University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

School of Humanities and Performing Arts

Programme Specification

BA English (Single Honours)
BA English and Creative Writing (Single Honours)
BA English with History (Combined Honours)
BA English with/and French (Combined Honours)
BA English with/and Spanish (Combined Honours)


Approved by Minor Change 12th Nov 2014
| Final award title                          | BA English (Single Honours)  
|                                          | BA English and Creative Writing (Single Honours)  
|                                          | BA English with History (Combined Honours)  
|                                          | BA English with and French (Combined Honours)  
|                                          | BA English with and Spanish (Combined Honours)  
| Level                                    | 6  
| Intermediate award title(s)              | Certificate of Higher Education  
|                                          | Diploma of Higher Education  
| Level                                    | 4 and 5  
| Awarding institution                     | University of Plymouth  
| Teaching institution                     | Plymouth University  
| Accrediting body                         | N/A  
| Appropriate benchmark(s)                 | QAA English Subject Benchmark  
| UCAS code                                | Q300  

**Brief description of Programmes**

We aim to provide Single Honours programmes in English (and the listed Combined Honours programmes) and English and Creative Writing which equip students with tools of analysis and criticism, so that they become aware of the different methodological approaches to the subject, and develop an appreciation of the skills involved in close reading, writing (including creative writing) and research. We aim to teach students to research and construct their own arguments, orally in seminars and tutorials, and in the written format of essays and longer projects. We also aim to teach students the craft of creative writing and foster a self-reflective and rigorously analytical approach to creative practice. We do not aim to cover all periods of literary history (there is mandatory core of literary history that runs from 1580 to 1940 across all three stages for Single Honours and Major programmes), but are concerned rather that students become gradually equipped with the literary-critical skills required by the subject, which can subsequently be applied where necessary and appropriate.

Both Single Honours programmes provide opportunities for creative responses to literary texts and debate the issues involved in the cultural practices of reading and writing. We also endeavour to stimulate innovation informed by an awareness of historical and contemporary issues which
govern textual production. We want our students to become readers of the broader culture, an aim which impels the interdisciplinary nature of various modules which examine literary texts in conjunction with other cultural documents from a variety of other disciplines and media.

In order to fulfil these aims Stage One provides modules which consider the practice of reading and writing, modern theoretical issues, the methodologies involved in studying a particular periods of literary history, and some of the techniques of creative writing. Stage One modules also induct students into the study of the subject at degree level (e.g. essay writing, research skills) and encourage them to develop as self-reflective learners and to acquire key transferable skills. The knowledges and skills introduced in Stage One are then gradually developed and sophisticated in subsequent stages - though the emphasis will be governed by any particular student's choice of options, or prescribed programme pathway - in ways which allow the student increasing independence to pursue these approaches in greater complexity and depth. Students are therefore able to follow a wide range of interests and also to focus on specific areas in more detail. This process culminates in the production of a Stage Three research project, either critical or creative, by which, with the guidance of a supervisory tutor, the student is able to concentrate on a specific area of literary interest of their own choosing or a project of creative writing, and to deploy the skills accumulated throughout all the programme pathways.

### Distinctive features

**Subject staff**
The English and Creative Writing subject team produces internationally-recognised research and creative writing (10% at 4* in the last RAE). Students are taught by specialists who are making fresh contributions to their fields (which informs their teaching and module design), and have a generous range of options from which to choose in Stages Two and Three.

**Work-related experience**
There are curricular and extra-curricular, work-related activities provided by the subject (and the university more widely). Students can:

- Opt to study ENGL507, Working with Literature, our work-based learning module which offers students the opportunity of work experience in a profession of their choice or of devising an independent work-related project
- work on *Ink*, the University of Plymouth’s student literary magazine. This is devised, edited and contributed to by our students. Students will work in a team environment, managing a budget, attending editorial meetings, hitting deadlines. Students can further their literary interests
and develop their creative writing, but also pick up vital workplace skills. There is both a printed version and a web version.

- work with Peninsula Arts on its internship scheme. Here students work with other interns helping organize, promote and run public lecture series. Students will be involved in a large arts management organization.
- undertake internships with the Plymouth International Book Festival, gaining valuable experience in arts management, marketing and the book trade, and running workshops for the public.
- write for the Student Union newspaper, *The Knowledge*. Students can develop their writing talent and generate a portfolio of work.
- work with Plymouth Museum and Gallery on bespoke projects or on their Young Explainers Scheme or the M.B.A. gaining experience of archival research, transcription, curatorship, exhibitions, public speaking, writing, editing and design of print and on-line materials.

**Overseas Study**

Students may study overseas for a semester or a year through ISEP and Erasmus. The ECW department has bespoke exchange agreements with a number of additional U.S. universities.

**Peninsula Arts Public Lectures**

The English and Creative Writing subject brings internationally-renowned speakers and writers to campus each term to give public lectures, readings and lead workshops. Students have free entry (and can be involved in the process by means of the internship scheme).

**Resources**

There is a range of exciting facilities available to students:

- archival resources on campus and in the city for the study of book and periodical histories including online archives, the Rare Books Room, Cottonian Collection, MBA archives.
- TIS and the School of Humanities and Performing Arts fund a range of significant e-resources including online archives (e.g. Brotherton and Berg Collections); primary texts from the sixteenth century to the present (e.g. Early English Books Online (EEBO) and Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO); and databases of secondary materials (e.g. Scholarly Journals Online (JSTOR)).
- most teaching and learning spaces contain sophisticated av facilities and are networked. There are on-campus library and computing facilities open 24 hours a day, every day of the week. The University has its own cinema which is utilised by some modules on the subject’s programmes.
- A professional theatre and performing arts centre on campus, The
House.

**Dissertation**
In the final year students work with one tutor on an extended (10,000-word) research or creative writing project of their choosing and devising. Students will follow their interests and develop significantly as independent learners.

**Field trips**
Students can benefit from regional, national and international field trips across all three stages of the degree: to theatres, museums, galleries, and other sites of literary and cultural interest. Many trips are fully-funded by the department.

**City-Centre Campus**
The location in the city allows students a wide range of cultural experience with, for example, the Theatre Royal, the Barbican Theatre, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery. Students can take advantage in their spare time, but the subject also has links with organisations such as these in order to enhance the provision of extra-curricular, work-related learning.

### Entry requirements

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade C or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCAS Tariff points score</td>
<td>300 points including AS (with a B in English Literature/ Language)</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate</td>
<td>30 Points (including three subjects at higher level and English Language at A1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to H.E.</td>
<td>Pass with 33 Credits at Merit/or Distinction, English at level 3 required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BTEC/Scottish Higher National Certificate (HNC)</td>
<td>Overall Merit</td>
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<tr>
<td>BTEC/Scottish Higher National Diploma (HND)</td>
<td>Overall Merit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma (core plus options)</td>
<td>Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</td>
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(APEL) Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning and (APCL) Accreditation of Prior Credit Learning: This programme will comply with the standard policy
on Advanced Prior Experiential Learning and Advanced Prior Certified Learning as defined in the University of Plymouth Academic Regulations.  
http://www1.plymouth.ac.uk/extexam/Pages/Academic-Regulations.aspx

It should be noted that the admissions criteria listed above may be modified in order to respond to future recruitment and academic circumstances.

**Progression routes**

Students with the appropriate degree qualifications may progress to: MA English and Culture, MA Creative Writing, MA Publishing.

**Programme aims**

These programmes are intended to:

- foster an ability to criticise and evaluate different approaches to the critical study of literary texts and to develop an understanding of broader cultural, social, political and philosophical implications of literary texts and the scholarly criticism of those texts;

- cultivate an appreciation of how to read texts in different historical contexts;

- develop an understanding of literary modes and literary genres, and to generate an appropriate disciplinary critical vocabulary;

- develop transferable research skills (i.e. the ability to source, analyse, synthesize and evaluate relevant material and present it in the form of an argument), and to promote the ability to communicate an argument in a variety of forms (e.g. essay writing, oral and visual presentation);

- foster critical self-reflection and evaluation, independent learning and working as member of a team through appropriate learning experiences;

- develop an understanding of the expressive possibilities of different literary forms (e.g. poetry, drama, short story, novel), to cultivate the performance of critical analysis through creative practice, and to foster the ability to reflect on creative practice (NB – this aim applies to all Single Honours students in Stage One as there is a mandatory creative writing element. In Stages Two and Three the creative writing
component is mandatory only for Single Honours English and Creative Writing students (in this programme 120 credits must be achieved in creative writing modules across Stages Two and Three. BA English and all combinations do not have this requirement, though students can opt to take creative writing modules, subject to their availability).

**Intended programme learning outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for participants to develop and demonstrate the general outcomes listed below. The learning outcomes are referenced to Level Descriptors (SEEC, 2010) and adapted for the discipline. These will be contextualised within each participant’s coursework.

By the end of the programme, participants will be expected to:

**Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate a detailed and sophisticated grasp of how texts relate to their historical and publishing contexts and can begin to negotiate with confidence debates, controversy and contradictions;
- analyse and critically appraise and evaluate primary literary texts, secondary texts and theoretical texts;
- demonstrate an advanced awareness of a range of contexts (historical, political, cultural and philosophical) and how they operate to produce literary and other texts;
- use theoretical perspectives in order to interrogate literary texts;
- demonstrate in-depth understanding of a specialist area

**Cognitive and intellectual skills**

- synthesise and critically evaluate information and present it in the form of a clear and coherent argument in a variety of forms
- discriminate between and evaluate divergent opinions
- challenge critical opinion and clearly articulate their own position in relation to it
- apply knowledge gained in one area of the syllabus to other areas without prompting or guidance
- achieve a project through creative deployment of conceptual and critical skills

**Key and transferable skills**

- manage their own learning using appropriate resources with minimum guidance
- deploy knowledge and skills in English in a range of different and unfamiliar
contexts to solve conceptual and practical problems

- seek and make use of feedback and demonstrate good self-evaluation skills
- communicate effectively within a group and in range of contexts, academic and professional

**Employment related skills**

- assume personal responsibility for their professional and workplace behaviours, and conduct themselves appropriately
- evaluate their own strengths and weakness, confidently challenge received opinion and develop own criteria and judgement
- select and manage information, competently undertaking independent projects with minimum guidance

**Practical skills**

- deploy information technology skills broadly understood and the ability to access, work and evaluate electronic resources (such as hypertexts, e-publishing, blogs and wikis)
- exercise time management and organization skills as shown by the ability to plan and present conclusions effectively
- communicate effectively in oral and written forms
## Programme structure and pathways

### STAGE ONE BA (Hons) English (all combinations) and BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing – 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL400</td>
<td>Induction module: Journeys into Literature: the <em>Odyssey</em> and Beyond</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL402</td>
<td>Writing the Modern World 1600-1700</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>ENGL401</td>
<td>The Craft of Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL405PP</td>
<td>Plymouth Plus Options for all English students or 20 credits Making Waves</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL403</td>
<td>Writing the Modern World 1700-1800</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL404</td>
<td>Critical Theory</td>
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### Single Honours English/English and Creative Writing – all 120 credits as shown above

Including Plymouth Plus options: Making Waves or Thinking about Becoming a Teacher or Modern Languages or Our Ocean Planet or Re-making History

### English Major

ENGL400 Induction module; ENGL402 Writing the Modern World 1600-1700; Plymouth Plus options as above; ENGL404 Critical Theory.

40 credits taken in the minor subject:
- English with History: History minors take HIST406 and HIST405
- English with French: FREX400 and LCS101
- English with Spanish: SPNX400 and LCS101 or Fast Track Spanish: SFTA1 and SFTB1

### English Minor

Autumn term: ENGL402 Writing the Modern World 1600-1700 and

Spring term: ENGL404 Critical Theory.

80 credits are taken in the Major subject.
STAGE TWO BA (Hons) English (all combinations) and BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing –

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<tr>
<th>S1</th>
<th>ENGL501 20 Credits Romanticism</th>
<th>ENGL502 20 Credits Gothic Fictions</th>
<th>ENGL503 20 Credits Dramatic Writing</th>
<th>ENGL504 20 Credits Graphic Novel</th>
<th>ENGL505 20 Credits Rakes, Rascals &amp; Rudeness</th>
<th>ENGL513 20 credits World Literatures</th>
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<tr>
<th>S2</th>
<th>ENGL506 20 Credits Victorian Literature &amp; Culture</th>
<th>ENGL512 20 Credits Literature and History</th>
<th>ENGL508 20 Credits Fourth Genre: Creative Nonfiction into the 21st Century</th>
<th>ENGL509 20 Credits Women and Romanticism</th>
<th>ENGL510 20 Credits Shakespeare and the Early Modern Stage</th>
<th>ENGL507 20 credits Working with Literature</th>
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**Single Honours**

English - Core modules ENGL501 and ENGL506. Another 40 credits chosen in each semester

English and Creative Writing – Core modules ENGL501, ENGL506, ENGL503 and ENGL508. Another 20 credits in each semester.

**Majors**

Core modules ENGL501 and ENGL506. Another 20 credits chosen from each semester.

An additional 40 credits in the Minor subject.

English with History: Option HIST506 or HIST507 in S1, HIST509 or HIST510 in S2

English with French: FEX500 and LCS200

English with Spanish: SPNX500 and LCS200 or Fast Track Spanish: SFTA2 and SFTB2

**Minor**

Core modules – ENGL501 and ENGL506. 80 credits from Major subject.
### STAGE THREE BA (Hons) English (all combinations) and BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing – 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S1</th>
<th>ENGL601 40 Credits Project in Critical Writing</th>
<th>ENGL602 40 Credits Project in Creative Writing</th>
<th>ENGL603 20 Credits Modernism</th>
<th>ENGL605 20 Credits Criticism and Culture</th>
<th>ENGL606 20 Credits The Short Story</th>
<th>ENGL604 20 Credits The World Turned Upside Down</th>
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<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>ENGL609 20 Credits Contemporary Poetry</td>
<td>ENGL611 20 Credits Laughing Matters</td>
<td>ENGL608 20 Credits American Crime Writing</td>
<td>ENGL610 20 Credits Reading Jane Austen Then and Now</td>
<td>ENGL614 Mixed Media Writing</td>
<td>ENGL613 Literature of Environmental Crisis</td>
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**Single Honours**

English: Core modules ENGL603 AND EITHER ENGL601 OR ENGL602. Another 20 credits chosen in semester 1 and 20 credits in spring semester

English and Creative Writing: Core modules ENGL603, ENGL602, ENGL606 and ENGL609. Another 20 credits chosen in the spring semester (ecl ENGL614).

**Majors**

Core modules ENGL603 AND EITHER ENGL601 OR ENGL602. Another 20 credits chosen in the spring semester

Remaining 40 credits from the Minor subject.

English with History: Option HIST607 or HIST608 in S1. HIST609 or HIST613 in S2.

English with French: Option FREX600 or FREX700. LCS300 core

English with Spanish: Option SPNX600 or SPNX700. LCS300 core

**Minor**

Core modules – ENGL605 and ENGL607.

80 credits from the Major subject

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The English provision has the following additional modules in stages 2 and 3 approved which may form options in any academic year: 514 Representing Gender; 515 Literary Adaptation; 612 Contemporary Fiction and Literature
Appendix:
Mapping of intended programme learning outcomes
Mapping document showing intended programme outcomes at each level of the award linked to the SEEC level descriptors (2010), the FHEQ, subject benchmarks and the core modules where these are primarily demonstrated. This is needed for approval and programme modifications, but is not normally included in the programme specification itself.

Date of production: 7 November 2014
Date of most recent approval: 26th November 2009
By (e.g. Approval Panel/ Faculty Board): 29th April 2010