity'

11. Enable students to gain confidence in encountering new materials, ideas and methodological challenges.

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) An ability to demonstrate systematic knowledge of current debates and/or new insights at the forefront of literary studies.
- 2) An ability to confidently engage with a range of literatures from different historical periods and critical debates relevant to study in these periods.
- 3) A critical awareness of how interdisciplinary dialogues shape literary studies.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) A comprehensive understanding of research techniques in literary studies, including archival research and interdisciplinary methodologies.
- 2) An ability to analyse complex texts and arguments in relation to relevant historical, theoretical and intellectual contexts.
- 3) An ability to critically evaluate primary sources, advanced scholarship, and research methodologies.

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Undertake sophisticated research with a minimum of guidance and work autonomously.
- 2) Communicate ideas and knowledge clearly in more than one medium.
- 3) Use a range of learning resources
- 4) Approach unfamiliar materials and challenges analytically and creatively
- 5) Reflect critically and constructively on their own learning and practice

6) Exercise sound judgment in selecting and applying appropriate research methodologies

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Exercise initiative and personal responsibility
- 2) Present complex ideas and information in a clear and accessible fashion to a mixed audience
- 3) Undertake independent research at a high level

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

- 1) The ability to apply technical expertise to facilitate independent research using a range of academic tools, including digital tools.

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

Entry requirements
<p>A good degree (normally a 2.1 or above) in a relevant subject (generally a Humanities subject, but this is open to negotiation). Where relevant, students may be asked to provide evidence of English language qualifications (normally, IELTS level 7). Applicants may be asked for interview or to provide a writing sample. The University has particularly good support services for students with disabilities, and accordingly welcomes applicants from appropriately qualified disabled candidates. The University also has substantial experience in supporting mature students and welcomes applicants in this category. Applicants with APL will be considered on an individual basis according to the University Regulations Framework. Students interested in transferring postgraduate credits will be considered on merit, and current University regulations regarding transfer of credits from other institutions will apply.</p>

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

N/A

11. Exceptions to Regulations

There are no special regulations associated with this programme

12. Transitional Arrangements

Any part-time or interrupted students who are currently enrolled on the MA English & Culture programme will be transferred to the MA English Literature programme, with their permission.

13. Mapping and Appendices:

See mapping template below for the following:

13.1. ILO's against Modules Mapping

13.2. Assessment against Modules Mapping

13.3. Skills against Modules Mapping

LEVEL 7				
FHEQ Descriptors	Subject Benchmark(s)	Programme Aims	Programme Outcomes	Core Modules linked to outcomes
<p>13.1 Students will have demonstrated: A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights at or informed by the forefront of their academic disciplines, field of study or area of professional practice;</p> <p>A comprehensive understanding of</p>	N/A – there is no subject benchmark statement for MA level in English at present	<p>1. Give students a thorough grounding in the current debates and research methodologies at the forefront of English studies</p> <p>6. Introduce students to a chronologically diverse range of material including contemporary texts not covered on our core UG offering</p> <p>10. Engage</p>	<p>8.1.1) An ability to demonstrate systematic knowledge of current debates and/or new insights at the forefront of literary studies.</p> <p>8.1.3) A critical awareness of how interdisciplinary dialogues shape literary studies.</p> <p>8.2. 1) A comprehensive understanding of research</p>	<p>MAEL 700</p> <p>MAEL 700 & 701</p>

LEVEL 7				
FHEQ Descriptors	Subject Benchmark(s)	Programme Aims	Programme Outcomes	Core Modules linked to outcomes
<p>techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;</p> <p>Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create an interpret knowledge in the discipline;</p> <p>Conceptual understanding that enables the student (a) to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline (b) to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and where appropriate to propose new hypotheses.</p>		<p>students with a range of cultural and philosophical formulations of 'modernity'</p> <p>2. Enable students to develop advanced research skills and techniques such as usage of appropriate specialist databases, and the deployment of appropriate research strategies</p> <p>3. Develop students' skills in appropriate and self-critical expression of original ideas, particularly through academic writing and presentations</p> <p>5. Help students to critically evaluate current research, advanced scholarship, and methodologies pertinent to the discipline</p> <p>9. Engage</p>	<p>techniques in literary studies, including archival research and interdisciplinary methodologies.</p> <p>8.2. 2) An ability to analyse complex texts and arguments in relation to relevant historical, theoretical and intellectual contexts.</p> <p>8.2.3) An ability to critically evaluate primary sources, advanced scholarship, and research methodologies.</p>	<p>MAEL 700 & 701</p> <p>MAEL 700 & 701</p>

LEVEL 7				
FHEQ Descriptors	Subject Benchmark(s)	Programme Aims	Programme Outcomes	Core Modules linked to outcomes
		students with debates and resources specific to scholarship of a range of historical eras in the 'long modern' period, and cultivate an awareness of the differences between them.		
<p>13.2 Students will be able to: Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;</p> <p>Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and</p>		<p>3. Develop students' skills in appropriate and self-critical expression of original ideas, particularly through academic writing and presentations</p> <p>7. Aid students in making creative and meaningful thematic connections between disparate texts</p> <p>8. Give students the opportunity to set their thematically based study alongside an awareness period specificities to enable them to calibrate these approaches</p> <p>4. Aid students in developing</p>	<p>8.3.2) Communicate ideas and knowledge clearly in more than one medium.</p> <p>8.3.3) Use a range of learning resources</p> <p>8.4. 2) Present complex ideas and information in a clear and accessible fashion to a mixed audience</p> <p>8.1. 2) An ability to confidently engage with a range of literatures from different historical periods and critical debates relevant to study in these periods.</p> <p>8.2.2) An ability to analyse complex texts and arguments in relation to relevant</p>	<p>MAEL 700 & 701</p> <p>MAEL 700 & 701</p> <p>MAEL 700 & 701</p>

LEVEL 7				
FHEQ Descriptors	Subject Benchmark(s)	Programme Aims	Programme Outcomes	Core Modules linked to outcomes
<p>solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;</p> <p>Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.</p>		<p>project management skills through their completion of a dissertation involving goal-setting and time management, as well as the production of high- quality work</p> <p>11. Enable students to gain confidence in encountering new materials, ideas and methodological challenges.</p>	<p>historical, theoretical and intellectual contexts.</p> <p>8.3. 1) Undertake sophisticated research with a minimum of guidance and work autonomously.</p> <p>8.3. 4) Approach unfamiliar materials and challenges creatively and analytically</p> <p>8.3. 5) Reflect critically and constructively on their own learning and practice</p>	
<p>13.3 Students will also have: The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; (c) the independent learning ability required for</p>		<p>2. Enable students to develop advanced research skills and techniques such as usage of appropriate specialist databases, and the deployment of appropriate research strategies</p> <p>3. Develop students' skills in appropriate and self-critical expression of</p>	<p>8.3. 1) Undertake sophisticated research with a minimum of guidance and work autonomously.</p> <p>8.4. 1) Exercise initiative and personal responsibility</p> <p>8.4. 3) Undertake independent research at a high level</p> <p>8.3. 6) Exercise sound judgment in selecting and applying</p>	MAEL 700 & 701

LEVEL 7				
FHEQ Descriptors	Subject Benchmark(s)	Programme Aims	Programme Outcomes	Core Modules linked to outcomes
continuing professional development.		original ideas, particularly through academic writing and presentations 4. Aid students in developing project management skills through their completion of a dissertation involving goal-setting, the exercise of critical judgment and time management, as well as the production of high- quality work 11. Enable students to gain confidence in encountering new materials, ideas and methodological challenges.	appropriate research methodologies 8.5.1) The ability to apply technical expertise to facilitate independent research using a range of academic tools, including digital tools.	