

MA Literary Studies: English Literature and Culture

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**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands

MA Literary Studies Tracks 2019-20

Italian
Literature
&
Culture

Literature
&
Society

French
Literature
&
Culture

German
Literature
&
Culture

**English
Literature
&
Culture**

The Basic Structure of the MA in English Literature and Culture (60 ECTS)

First Semester:

- Course 1 10 ECTS
- Course 2 10 ECTS
- Course 3 10 ECTS

Second Semester:

- Course 4 10 ECTS
- MA Thesis 20 ECTS

Note:

A minimum of 2 courses AND the thesis need to fall within the specialisation English Literature & Culture (so 40 of the 60 ECTS)

A third course **can** (but need not be) be chosen from other tracks of the MA Lit Studies programme: German, French, Italian, Literature & Society

A fourth course **can** (but need not be) be chosen within the MA Literary studies, a course on a literary subject taught in another MA (e.g. NAS), a course offered within the [MA Linguistics: English Language and Linguistics](#), or a course offered via [Masterlanguage](#)

Another possibility:

A combined programme of Literary Studies/ English courses and Linguistics/English courses:

- Two courses (20 EC): Literary Studies/English
- Two courses (20 EC): MA Linguistics/English
- MA thesis Literary Studies (20 EC)

This is a good option if, after your MA, you intend to apply for the Educational Master.

And yet another possibility:

You can choose for an internship (10 EC) instead of an elective in your second (or third) semester provided you have finished at least 30 EC in course work.

For further information check the [Studiegids](#).

Members of staff who offer courses in 2019-20

Prof.dr. Peter Liebregts



Dr. Sara Polak



Dr. Joke Kardux



Dr. Jan Frans van Dijkhuizen



Dr. Evert Jan van
Leeuwen



Dr. Michael Newton



Dr. Nadine Akkerman



Dr. Thijs Porck



Dr. Krista Murchison



Courses on offer in 2019-20: 1st semester

- European Modernism (Liebregts et al.)
- Working Through 9/11 (Kardux)
- Fantasy Island (Newton)
- Shakespeare's Sister (Akkerman)
- The Medieval in Middle-Earth: J.R.R. Tolkien and the Anglo-Saxon World (Porck)
- Core Course Medieval and Early Modern Studies

- A course offered by the MA Linguistics: English Language and Linguistics
- A course offered via Masterlanguage English (Block 2) :
- Language Variation and Change from Old to Middle English: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles (5 EC; Utrecht; Grijzenhout [Leiden] and Cole [Utrecht])
- A course offered by the MA Literary Studies
- A course offered on a literary subject in another MA

Courses on offer in 2019-20: 2nd semester

- James Joyce's *Ulysses* (Liebregts)
- American Comics Against the Code: Autobiography and Journalism in Graphic Novels (Polak)
- Speculative Fiction (Van Leeuwen)
- 'With Dangers Compast Round': Paradise Lost in Context (Van Dijkhuizen)
- Long-Distance Romance: la transmission du texte médiéval (Murchison)

- A course offered by the MA Linguistics: English Language and Linguistics
- A course offered by the MA Literary Studies
- A course offered on a literary subject in another MA
- A course offered via Masterlanguage English (Block III):

Current Debates in Medieval English Literature: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles (5 EC; Leiden; Porck [Leiden], Cole [Utrecht] and Dekker [Groningen])

Possible specialisation I

- Medieval and Early Modern English Literature and Culture:

take the core course “Medieval and Early Modern Studies” as a basis and supplement it with courses in one or both these fields.

Possible specialisation 2

- Modern and Contemporary English and Anglophone Literature and Culture:
take the core course “European Modernism” and supplement it with courses in one or both these fields.

BA Tutorial

- A pre-determined teaching goal.
- Focus on explaining the basic literary and contextual aspects of a text. > ANSWERS
- Tutor leads discussion
- In-class exercises with an overt didactic aim, often concerning reading and writing skills

MA Tutorial

- A pre-determined discussion topic.
- Focus on the remarkable, problematic, contradictory details of a text. > QUESTIONS
- Group discussion in which students can take the lead and challenge the tutor.
- In-class exercises designed to stimulate independent critical thought and to develop research questions.

The Significance of Written Coursework:

1. Kubrick: either two essays of 2500-3000 words each (50 % each), or one written paper of ca. 4000-5000 words (100%).
2. Milton: Short weekly writing assignments (200-400 words each) (35%); 1 end-of-term research essay (5000 words) (65%)
3. Working Through 9/11: oral presentation (20%); participation (10%); short writing assignment (10%); essay proposal and research essay (c. 4000-4500 words; 60%).

Some Examples of MA theses

- The Rise of the Psycho-Hero in Popular Culture, Exemplified in *Dexter*: “America’s Favourite Serial-Killer”
- The Social Lyrics of Elizabeth, Countess of Rochester (1651-1681)
- Belonging in Stephen King’s Apocalyptic Novels
- “Known Some Call is Air Aim”: Post-modernism in Mark Z. Danielewski’s *House of Leaves*
- “Framing the Past”: The Tabular Structure of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
- Only Connect: Communication through the Allegory of Music in the Early Novels of E.M Forster and D.H. Lawrence
- Coverts, Apostates and Hermits: Religious Conversion and Gender Identity in Early Modern English Drama
- Courtship and Conduct in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*
- A Tretys of Goostely Batayle. An Edition of Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS 142, ff. 111r-121r

The student's perspective!

Lilian Akkerman

Bachelor English Language & Culture in Leiden

BA Thesis:

Magic and Science: The Adaptation of Norse Mythology in Modern Marvel Movies

MA Thesis:

Experiencing the Divine: The Transformative Power of Emotion in Jonathan Edwards' *Personal Narrative*

My Courses

Semester 1 (2017-2018)

- Working Through 9/11: Literature, Film, and Memorial Culture
- Situated Literatures I → English, French, German, Italian literature
- Situated Literatures II: James Joyce as a European Writer → *Ulysses*
- The Comic Spirit: Shakespeare's Comedies and Classic Hollywood Comedy → *Love in the Afternoon* (1957), *Bringing Up Baby* (1938)
- Literature in Society: Narrative, Fiction and Voice → from the Literature in Society track

Semester 2 (2017-2018)

- With Dangers Compast Round: *Paradise Lost* in Context → John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and various of his prose texts

Semester 1 (2018-2019)

- A Short Course About Love: Love in Shakespeare and on Film
- MA Thesis

Academic Knowledge & skills

Knowledge:

- You will have advanced knowledge of the history, development and international scope of English-language literature and culture.
- You will have advanced knowledge of various academic approaches to literary and cultural studies.
- You will be an expert in the field of your chosen MA thesis topic.

Academic Knowledge & skills

Skills:

- The ability to think critically and independently, especially about literature and art, but also important and complex social and cultural topics. This skill will help you to recognise the complexities and subtleties of not only English-language culture, but many other cultures as well.
- Excellent English verbal and written communication skills, which are very desirable in most jobs today.
- Advanced research and essay-writing skills, which will give you the capacity to solve complex challenges – individually and in groups.

Contribution MA to development academic skills (scale 0 – 5)

- Critical reflection/ thinking: 4.3
- Research, analysis, creativity: 4.3
- Social skills: 4.2
- Writing skills: 4.6
- Presentation skills: 4.0
- Digital skills: 3.8
- Learning to work independently: 4.5
- Projectmanagement: 2.9

Why Leiden?

- Broad choice, you can choose your own path
- No exams!
- However, essays: write, write, write!
- Vast amount of primary sources (f.e. Leiden Lydgate MS)

Your future field of work?

Some of the positions of our alumni include:

- Account executive at a communications agency
- Policy officer at The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- English teacher at a university of professional education
- English teacher at a secondary school
- Junior information specialist at an association of civil-law notaries
- Project officer for subtitling at a company specialising in media translations
- PhD researcher at a foreign university
- Project manager at a translation and interpreting agency
- Publishing assistant at a legal publishing house
- Copywriter at a software and consultancy company
- Content manager and communications advisor at a multinational accountancy firm

Your future field of work?

- Education 47%
- Business 14%
- ICT 10%
- Communication 6%
- Publishing 4%
- Health/welfare sector 2%
- (Semi-)Governmental 2%

Main tasks (! Academic skills)

- Teaching/ training 49%
- Communication 24%
- Writing/ editing 22%
- Consultancy/ coaching 20%
- Administration 16%
- HRS management 10%
- Sales 10%

Your future prospects?

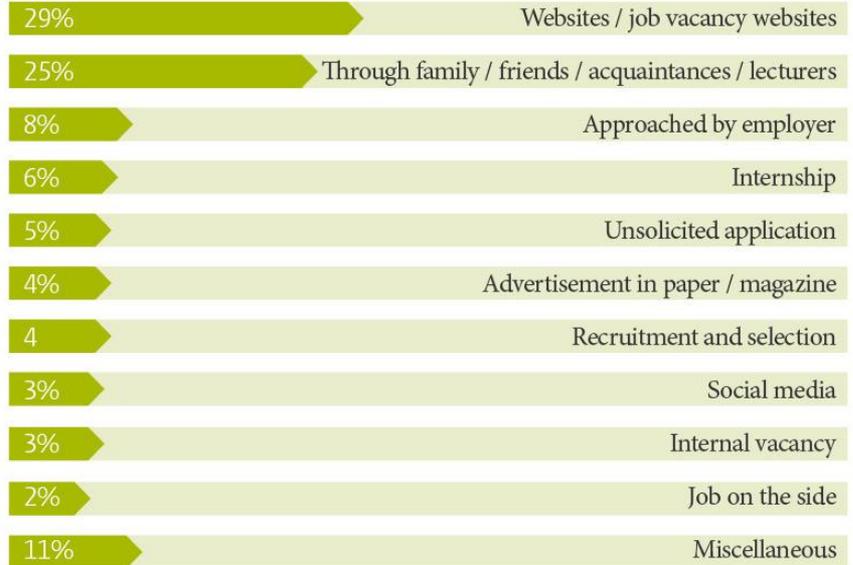
77% find a job within 2 months;
95% within half a year.

70% immediately find a professional university or
academic level job.

More or less 39% find first job their personal network
(family, friends, lecturers, internship, job)

29% find first job via vacancy. 6% are asked to
continue to work at the internship location.

By which means did you obtain your current position?



What kind of preparation works?

- Acquiring relevant work experience alongside your studies (via an internship, board membership or job)
- A master's programme does pay off: In their first job, but also after a few years of work experience, master's students often occupy higher-level positions than bachelor's students

Contact [Career Service](#) for advice on internships and work preparation



Apply now!

Have you made your decision yet?

Start your application for the [MA English Literature and Culture](#).

Questions?

For questions about this programme, please get in touch with the Coordinator of Studies, Jurjen Donker: j.donkers@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Thank you!



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