



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

2026

Undergraduate programmes in

English

With academic  
direction from:

**Goldsmiths**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

[london.ac.uk/english](https://london.ac.uk/english)  
World class. Worldwide.

# Join the World Class

## 1 Quality of learning

Our English programmes are developed by Goldsmiths, a renowned institution ranked among the world's top 150 for English Language and Literature (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026).

## 2 Career opportunities

Enhance your research, problem-solving and analytical skills with a prestigious University of London degree that will provide a sound basis for a broad range of careers, from the Civil Service; teaching and research; advertising and marketing; to journalism, radio and television; commerce and business.

## 3 Access a wealth of resources

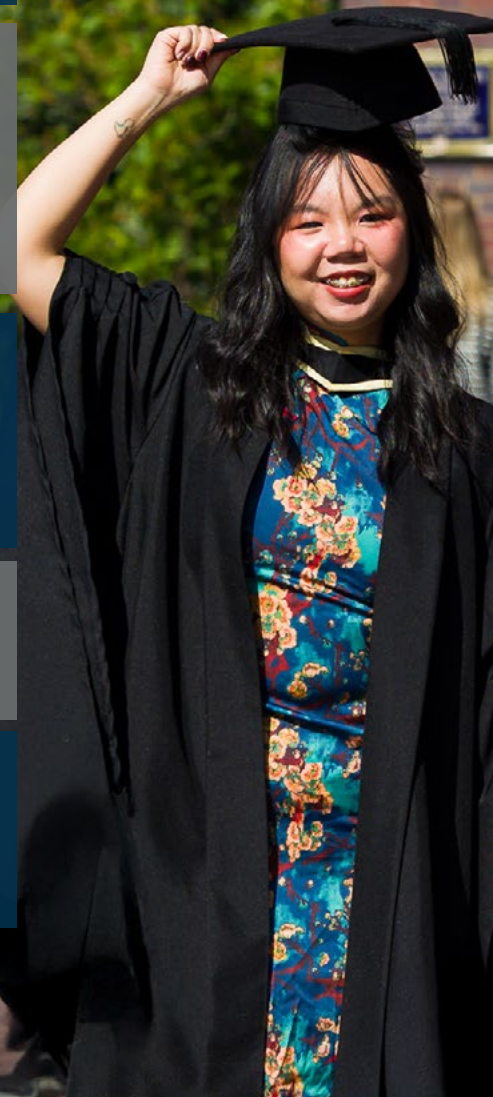
Delve into the literary canon and enrich your learning experience with our online resources, including a fully supported Virtual Learning Environment and an Online Library with millions of academic publications for you to explore.

## 4 Study without relocating

Fit your studies around your work and your personal commitments. Study wherever you live and at a time that suits you.

## 5 Join a diverse global community

Become part of our global network of around 40,000 learners in over 190 countries and gain access to an extensive programme of events and engagement opportunities.





CITY OF LONDON

# Your prestigious University of London qualification

The background of the page is a photograph of a library. It shows several rows of bookshelves filled with books. The spines of the books are mostly red and brown. In the foreground, the back of a person wearing a blue denim jacket is visible, sitting at a wooden desk and reading a book. The lighting is warm and focused on the books.

## About your qualification

When you graduate with a degree, diploma or certificate from the University of London you will receive two important documents – your Final Diploma (the parchment you receive on graduation) and a Diploma Supplement.

## The Final Diploma

- Indicates that you were registered with the University of London and awarded a University of London degree, diploma or certificate.
- Gives the name of the University of London federation member that developed the syllabus and provided assessment.
- Features the University of London crest and the Vice-Chancellor's signature.

## The Diploma Supplement

- Describes the nature, level and content of the programme you successfully completed.
- Includes the transcript of modules taken, marks achieved and overall classification.
- States the method of study.



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## Key dates

Application deadline:  
Mid September 2026

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Registration deadline:  
Early October 2026

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Programme starts:  
November 2026

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All dates are correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change. Please visit the programme web page for the most up-to-date information.

# Academic leadership behind your degree



## Dr Carole Maddern

Acting Programme Director

Ongoing deputy  
Programme Director

The widening of access to high-quality university education, through online and distance learning, is an area of special interest to me.

It has been my pleasure to be part of the University of London English programme for many years, in a number of roles. Currently, I enjoy tutoring on the programme in my specialisms, medieval and early modern literature. I also run the Learning Support Forum, a dedicated space for students to practise and develop vital skills, such as effective note taking, essay writing and referencing. I have found our students to be impressive in their commitment and conscientiousness. Nothing is more rewarding than

watching students' progress and being on the stage for the final graduation ceremonies. Studying with us is an exciting, challenging journey which can transform lives.

## English at Goldsmiths

Goldsmiths brings creative and unconventional approaches to its teaching. Graduates of the University include the likes of Damien Hirst, Steve McQueen and the artist Lucian Freud.

The Department of English and Creative Writing draws on the energies and high standards of its academics, who combine a core of modern specialisms with coverage of literature down the centuries.

In addition to being a research powerhouse, the team is internationally renowned for its distinctive attitude to learning which encourages students to explore ideas, challenge boundaries, investigate fresh ways of thinking,





and stretch their minds intellectually and creatively. The department is ranked among the world's top 150 for English Language and Literature (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026) and runs the Goldsmiths Prize, a prestigious literary award that recognises and nurtures innovation.

The English programme, which has been developed by Goldsmiths, covers a broad chronology, and offers interdisciplinary options with fields including linguistics, media, and gender studies. Popular courses such as 'Postcolonial Literatures in English' and 'American Literature' reflect exciting new approaches to English studies.

By studying this programme, you will:

- expand your knowledge and understanding of cultural, historical and regional evolutions or continuities of literatures in English
- foster an awareness of a range of differing contextual approaches to the subject
- develop an understanding of the diverse and sometimes conflicting ways in which literary texts have been interpreted and are being reinterpreted
- promote analytical, creative and imaginative engagement with the complexities of literary and non-literary discourses

- stimulate appreciation of genre and literary forms and conventions
- encourage self-development into professionally organised and interactive individuals by practising skills of selection, assimilation and communication in the written domain.

## A trusted name in global education

Founded in 1836, the University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK and is internationally regarded as a centre of academic excellence. The University of London educates around 40,000 distance learners annually in 190 countries.

# How you study

## Independent study

Distance learning offers you the flexibility to balance your studies with your existing commitments. For the BA English, we supply learning materials which are specially designed for independent study. You will also have access to a significant range of online resources, including a fully supported Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and Online Library.

## Study materials

We provide the core study materials you need to complete the programme. These include a programme handbook of practical information (such as how to enter exams), subject guides for each course you choose, and past exam papers and commentaries, which give you valuable tips for performing well in exams.

## Online support

When you register, we will give you access to your Student Portal. You can then access your University of London email account and other key resources, including:

- the VLE, where you can preview and download subject guides, supplementary materials, past examination papers, reading lists, and additional material, as well



as interact with tutors and other students in discussion groups and confidentially submit formative assessments

- the Online Library, which provides access to over 100 million academic electronic items comprising E-books, E-journals, conference proceedings, and more. In addition, students can request items which are not held in the library via its Inter-Library loans service with the British Library
- Senate House Library, which provides free reference access for all registered distance and flexible learning students.

## Tutor groups

When you begin your studies, you will be assigned a tutor group for each Level 4 course. The tutor provides monthly online discussion forums – including some webinars – that run over the course of five months.

For Levels 5 and 6, you receive a more flexible pattern of support to suit your interests.

You'll be able to participate in subject-specific e-seminars and submit up to four practice essays per year for feedback.

## Course convenors

Each course is overseen by a course convenor who is available to answer course-specific queries online via the 'Ask the Convenor' section on the course VLE page.

## Learning Support Forum

A dedicated space offering academic support to all students.

This covers all aspects of studying and learning, including such issues as:

- the practicalities of independent study
- effective techniques for learning
- how best to use resources
- developing a range of study skills
- how to practise essay writing
- revision and exam preparation.

## Student support

We are committed to delivering an exceptional student experience for all students, regardless of which programme you are studying and whether you are studying independently or with a Recognised Teaching Centre.

You will have access to support through:

- the Student Advice Centre for help with application and Student Portal queries
- TalkCampus for a safe and confidential way to talk about whatever is on your mind at any time of day or night.

## Assessment

All courses are assessed by an unseen written exam (except 'Introduction to Creative and Life Writing' and 'Advanced Creative and Life Writing' (which are assessed by coursework). You also submit a formative piece of work for all Level 4 English courses.

Exams are held in May each year. You can sit these when you are ready at one of our 400 examination centres. A fee is payable to your local centre for hosting the exams.

## Programme structure

### Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English

The BA English degree consists of 12 full courses: four Level 4 courses plus four Level 5 courses plus four Level 6 courses.

### Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) in English

The DipHE English consists of eight full courses: four Level 4 courses plus four Level 5 courses.

### Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in English

The CertHE English consists of four Level 4 courses.

## Short Courses

Students are allowed to study up to three full courses on a standalone basis without being registered for any qualification. These include Explorations in Literature, Approaches to Text, Renaissance Comedy: Shakespeare and Jonson and others.



**Maria Carmen Olle**  
BA English, Hong Kong

'The most rewarding part for me was completing my BA English degree as I turned 60, with a great result. I had been out of formal schooling for about 40 years and embarking on a higher education journey seemed unachievable. The experience of studying authors from different periods and taking the course modules, particularly creative writing, inspired and gave me the courage to actually write in different genres.'

# Modules available to study

## Level 4

### Two compulsory courses (all students):

#### Explorations in Literature

Delve deep into the canon, from ancient Greek texts in translation to the contemporary, learning about the major literary genres and influences in literary history. The emphasis is on reading primary texts voraciously and discovering diverse writers and cultures.

#### Approaches to Text

This course introduces concepts in modern literary study, enabling you to become a perceptive and analytical reader and critic. It equips you with a new vocabulary to discuss literary language, convention and genre, poetic rhythm and form.

### PLUS two courses chosen from:

#### Renaissance Comedy: Shakespeare and Jonson

Familiarise yourself with the seminal works of William Shakespeare and Ben Jonson as situated within the comedy genre. The plays are placed in the context of a new dramatic practice which arose within a London of competing commercial and political interests.

#### Introduction to Creative and Life Writing

Gain an understanding of key concepts and practices involved in Creative and Life Writing. Students explore fiction (focusing on the short story), poetry, and prose life writing, developing an awareness of different techniques to enhance their writing.

#### Introduction to English Language

Learn important concepts in the study of the English language, such as phonetics and phonology (the study of speech sounds), morphology (the study of words), syntax and more. Terms and concepts will enrich your study of other English Literature courses.

## Level 5

### Two courses chosen from (BA/DipHE only):

#### Literature of the Later Middle Ages

This course offers an introduction to the English literature of the later Middle Ages. Among topics available for study are social satire; the Arthurian tradition and uses of the Arthurian myth; genre and attitudes toward women; and more.

#### Renaissance and Restoration

Gain an overview of English literature and literary culture from the reign of Henry VIII to the satirists and dramatists of the Restoration period. Specialise in Jacobean drama; the origins of Elizabethan tragedy; literature of the Commonwealth or other topics.

#### Augustans and Romantics

This course draws together two periods of English literary history that have traditionally been seen in strong contrast during the 18th and early 19th centuries. The course explores what appear to be the important distinctions and continuities between the two periods.

### PLUS two courses chosen from:

#### Victorians

Explore poetry, fiction and drama from the 19th century. Deepen your understanding of the literary culture of the period and learn to handle with confidence a range of terms used in contemporary readings such as 'realism', 'naturalism', and 'Darwinism'.

#### Moderns

Survey the poetry, fiction and drama of the 20th and 21st centuries and gain a vocabulary and context for the application of a wide range of critical approaches to the literature of the period.

### Varieties of English

This course explores how and why language is used differently in a range of contexts and considers the attitudes that people have towards different varieties of English. Familiarise yourself with tools used by linguists to analyse speech and written media.

### Creative and Life Writing

The course examines Creative Writing in its literary contexts, using texts that serve to best represent the fields of short fiction, poetry and life writing, providing students the opportunity to survey the and understand the contemporary canon.

## Level 6

**Four courses chosen from (BA only):**

### American Literature

This course introduces students to the diverse literatures and literary trends of the United States, from its early inception to the present day, exploring the main concepts and contestations which have underpinned its evolution and various reshaping.

### Drama since 1860

Gain historical and critical perspectives on the major thematic and stylistic developments shaping British, American and European drama from 1860 onwards. Trace the relationship between the theory and practice of various dramatists and explore the relationship between theatrical styles and themes.

### Language and Gender

This course delves into the study of language and gender. It examines how language is used to accomplish femininity and masculinity. Learn about studies exploring the language used by women, men and children in different contexts.

### Language and the Media

This course enables students to analyse texts and genres, including newspaper texts, advertising, the language of film, and others. Develop critical awareness of linguistic techniques for analysing media discourse types and consider the relationship between text and context.

### The Novel

Examine historical and critical perspectives on anaesthetic form central to English Studies. Survey 18th and 19th-century realist novels,

early 20th-century modernist novels, and 'anti-realist' or 'postmodern' works of fiction from the 20th and early 21st centuries.

### Postcolonial Literatures in English

This course focuses on the literature that emerged in response to the changing global landscape since 1947, exploring the relationship between writing and the politics of anti-colonialism and postcolonialism. Read texts about the legacies of colonialism, and grapple with representation.

### Shakespeare

Study William Shakespeare's plays and the poetic means and theatrical conditions of his craft. Looking at the plays alongside the social politics and theatres of Elizabethan London, the course examines the evolution of language and drama in Shakespeare's works.

### Advanced Creative and Life Writing

This course is designed as a progression of the concepts and practices introduced earlier in the programme, with additional emphasis on gaining a practical understanding of the publishing industry. The course will help students further develop an awareness of various, more sophisticated, contexts into which they write.

# Entrance requirements

## BA and DipHE English

You must:

- normally\* be aged 17 or above by 30 November in the year of registration

and

- meet our general entrance requirements

and

- hold an A-Level English (pass) or equivalent.

## CertHE English

You must:

- normally\* be aged 18 or above by 1 September in the year of registration

and

- hold three GCSEs (at grades A\* to C or nine to four) or equivalent.

## Individual courses

- As CertHE, except minimum age requirement is 17 or above by 30 November in year of registration.

Even if you do not meet the standard requirements, we will consider each application on its own merits. Our Admissions Panel will consider whether any alternative or incomplete qualifications or work experience are suitable for entry to the programme.

We will advise on potential further alternatives such as our International Foundation Programme or additional qualifications you need to take in order to meet our minimum entrance criteria.

\*Applications will be considered from applicants who do not meet the normal minimum age requirement for admission. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and the decision taken at the discretion of the University of London.

For further information on entrance requirements please visit: [london.ac.uk/english](http://london.ac.uk/english)

## English language requirements

You need to demonstrate a good level of English to be admitted to our programmes. We accept a range of evidence, including proficiency test scores. If you don't have evidence but believe you can meet the standard, we may consider your case.

## Computer requirements

We set minimum basic computer requirements because your study resources are accessed via the Student Portal and it is vital that you can access this regularly. For this degree, you will also need Adobe Flash Player to view video material and a media player to play video files.





## Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

If you have studied material as part of a previous qualification that is comparable in content, level and standard to our English modules, you might be exempted from the equivalent course of our degree. This process is known as recognition of prior learning (RPL). You will not need to study or be assessed in the module(s) to complete your award.

To be considered for RPL you should make a formal request within your application when applying online. Alternatively, this can be done through an online enquiry, once you have submitted your application. The deadline to submit your RPL application is 1 September.

## How to apply

For further information on this programme, entrance requirements and details on how to apply, please visit: [london.ac.uk/english](https://london.ac.uk/english)

## Students with disabilities and/or access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. If you are disabled and/or have access requirements, we will make every reasonable effort to meet your needs. This may include making access arrangements for examinations, such as a separate room or special aids.

If you would like to tell us about your disability and/or request access arrangements, please complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the Inclusive Practice Manager at: [special.arrangements@london.ac.uk](mailto:special.arrangements@london.ac.uk)



## Katerina Spinos

BA English, Hong Kong

'My personal highlight was developing active inquiry skills on multiple subjects, which honed my critical thinking and communication skills dramatically over four years.'

# Further information

## Fees payable to the University

The total fee payable to the University of London for 2026–2027 will be published on our website once confirmed. For the latest information on programme fees, please visit: [london.ac.uk/fees](https://london.ac.uk/fees)

**Please note:** student fees shown on our website are net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local statutory rate, this will be added to the fees shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.

## Financial assistance

UK undergraduate students may be able to apply for a part-time tuition fee loan. For full details on eligibility criteria, please visit: [gov.uk/student-finance](https://gov.uk/student-finance)

Alternatively, some employers in both the public and private sector may be willing to consider offering financial assistance to their employees.

## Armed Forces

Students who are members or ex-members of the UK Armed Forces should note that the University of London has been approved by the Ministry of Defence in support of the Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC) Scheme (ELC Provider Reference Number 1284). The Scheme provides financial support to eligible Service personnel who wish to enhance their educational or vocational achievements.

The ELC Administration Service website can be found at: [www.enhancedlearningcredits.com](https://www.enhancedlearningcredits.com)





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