# Literatures and cultures

across time and space.
Postgraduate studies in English





## Introducing English at Southampton



If you come to study for a masters or doctoral degree in English at the University of Southampton, you will be taught by enthusiastic people who are leaders in their fields of research, passionate about imparting their skills and knowledge, and committed to maintaining a friendly, collegial atmosphere.

English at Southampton includes Creative Writing, and covers global literatures in English from the medieval

to the present day. Our staff have expertise in textual editing, book history, travel literature, drama, film and TV, literature and law, literature and science, and literature and education (see <a href="www.southampton.ac.uk/english/about/staff">www.southampton.ac.uk/english/about/staff</a>). Current and recent funded projects range from theatre history to digital mapping. With regular visiting speakers at our various research seminar programmes, including well-known writers, this is a stimulating place for postgraduate study.

The MA or MRes in English Literary Studies will allow you to build your course according to your own interests from among the wide-ranging variety of modules offered, and will help you identify and refine a topic for your dissertation. Our other masters degrees are linked to our various research centres (see pages 8 and 9), and allow you to develop more specialist knowledge and skills in a particular period. All our masters courses provide an excellent foundation in research, and transferable skills.

When it comes to writing a proposal for doctoral study, we'll be happy to advise you. Once accepted, and if your project demands it, we can assemble an interdisciplinary team of specialist supervisors. We will help you access a range of personal development experiences and, where appropriate, will support and mentor you in your first steps in teaching, enabling you to forge a successful career, whether inside or outside academia.

Professor Ros King FEA | Head of English



"The English department is really friendly, helpful and passionate about their fields of interest. As a course rep last year I was a part of board of school meetings where it became clear how focused the staff are in constantly improving English and tackling problems that arise. You always feel that there is someone you can talk to if you have any questions, and tutors are always prompt in replying to emails! The range of MA English courses is impressive, and the creative writing course is ideal."

 $\label{to see what our other students} Visit \ www.southampton.ac.uk/english/postgraduate/our\_students\\ \ to see what our other students have to say.$ 

Thomas Wallace | BA English, MA Creative Writing





English at Southampton covers all periods from the early mediaeval to the present day, and includes Creative Writing, and Film and TV studies. As part of the Faculty of Humanities, which also includes Archaeology, Film, History, Modern Languages, Music, and Philosophy, we present our postgraduate students with a wealth of opportunities for inter-disciplinary study.

Every year, we receive applications from students with a wide range of motivations and interests. Some have recently graduated and seek intellectual stimulation to complement their job, while others are looking to change career direction or wish to explore a new area of knowledge after a career. Whatever your situation, you will find postgraduate study an enriching experience.

Many postgraduate students study on a part time basis so they can successfully balance home life with study, and continue in employment.

We offer a number of alternative study routes at masters level through a portfolio of taught programmes including Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Research (MRes). We also offer an international distance learning programme for international students who wish to study for their PhD in their home country.

Typically, you can expect to spend up to four years studying for your PhD on a full time basis or up to seven years if you choose to study part time. When you begin your research you will be supported by your supervisor, who will help you develop your personal knowledge within your chosen research area. As you progress, you will begin to make an independent contribution to knowledge. After two years full time study you will usually have completed the requirements for the MPhil and you will make the transfer to your PhD.

#### The Graduate School

When you join us to study English you will become a member of the Humanities Graduate School.

The Graduate School provides you with additional help and support during the course of your studies. We have a broad focus, providing not only essential skills training and development, but also pastoral support, connections to funding opportunities, student-led activities and a social network.

We are particularly proud of our doctoral training programme. We offer PhD students an opportunity to take part in our Skills Development Training Programme to enhance their research experience, life skills and

employability. Now in its sixth year, the programme meets all of the Research Councils' criteria for training provision, and is delivered face-to-face and online.

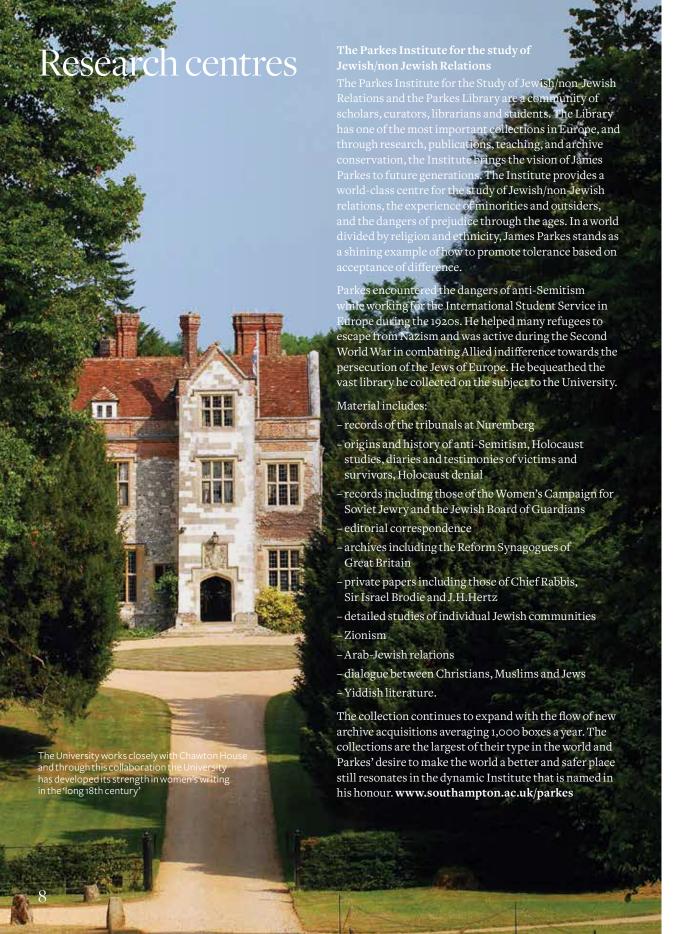
You can undertake as many sessions as you like, and concentrate on developing the skills that are important to you. You can learn how to plan your research project; raise funding; give a research paper; organise a conference to present your research; and turn your thesis into a book.

Our Graduate School encompasses a variety of student-led activities including regular social gatherings, a seminar series and a number of reading groups focusing on research areas across our seven disciplines. The highlight of the year for the Graduate School is the student-led annual conference that gives all postgraduates the chance to present their work to peers and staff. We also invite paper and poster submissions from students at other institutions, so you have an opportunity to network with others in your field. The best papers from the conference are published in our peer-reviewed Graduate School journal, *Emergence*.

Our postgraduate students are invited to attend weekly term-time seminars arranged by our Research Centres, academic disciplines and cross-disciplinary research groups. These events provide an invaluable opportunity to find out about other areas of study within Humanities.

We encourage you to be an active member of our Graduate School, making your own contribution to our development. You will be regarded as a researcher in your own right and we expect you to apply for funding to run your own seminars, workshops and conferences; to take research trips when possible; and to attend relevant conferences in your area of interest. Your contribution is likely to be featured on our website and be included in our annual Graduate School newsletter which is written, edited and published by our students.

www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/graduate\_school



#### Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Culture

The Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Culture offers you a unique opportunity to study the intellectual history, literature, politics, music, material culture, buildings, and landscape of the Medieval and Renaissance periods. We offer wide and varied opportunities for doctoral research and two masters programmes: the MA in Medieval and Renaissance Culture; and for those who already have a clear idea of their dissertation topic, an MRes in Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

The Centre reflects the research interests of more than twenty members of staff across the various disciplines within Humanities who work in the period between antiquity and 1700. We work in diverse and complementary ways in the histories of Europe and the wider world from the early Middle Ages to the end of the 17th century. Many of us are involved in providing the raw materials for research through the preparation of scholarly editions of archival material, plays, and music. We have particular research strengths in church history, poetry and song, early theatre, literature and politics, and material culture. We develop our research through interdisciplinary thematic study days, recent examples of which include 'monasticism', 'the house', and 'law and culture', and invite visiting speakers to our lively fortnightly research seminar series. We regularly mount national and international conferences, some of which have been devised and led by our own postgraduate students.

#### **Centre for Contemporary Writing**

The Centre for Contemporary Writing brings together academics, students, writers and poets interested in the relationship between contemporary culture and contemporary writing. Our particular areas of expertise include 20th century poetry and fiction; postcolonial and diasporic writing; the contemporary avant-garde; women's writing; and literature and science. Recent publications from staff associated with the Centre include Clare Hanson's A Cultural History of Pregnancy, Peter Middleton's Distant Reading, Stephen Morton's Salman Rushdie and Nicky Marsh's Money, Speculation and Finance.

We also work closely with a range of contemporary creative writers and host a constant rota of visiting academics, writers and writers-in-residence. In the past few years we have held events focusing on experimentation and politics, terror and migration, the sacred and the secular, and local cosmopolitanisms.

Visiting writers include: Charles Bernstein, Rachel Blau Du Plessis, Erna Brodber, Michael Davidson, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Rana Dasgupta, Amitav Ghosh, Carla Harryman, Alicia Ostriker, Maggie O'Sullivan and many others.

### Southampton Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies

Southampton Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies brings together specialists from English, History, Music, Modern Languages and Philosophy with a research interest in 18th century studies. We work in close collaboration with Chawton House Library, set in the home and working estate of Jane Austen's brother, which has a unique collection of books on women's writings from 1600-1830. The Centre offers wide and varied opportunities for doctoral research and an MA in Eighteenth-Century Studies. In partnership with Chawton House Library, we also run a series of evening lectures, research seminars, colloquia, and conferences on the long 18th century.

Members of the Centre have expertise in areas such as Jane Austen; gender theory; women's writing; Gothic literature; 18th century fiction; aesthetics; Anglo-French female literary works; performance practice and musicology; slavery and abolition in the Atlantic world; gardens; education; 18th century soundscapes; crime and criminality; and writing for children. Many of us are also involved in editorial projects, among them the Chawton House Library Series, published by Pickering & Chatto. We are also engaged in a number of Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded projects based on illustrated novels, and music rooms and musical practice in the British country house 1780-1860. Our research continues to develop through regular study days and colloquia on topics such as gardens and cross-channel exchanges.

www.southampton.ac.uk/english/research/centres



"Studying for a PhD at Southampton gave me the opportunity to work closely with a number of experts on the Medieval and Renaissance periods, not only in English, but also across different disciplines. There is a real sense of community between researchers across disciplines and the individual support that I received throughout my PhD, both on academic and personal levels could not have been better."

Visit www.southampton.ac.uk/english/alumni/our\_alumni to see what our other alumni have to say.

**Dr Louise Rayment** | PhD English alumna | Visiting Fellow at the University of Southampton

# The University of Southampton The University is a member of the prestigious Russell Group of 20 major UK research universities and is a top 15 UK research university with a global reputation for leading-edge research and innovation.

#### World-class reputation

The University of Southampton was established in 1952, and since then it has continued to grow and flourish. We now have over 22,000 students including more than 5,700 postgraduates and approximately 5,000 international students from 130 countries. Furthermore, we are ranked in the top 75 universities in the world according to the most recent QS World Rankings.

In the latest assessment by the Quality Assurance Agency, which monitors the standards for teaching in the UK, we were awarded the highest level of achievement for the standard of our educational provision.

#### Outstanding facilities

English students have access to some of the best facilities in the country, which over the last four years have received more than £200 million of investment.

The Hartley Library on the Highfield Campus is one of the leading research libraries in the UK and recently underwent a £12 million extension and refurbishment.

Facilities include a state-of-the-art learning centre with consultation rooms, 'walk in' internet access, a language study area, a popular café and a lounge for more relaxed study. Additionally, it houses specialist collections including the Broadland Archives, the papers of the Duke of Wellington, world renowned collections relating to Jewish history and culture, and the Ford Collection of British Parliamentary Publications.

Three of the south of England's leading arts venues are located on the Highfield Campus: the Nuffield Theatre, Turner Sims Concert Hall and John Hansard Art Gallery. There are also branches of the major high street banks, a bookshop, post office, a choice of cafés and restaurants, a convenience store, travel centre, and a day nursery for children on campus. Postgraduate students also enjoy the facilities of the Staff Social Centre on site.

The £8.5 million Jubilee Sports Centre on the Highfield Campus has swimming, badminton, squash and fitness facilities. In addition, our £4.3 million outdoor sports facilities include tennis courts and synthetic and grass pitches.

The Students' Union, known as SUSU, is one of the leading students' unions in the country. Run by students for students, they are vocal on political matters and a number of ex-SUSU presidents have gone on to have political careers, with several of them currently serving as MPs. The recently refurbished Union building offers a range of places to eat great food, listen to live music, see the latest films, and get information and advice.

A few minutes' walk from Highfield is Avenue Campus, which houses most disciplines within Humanities and the Centre for Language Study. With its welcoming atmosphere, Avenue is a self-contained campus with its own library, lecture theatres, focused postgraduate study spaces and catering amenities.

For more information on our facilities please visit www.southampton.ac.uk/english/postgraduate/study/facilities

#### **Excellent accommodation**

Our 20 halls of residence vary in size, character and facilities, but all provide the same high-quality accommodation in a safe, diverse, inclusive environment. We have accommodation specifically for postgraduates, from standard packages to self-catered studio flats. We can also give you help and advice on securing private rented accommodation. Accommodation in a University hall of residence is guaranteed (subject to terms and conditions) to all international postgraduate students without dependents, outside the EU, for the first year of their programme. Please see our website for further details: www.southampton.ac.uk/accommodation

Highfield Campus, just 10 minutes walk from Avenue Campus, offers some of the best facilities in the country

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## Southampton and the south coast

Southampton is a thriving modern city steeped in history and culture. Just over an hour south of central London, Southampton also has excellent transport links with the rest of the UK and Europe.

#### A connected city

Situated on the south coast of England in the county of Hampshire, Southampton boasts excellent transport links with the rest of the UK and internationally by road, rail, sea and air. The city is serviced by two mainline train stations with direct trains to London Waterloo and within easy reach of the Eurostar at St Pancras International. An international airport offers regular flights to UK and major European destinations and the University's own award-winning Uni-link bus service connects all Southampton campuses, halls of residence, the City Centre, airport and both railway stations.

More locally, the nearby towns and cities of Bournemouth, Poole, Winchester and Portsmouth offer a wealth of cultural and leisure attractions for any visitor. Bournemouth and Poole's award-winning Blue Flag beaches are just down the coast, and Winchester, once the country's capital city is perhaps best known for its 11th century cathedral and the Great Hall, which houses the mysterious Round Table of King Arthur. Portsmouth is 20 miles to the east of Southampton and home to historic ships including Lord Nelson's flagship HMS Victory, and Henry VIII's Mary Rose. The Isle of Wight is England's largest island and is located just off the Hampshire coast. It is easily accessible, and each summer hosts Cowes Week, the world's largest and most prestigious international sailing regatta.

#### A historic city

Once the home to the writer Jane Austen, Southampton also has a fascinating maritime and aviation history. It was from here, in 1415 that Henry V set sail for Agincourt, the Pilgrim Fathers began their historic journey to the New World in 1620 and the ill-fated Titanic departed on its maiden voyage in 1912. The Spitfire, the fighter aircraft that won the Battle of Britain, was developed in the region in the 1930s. And it was here in Southampton that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and US President Eisenhower planned the D-Day landings during World War II. Southampton is also known for having the longest surviving run of medieval walls in England.

Less than half an hour from Southampton is the New Forest National Park, with vast open heathland and beautiful forest. Created by William the Conqueror in 1079 as a royal hunting area, it is now a unique area of historical, ecological and agricultural significance. Today the forest retains many historical rural practices, such as pasteurising of ponies, cattle, pigs and donkeys in the open forest by local inhabitants.

#### A modern city

Today Southampton is a truly multicultural city and is home to one of Europe's largest commercial ports, which handles in excess of 42 million tonnes of cargo annually. It is also the cruise capital of northern Europe and is renowned across the world as the home of the giant cruise liners, Queen Mary 2 and Queen Victoria. The city's coastal location means it offers a vast range of opportunities for sport and leisure, with waterfront marinas and a focus on water sports and sailing.

Southampton is also home to West Quay, one of the south coast's best shopping centres, as well as a superb array of entertainment venues that cater for all tastes including the ever popular Oxford Street with its seemingly endless choice of good quality restaurants.

The city's five Grade II listed central parks together with its huge 326 acre common make it the greenest city in the south of England. Throughout the year an abundance of events are arranged for the general public including guided walks, arts in the park, live music and a Thai food festival to name but a few.

Southampton is packed with exciting places to go. So whether you want to see the latest blockbuster film, visit an award-winning art gallery or fancy a night at the theatre, then Southampton is the city for you.

Southampton has a rich maritime heritage so it is unsurprising that today there is growing interest in water sports, sailing and ocean racing. For more information and a short video please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/visitus/cityandregion



## How to apply

#### **Entry requirements**

We accept recognised qualifications from a wide range of UK and international universities.

Typical entry requirements for our masters programmes are a strong first degree. For further information: www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught\_courses/our\_courses

Applicants for our research degrees will be required to demonstrate a previous strong performance on a masters degree. For further information:

www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/research\_degrees/courses

#### **International Students**

Our dedicated International Office aims to make the process of joining the University as simple as possible, and is there to help you with any initial queries you may have before you make the decision to apply to Southampton. Staff members travel overseas throughout the year to meet with many of our potential students and are assisted by official University representatives in a wide variety of countries. For more information on the support services available to international students, both before and after arriving at Southampton please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/international

#### English language

If English is not your first language, you will need to have already achieved a satisfactory standard in an approved test in English, such as IELTS, typically at grade 6.5 or above, by the time you start your course. You may choose to complete one of our pre-sessional English language courses, which provide excellent academic preparation for study at Southampton.

www.southampton.ac.uk/cls

#### Fees and funding

Tuition fees vary according to the type of programme you choose. Fees charged to full time students include the full cost of tuition, examinations, Students' Union membership and research support expenses (where applicable). For further information visit: <a href="https://www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding">www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding</a>

#### Up to £1Million of scholarships and funding available

Humanities offers up to £1 million in awards to postgraduate students every year. Our awards are open to all students intending to study at masters or doctoral level including UK, EU and International applicants. The awards available vary from year to year and range from studentships from £1,000 to full scholarships that cover tuition fees at the UK/EU rate. For up to date information on funding opportunities available for all Humanities disciplines, please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/money\_matters

#### More information

For an up to date list of English masters programmes available, along with detailed course descriptions please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught\_courses/our\_courses

For detailed information on English research degrees please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/research\_degrees/courses

If you have any questions regarding the application process please feel free to contact us:
Email: pgapply.fh@southampton.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 23 8059 8062
www.southampton.ac.uk/english

"When looking into which university I wanted to attend, I realised that in addition to its excellent ratings in both teaching and research, Southampton offers an English degree that is very 'adventurous.' The interdisciplinary nature of the programme was one of the reasons I choose the English degree. As a postgraduate student, I enjoy having a bit more flexibility in how I study, and I especially enjoy the independence I'm given to explore different avenues in my research." To see Denise's video report on her experience at Southampton and those of or other students visit www.youtube.com/efg78944h.

Denise Greenfield | PhD English



Relevant web links are shown throughout the Humanities Postgraduate Prospectus.

Please also consult: www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities online for further details and/or any changes which have appeared since first publication of the Humanities Postgraduate Prospectus

#### Disclaimer

The University of Southampton will use all reasonable efforts to deliver advertised programmes and other services and facilities in accordance with the descriptions set out in its prospectuses, student handbooks, welcome guides and website. It will provide students with the tuition, learning support, services and facilities so described with reasonable care and skill.

The University, therefore, reserves the right if it considers it to be necessary to alter the timetable, location, content or method of delivery of events provided such alterations are reasonable

#### Financial or other losses

The University will not be held liable for any direct or indirect financial or other losses or damage arising from changes made to the event timetable, location, content or method of delivery of various services and facilities set out herein.

#### Force majeure

The University will not be held liable for any loss, damage or expense resulting from any delay, variation or failure in the provision of services and facilities set out herein, arising from circumstances beyond the University's reasonable control, including (but not limited to) war or threat of war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, interruption in power supplies or other services for any reason, fire, boycott and telecommunications failure.

In the event that such circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the University arise, it will use all reasonable endeavours to minimise disruption as far as it is practical to do so.

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This information can be made available, on request, in alternative formats such as electronic, large print, Braille or audio tape, and in some cases, other languages. Please call +44 (0)23 8059 7726 to request an alternative format.

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# English masters programmes

Our masters courses are a product of the broad and contemporary interests of our academic research community. The subjects you will study reflect developments in current thinking and will expose you to research outputs and achievements influencing thought across the academic world.

We offer a variety of masters programmes that are suited to both students who simply wish to extend their understanding of the subject beyond undergraduate level, and those who intend to continue on to a research degree.

- MA Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature
- MA Creative Writing
- MA Eighteenth Century Studies
- MA English Literary Studies
- MRes English Literary Studies
- MA Medieval and Renaissance Culture
- MRes Medieval and Renaissance Studie

#### **Further information**

For more detailed information on our English masters programmes please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/taught\_courses

## English research interests

We offer a broad and imaginative programme with an interdisciplinary emphasis, drawing on the most recent developments in literary studies. We cover the full range of English literature, with particular strengths in the following:

- Book history

- Children's literature

- Contemporary writing

- Creative writing

– Eighteenth century studies

- Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama

- Fantasy literature

- Garden history

- Gothic literature

- Historical mapping

- History of cinema

– Jane Austen

– Literary theory

– Literature and financial markets

- Literature and landscapes

- Literature and politics

- Literature and science

– Medieval drama

- Modernism

- Poetry and music

- Poetry and poetics

- Popular culture

– Post-colonialism

- Ritual and ceremony

- Romanticism

- Shakespeare

- Travel writing

- Victorian studies

- Women's writing

You will be supervised by one of our research active scholars and work in a broad and rewarding academic community allowing you to develop your skills, knowledge and capabilities as an active researcher.

#### **Further information**

For detailed information on our English MPhil or PhD programmes please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/research\_degrees

www.southampton.ac.uk/english UK and EU enquiries: pgapply.fh@southampton.ac.uk +44(0) 23 8059 8062

International (non-EU) enquiries: global@southampton.ac.uk +44 (0)23 8059 9699





