PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	English
Award	MA
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	English
Programme code	PSENGL
Type of study	Taught
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MA English provides you with the opportunity to combine postgraduate study in literary scholarship and analysis with advanced creative and/ or professional training. The programme is underpinned by the conviction that English is an academic subject that makes a significant contribution to cultural life and wellbeing. English graduates are effective researchers, good communicators and active learners with a range of subject-specific, transferable and employability skills.

This distinctive programme brings together core theoretical and research training; a predominantly modern and contemporary module diet centred around identity and genre that views literature as an active participant in social and cultural debates; a varied assessment regime that fosters your subject-specific, research and transferable skills; and elective modules in Publishing and Creative Writing that will enable you to develop additional, aligned skillsets. You will benefit from City's reputation as a provider of academic excellence for business and the professions and from London's outstanding research, cultural and creative facilities.

The taught element of the programme consists of two 15-credit core modules fostering your critical, conceptual, methodological and research skills; a minimum of three 15-credit core elective modules in English Literature; and a further 45 credits selected from a range of elective modules in English Literature, Publishing and/or Creative Writing. The final 60-credit Dissertation will allow you to work independently, with the guidance of a supervisor, on an extended project of your choice appropriate to the programme, honing your research, writing and organisational skills.

Aims:

- To enable you to acquire a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of current debates in English in its academic, professional and creative contexts.

- To enable you to develop a conceptual understanding that allows you to evaluate critically current research, advanced scholarship and research methodologies in English and to show originality in the application of knowledge.
- To enable you to communicate your conclusions clearly in a range of formats to diverse audiences.
- To enable you to learn how to conduct research, undertake training in research methods relevant to the English subject area and become practised in a range of research methods applicable to advanced scholarship and professional or creative practice in English.
- To enable you to undertake a research project on a topic relevant to your studies.
- To enable you to develop and demonstrate a range of personal and professional attributes, such as self-direction, time-management, motivation, creativity and reflection, required in autonomous and lifelong learning.
- To equip you with a range of subject-specific, transferable and employability skills appropriate for graduate careers in English and for MPhil/ PhD research.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:
- Evidence advanced knowledge, systematic understanding and critical awareness of English in its academic, professional and creative contexts, much of which is at the forefront of the discipline.
- Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in English and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research and advanced scholarship in English in its academic, creative or professional contexts.
- Comprehend how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline and apply knowledge in an original way.

Skills:
- Display self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks.
- Continue to develop skills as a reflective, independent, lifelong learner able to plan for personal development in a range of professional contexts.
- Conduct detailed critical analysis of a research question related to academic, professional or creative practice.

- Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences, both orally and in writing.

Values and attitudes:
- Comprehend how English reflects and speaks to issues of diversity and equality in a global and transnational context.
- Appreciate the importance of and develop success in the habits of reflection and independent study.
- Display open-mindedness towards constructive criticism of your own work and develop sensitivity in discussion and debate with others.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA's *Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies* (October 2014), *Master's Degree Characteristics Statement* (September 2015) and *English Subject Benchmark Statement* (February 2015).

HOW WILL I LEARN?

English graduates are versatile, reflective researchers and active, adaptable learners with advanced communication skills who are able to think analytically, initiate and conduct projects creatively, articulate complex conclusions effectively both orally and in writing, and display sensitivity to diversity and wider contextual issues.

You will acquire knowledge and understanding through a mixture of formal lectures, workshops, individual tutorials, group work, seminar contributions, study visits, project work and independent learning and research. Lectures will introduce you to important contexts, concepts and critical frameworks. Seminars will be focused on discussion and student-led activities and will enable you to apply your learning in an interactive, supportive environment. Full-time students can expect between 10 and 12 hours of classroom-based study per week, plus time spent on preparatory reading, independent study and research, and preparation of assignments. Part-time students should typically expect half of this contact time. Face-to-face activities will be supported by the virtual learning environment. There is a significant amount of independent study within each module and this time is for you to read literature related to the modules you are studying, to observe and interact with peers, and to plan and develop your assessments as well as reflect on your development as an independent, self-directed researcher.

You will be expected to participate and to engage actively during class contact time. This strategy is guided by the educational aim to develop you as a reflective practitioner who engages with appropriate and relevant research, literature and debates. This is interpreted broadly as including the taking of a critical stance on your

own work, independent reading and debating issues related to English literary study with peers. It therefore necessarily includes acquiring in-depth information of English literary and scholarly practices as well as critical reflection. Seminars will require you to participate in teamwork, listening and responding to diverse opinions and evaluating and reflecting on your own assumptions and practices. You may also benefit from access to visiting speakers from academia, the professions and the creative industries.

The programme systematically develops a range of graduate-level transferable skills in research, communication and self-direction through seminar work and a diverse assessment regime that will require you to present your work in a range of registers to diverse audiences, both orally and in writing. The Dissertation is 60 credits and an estimated 600 hours of study. It is supported by the skills acquired in the core module in Research Methods, which will guide you through the process of researching and writing a dissertation. It is also supported by individual supervision sessions.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

The programme deploys a variety of assessment methods that are designed to develop your academic, research, professional and creative skills and to prepare you for a wide range of graduate employment. Summative assessment of the programme outcomes occurs across the core and elective modules, and in the Dissertation. Individual modules deploy a range of assessment methods, including critical essays; assessed group and individual presentations; portfolios of writing that demonstrate evidence of the ability to write in diverse registers and for diverse audiences; research-based assignments; individual and group projects; creative and professional writing; and a substantial dissertation project. Some modules may include group assessments and forms of peer assessment.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:
https://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully all modules in order to acquire the required number of credits. Each credit carries equal weighting. The pass mark for each module is 50%. There is no minimum qualifying mark for assessment components: you must pass modules on aggregate.

Resit: where you have failed a module at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt. If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:
http://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

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WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	67	With Distinction	70

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
Dissertation	7	60	33		With Merit	60
					Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
Taught/ Dissertation	7	120	100		With Distinction	70
					With Merit	60
					Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100		With Distinction	70
					With Merit	60
					Without classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The MA award consists of 120 credits of taught modules and a 60-credit Dissertation, which is supervised.

Taught component

You must complete a total of 120 credits of taught modules, which includes two 15-credit core modules and a minimum of three 15-credit core elective modules in English Literature. You will select the remaining 45 credits from a range of modules in English Literature, Publishing and/or Creative Writing. You may take all 120 taught credits in English, select a combination of English and Creative Writing or Publishing modules, or study all three. Please note that the module offer is subject to sufficient recruitment, normally a minimum of eight students per elective.

All taught modules are in Term 1 and Term 2. Term 3 is dedicated to the Dissertation, and to completion of assignments from Term 2 modules.

Compulsory modules (2 x 15 credits):

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level

Literary Theory and Concepts	ENM001	15	Core	No	7
Research Methods	ENM002	15	Core	No	7

Core elective modules (choose 3 x 15 credits):

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Constituting Identities	ENM004	15	Core elective	Yes	7
Literary Cartographies	ENM006	15	Core elective	Yes	7
Genre in Context	ENM007	15	Core elective	Yes	7
Imagined Communities	ENM005	15	Core elective	Yes	7
Theorising Women's Writing	ENM008	15	Core elective	Yes	7
Text and Image	ENM009	15	Core elective	Yes	7

Elective modules (choose a further 45 credits from these and/ or the remaining core electives above):

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Digital Publishing	PBM003	15	Elective	Yes	7
Publishing History and Culture	PBM004	15	Elective	Yes	7
Creating and Developing Content in Print	PBM006	15	Elective	Yes	7
Strategic Management of Content: Print and Digital	PBM007	15	Elective	Yes	7
International Publishing Case Studies	PBM009	15	Elective	Yes	7
Digital Product Innovation	PBM011	15	Elective	Yes	7

Creative Writing Workshop	PBM010	30	Elective	No	7
Reading as a Writer	CWM965	15	Elective	Yes	7

Dissertation

You will complete a Dissertation in Term 3. The Dissertation is supervised rather than taught, and you will conduct extensive independent research under the guidance of a supervisor.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Dissertation	ENM003	60	Core	No	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

The MA in English develops key transferable skills in research, analysis and oral and written communication relevant to a range of careers, including publishing, advertising and marketing, library science, digital media, charities and the heritage industry, teaching and journalism. If you avail yourself of the study options in Publishing and/or Creative Writing, you will benefit from our established reputation in these fields. Aspiring creative writers will get exposure to agents, editors and others within both traditional and electronic publishing. We have for many years supported the career prospects of our publishing graduates via links with an industry advisory board as well as with alumni. The MA in English also prepares you for further MPhil/PhD research and expedites your access to such programmes.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

No

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Applicants should usually
- Hold a 2.1 Honours BA degree or an equivalent qualification.
- Have studied a relevant subject such as English, Comparative Literature, Theatre and Drama, Film and Media Studies, Creative Writing, Humanities.

If your first language is not English, you will be expected to demonstrate Level 7.0 proficiency in the IELTS English language test.

Version: 4.0
Version date: April 2021
For use from: 2021-22