Studying English at City

This Online Chat session is for anyone who is interesting in studying English at City. The session will be run by academic staff and current students giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your subject of interest and find out what life is like as a university student. There will be a presentation to start and at the end of the session you can type questions for the students and staff to answer and there will be interactive quizzes on student life and your subject.

Welcome to this English Taster session at City, University of London. Unfortunately, we cannot have you on campus but hope that our online session will still give you a good idea of what it is like to study English at City University. To give you an idea of what to expect, our session will follow this format: 1) Our academic staff have recorded a short mock lecture to give you an idea of the topics and ideas covered at university level study. We'll begin by watching this. 2) We will follow this with a fun subject quiz. 3) Next, you'll be able to ask questions and have them answered by our English academics. 4) There will be a university life quiz and Q&A with our Student Ambassadors. We also have campus tour videos to give you an idea of what our university campus is like. We are also running sessions on personal statements, the UCAS process, researching Universities and more: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/visit-us/city-at-higher-education-exhibitions

Recruitment Events 2019/20

We regularly visit other parts of the country as part of UCAS and Higher Education fairs. Find out when we’re near you.

CITY
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
EST 1894

BA English powerpoint with audio

https://youtu.be/cQ7ld-p3FGE

Ok fantastic, we hope you enjoyed that introduction! We will now begin our subject quiz. Please hold fire with your questions until after the quiz has finished. Each question will be up for about 15 seconds and you won’t be able to change your answer once you submit – if you are using internet explorer or a mobile phone, you may have to click on the question mark/swipe it across the screen to view the questions. There’s also a brilliant taster mock lecture which will be playing alongside this so please do feel free to watch that also! Ok, lets begin.
1. Which of these famous actors studied English Literature at university?
   - Meryl Streep: 42.86%
   - Ralph Fiennes: 14.29%
   - Hugh Grant: 42.86%

Answer: Hugh Grant

2. Which Bronte sister was the youngest?
   - Anne: 66.67%
   - Charlotte: 13.33%
   - Emily: 20.00%

Answer: Anne

3. Actor Dev Patel (Skins, Slumdog Millionaire) recently starred in a film adaptation of which novel by Charles Dickens?
   - Great Expectations: 21.43%
   - David Copperfield: 71.43%
   - A Tale of Two Cities: 7.143%

Answer: David Copperfield

4. ‘Reader, I married him’ is a line from which novel, penned by Charlotte Bronte?
   - Jane Eyre: 93.33%
   - Little Women: 6.667%

Answer: Jane Eyre

5. How does Stephen King reportedly motivate himself to write?
   - Meditates: 30.77%
   - Listens to rock music at full volume: 46.15%
   - Regular walks: 23.08%

Answer: Listens to rock music at full volume
9.) Kamila Shamsie’s 2017 novel Home Fire is a retelling of which Greek tragedy?

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<td>Oedipus Rex</td>
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<td>Electra</td>
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<td>Antigone</td>
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Answer: Antigone

Hope everyone enjoyed the quiz! We’ll now be turning to you to ask any questions you may have to our academics. Get typing!

Would you be able to do English with another subject?

Hi Good question. At present, you can only do English as a single degree. Having said that, there is quite a lot of opportunity to take modules from other courses in second and third year (Journalism, Music and Sociology, for example). And creative writing is a big part of the English BA as well.

what are the qualities needed to do well at this course?

Independence, perseverance, the ability to take criticism and a keenness for reading around your subject / applying things you learn to every day life.

Hello everyone! I plan to do English Literature at university then hopefully convert to Law. What skills will I acquire from English that will give me an advantage?

Hi It’s very common for English students to convert to Law because there are a lot of related skills/qualities. For example: close reading and analytical skills, communication skills, presentation skills, ability to skim read. Law conversion courses tend to really like English students, for this reason!

In terms of reading around the subject, how much guidance is provided by tutors/lecturers? Are you given suggestions?

Yes, we are given reading lists that contain both core and wider reading suggestions. There’s also unconventional but hugely important ways of reading around the subject, such as newspapers, blog posts and more!

what are the qualities needed to do well at this course?

I agree with everything said here - but I’d add that you really need to love reading, as you’ll be doing it constantly!
Hi there, do you know where we will be able to access the taster videos once this session is complete?

What is life like at university as an English student? Would you consider English an intense subject to study?

Hi. English is a great subject to study because personally, I find it pushes you intellectually but it gives me time and access to explore what I really love doing. Especially at City, we are surrounded by lots of things that can enhance your experience being situated in London but also within City itself - for example, societies and language classes!

What are the required modules for this course?

Hi. For a really clear overview of this you're best looking at our BA English course page which lists all of the core (i.e. compulsory) modules, and all the elective modules that you can choose from in third and fourth. 

https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/english

In first year, all modules are compulsory, but you get more choice in second and third year. First year core modules are: Fundamentals of Analysis and Criticism – 30 credits

Literature in Historical Context – 30 credits

Forms and Performances of Creative Writing – 15 credits

Storytelling – 15 credits

The Novel, Authorship and Creativity – 15 credits

Postcolonialism - 15 credits.

English Undergraduate

City, University of London's BA (Hons) English combines world-class literary scholarship with the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in creative, professional and digital contexts.

How is the course structured?

Hi. Great question! Year one is made up of six compulsory modules. Year two is made up of three core and four elective modules. Year three is made up of a broad selection of elective modules, which reflect current trends in literary scholarship and in applied disciplines such as journalism and publishing. You will also complete at least one 30-credit major project module. Module options across all years are from disciplines in English (Creative Writing, Publishing, Shakespeare, Gender, Global literature) but also across the humanities (including Journalism, Media and Creative Industries). Program spec: 


What kind of work would you be doing in an English degree? Is it mostly writing essays?

Hi, we are assessed in a variety of ways. Of course there are essays, but there are also professional, reflective and creative portfolios, reading diaries, group assignments, including projects and presentations and live showcase events.
In what ways are you assessed? Is there a variety of ways in which you are assessed? Do you have any choice when it comes to choosing how you are assessed?

Hi! One thing that makes our course really distinctive is the range of assessment types. So we have your standard essays and exams, but also podcasts, creative writing, blog posts, presentations, reflective journals, poster presentations - the list goes on! So you end up acquiring a really wide range of skills. Great for the CV!

What is the contact hour like regarding lecturer help and help with the course?

Hi, your timetable will differ depending on what modules you pick. Your timetabled classes (contact hours) will make up 15% of your learning in all years. The changes in amount of directed learning is probably the biggest difference from College to University study. However, all lecturers have scheduled office hours in which you can visit them, and you can contact them via email too.

Hi, what kinds of careers would you say taking English could lead too?

Hi! Good question! English provides you with such a range of transferable skills that can apply to a huge variety of careers. Mainly students are looking to go into: Journalism, publishing and literary agencies, librarianship, digital media agencies, cultural organisations, charities, marketing, English language teaching, creative writing and so much more!

Hi, what are the required subjects for studying English Literature? For example, would it be possible to study English Literature if you haven’t studied it previously at A Level?

Hi In general we ask that students have an English Literature A-Level, but we’ve historically been quite flexible on this if a prospective student has related subjects (e.g. history, English Language, other languages, sociology, etc.) and seems like a good fit generally.

Hello! I have been interested in taking English Literature at university, but it seems the career choices afterwards are limited mostly towards Law, journalism, writing, teaching or editorial jobs. Are there any other possible careers that are different to these?

Well firstly, this is already a longer list of careers than a lot of courses lead to! But yes, there are other opportunities, too. English students also go on to work in the charity sector, as accountants, in the music industry, in marketing/advertising, project management, the civil service, etc.

What do the analysis and criticism modules involve?

Hi! This module involves teaching students the basics of excellent essay-writing. It’s a great module to learn what your lecturers expect from you!

What would you recommend putting on an application to stand out as an English candidate?


For me, I'm always looking to see that a candidate has read widely - this doesn't have to mean 'classic' literature. It might be graphic novels, or any other kind of text. But I want to see an enthusiasm for the subject beyond the classroom. Three years is a long time, and uni can be tough, so I want to be sure that our incoming students will have the passion for the subject that will carry them through to the end.

How many taught hours are there and how many independent hours are there per week?

You tend to have around 7 contact hours available to you in a given week of term. But we're expecting that you fill up the rest of your hours independently (and success in the contact hours relies on this). A lot of students, inevitably, are doing jobs or work experience alongside their course, but we suggest that you try and do 'business' hours (9-5) as much as possible, even if a lot of that is happening in the library or in study groups with peers.

do you have any specific books you recommend us reading? Also, what is your favorite and least favorite/most challenging part of the course?

Before term starts, you'll get a reading list for your modules and that’s a good place to start. However, outside of your university required reading, I'd just read whatever interests you! I'm personally a huge fan of Sally Rooney - her book Normal People has just been adapted for TV so you can watch that on i-player. Also ‘The Secret History’ by Donna Tartt is excellent, if you want a good university campus novel.

Thank you everyone for all your questions and we hope today’s session was useful. If you do have any further questions then please do contact us using either our contacts page on our website: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/contact or through our Unibuddy page where you can contact staff and students: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/ask-a-student.

Contact City, University of London

General contact form for City, University of London.

Ask our students and staff

Speak with one of our current students and find out more about what it is like to study at City.