Master’s in Literary Studies

English Literature and Culture

uva.nl/ma-english-literature
Literature is a way of living many lives rather than just one, allowing us to inhabit other people’s cultures and perspectives. It can be of great help when navigating the pluralities of our inter-connected world.

This programme emphasises literary analysis, while simultaneously occupying a place at the forefront of interdisciplinary humanities scholarship. More specifically, it provides students with insight into the history and theory of various English literatures and explores their relationship with other media while also addressing key issues of intellectual concern in society, politics and culture. English Literature is understood in the broadest sense, as a diverse and complex mode of expression that includes works from American, British, South African and other postcolonial contexts.

The degree will provide you with a deep understanding of the complex cultural dynamics and narratives that shape the Anglophone world and a thorough training in analytical and communication skills. In addition, you will gain experience in conducting independent research and presenting it to international audiences.
Critical approaches (12 ECTS)
In this core course all students will present their own areas of specialisation, i.e. their own research strategies, theoretical approaches and current work in progress. The emphasis of the course is on methodology. Hence the central aim of this course is to enable you to conduct the independent research required for writing a Master’s thesis. You will complete set writing assignments, give a conference presentation, and take the first steps towards the completion of your thesis project.

Career prospects
Equipped with the skills to explore complex fields of knowledge and able to present your findings in nuanced English, you will be qualified for a wide range of careers requiring cultural awareness and mental agility. These may include positions as:
• cultural commentators and researchers, e.g. in the national and international media, government institutions or private foundations;
• educators at all levels of the Dutch educational system but also abroad;
• communication professionals in companies with a strong presence in the Anglosphere.
Entry requirements

The Master’s in English Literature and Culture is open to all students with a university Bachelor’s degree in:
• English language and culture
• German language and culture
• French language and culture
• Italian language and culture
• Dutch language and culture
• Scandinavian languages and cultures
• Spanish language and culture
• Slavonic languages and culture
• European Studies
• Other Bachelor’s programme in the Humanities

All candidates should have completed at least 15 ECTS in English/American literature, or a demonstrable equivalent, and be able to speak, read, write and understand English at advanced academic level.

For more information, please check: uva.nl/ma-english-literature

> Application and admission