Comparative Literature

Why study Comparative Literature here?

* Rated first in the UK for Comparative Literature in the National Student Survey 2016.
* Comparative Literature is an exciting collaborative intercultural venture of a kind rarely found in the UK.
* Taught by literary experts from across the School of Modern Languages (Arabic, French, German, Italian, Persian, Russian and Spanish) as well as from other Schools in the Faculty of Arts.
* A wide range of literature from around the world in English translation.
* Comparative Literature can be studied without any previous knowledge of foreign languages.
* Comparisons and connections across countries, time periods, subjects and genres.
* See the world from multiple perspectives through reading literature in English translation.
* Acquire and develop analytical and critical skills that will make you highly employable in the UK and abroad.
* Optional Honours modules such as Folk and Fairy Tales, Autobiography and the Visual Arts, and Cultural Memory and Literature.
* Flexible options for module choices and study abroad.

What will I study?

Comparative Literature gives you the chance to consider the ideas, human values, and historical forces that have helped to form the world’s literatures. A focus on close reading and an exploration into the practice of literary translation will develop your analytical, communicative, and evaluative skills. You will have the opportunity to read, to discuss, to present reasoned arguments, and to work on writing with precision and clarity. As a graduate, your capacity to process and assimilate complex material from a range of cultures will make you highly employable.

First and second year modules raise awareness of different genres and themes as they appear in a range of literatures (Arabic, East European, French, German, Italian, Persian, Russian, Spanish, UK, USA, Latin American) and address the issue of how to study literature comparatively. At Honours (third and fourth years) you will take several core modules and make choices from research-led modules taught by specialists in the School.

Comparative Literature element of your Honours degree

First year (2 x 20-credit modules required)
We offer two 1000-level modules to introduce you to the study of Comparative Literature. The Nineteenth-Century Novel and Drama in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries will cover a diverse range of texts in English translation. These include texts by such diverse authors as Gustave Flaubert, Theodor Fontane, Leo Tolstoy, Emilia Pardo Bazán and Charles Dickens, or playwrights such as Bertolt Brecht, Eugène Ionesco, Arthur Miller, Dario Fo, Aimé Césaire, Ramón del Valle-Inclán and Sarah Kane.

Likely grades considered for an offer
We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement and offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here.

SOA Highers: AAAB (see specific subject footnotes above)
GCE A-Levels: AAB (see specific subject footnotes above)
International Baccalaureate Points: 36 (see specific subject footnotes above)

For full Faculty entrance requirements, see page 53.

For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher likely grades determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific requirements as outlined on their pages.

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

Do I require previous knowledge of this subject? – No.

Subject enquiries
Dr Colette Lawson
E: complit@st-andrews.ac.uk
Second year (2 x 20-credit modules required)

*Journeys* is a core module dealing with real and imaginary travel in and across literatures. We reflect on similarities and differences between the use of the journey trope in texts of varying genres and time periods. This forms the basis for discussion of matters of identity, nationalism, ethics and border-crossing.

In our other core module, *Good and Evil*, we read a range of literary texts in order to investigate moral principles and behaviour, notions of individual and collective identities, and the relationship between religion and literature. Authors studied may include Charles Baudelaire, Primo Levi and Vasily Grosman, and medieval texts such as *Beowulf* and *The Song of Roland*.

Honours – third and fourth years

(4 x 15-credit core modules required and 4 other 15-credit modules required over 2 years)

Honours includes compulsory modules – *Issues in Comparative Literature; The Literary Canon; Issues in Cultural Studies and Found in Translation* – to which you add optional modules, each based on at least three national literatures. Modules currently available, but subject to change (see Curriculum development page 7), include or cover aspects of:

- Autobiography and the Visual Arts
- Illness and Literature
- Classicism in European Literature
- Cultural Memory and Literature
- Performing Early-Modern Sexualities
- Literature and the Bible
- Folk and Fairy Tales
- Crossing the Mediterranean
- Great Works and their Adaptations: Proust’s Remembrance of Things Past

Typical class sizes and teaching information

First year: lectures 120 - 130, seminars 10 - 15
Second year: 70 - 80, seminars 10 - 15
Honours: 10 - 15

All modules are taught by a combination of traditional lectures and small discussion seminars.

Typical methods of assessment

At sub-honours, Comparative Literature modules are assessed by a balance of coursework and examination. Many Honours level modules are assessed entirely by coursework. Modules taken in other Schools will involve a mixture of assessment methods.

Study abroad

You may apply to the University’s *St Andrews Abroad* programme. See page 22.

If you decide to take Comparative Literature as part of a Joint Honours degree with a language, you have the option of applying to spend a year abroad after your second year of study. The School of Modern Languages makes final decisions on study abroad during the second year of study, when students apply for their preferred option.

Honours degrees With Integrated Year Abroad (WIYA) in countries in which French, German, Italian, Russian or Spanish are spoken involve residence there for the academic session between second and third years. In 2017-2018, language students taking a four-year degree may participate in Study Abroad as an Erasmus+ exchange student at one of our partner universities for all or part of their Junior Honours year (for arrangements for students of Arabic and Russian see subject entry).

For options available during your intended period of study, as well as information about eligibility, the application and selection process, and costs involved, please see: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad)

Careers

Graduates in Comparative Literature can pursue rewarding careers in publishing, journalism, business and commerce, marketing, media, and the civil service. Employers value our graduates who are sensitive to diverse cultures and have excellent communication and analytical skills. Current students have secured internships in diverse industries, including IT development and the BBC. Graduates may also go into postgraduate study, either at St Andrews or to other universities. Some graduates will follow careers in teaching in a wide variety of school environments both at home and abroad.

Graduates of the School of Modern Languages have an extremely good record of employment after graduating.

See also page 46 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.