You will explore a range of literatures from around the world, giving you a broad perspective on different literary genres, periods, themes and movements as they have developed within and beyond national and cultural boundaries.

What will I study?
Comparative Literature allows you to explore challenging and influential literature without boundaries of culture or language. You will encounter texts of all genres and periods from across the world and consider the ideas, human values and historical forces that have helped to form the world's literatures. You will have the opportunity to read, to discuss, to present reasoned arguments, and to work on writing with precision and clarity.

First year
You will study two topics to introduce you to the study of comparative literature. The nineteenth-century novel and drama in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries will be covered through a diverse range of texts in English translation, organised into two case studies defined by genre, period and theme.

Second year
You will deepen your theoretical and practical engagement with comparative literature as a discipline by studying the topics of good and evil, and journeys. Each topic presents a case study of texts drawn from a wide range of genres, periods and cultures as the basis for a discussion of the structures and concepts of literary analysis and the methods and practices of reading comparatively.

Third and fourth years (Honours)
You will choose from a range of research-led courses taught by teams of specialists from across the School of Modern Languages. Each course will bring together texts from several cultural contexts to facilitate in-depth comparative analysis. Topics could include literature and the Bible or autobiography and the visual arts.

Study abroad
You can choose to study abroad as part of your degree. Comparative Literature students also participate in the University-wide St Andrews Abroad programme. Further information on page 133 and online.

“... the idea of being able to study literature from all over the world and from different time periods. It has allowed me to broaden my understanding of literature on a singular and universal level. Being able to share my thoughts in seminars with other students coming from all over the world makes me consider the work we are reading in a whole new light!”

Laura (Paris, France)