English

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours Degree)

English

BA (International Honours Degree)

English (See page 45)

MA (Joint Honours Degrees)

English and one of:

- Arabic
- Art History
- Biblical Studies
- Classical Studies
- Classics
- Comparative Literature
- Economics
- Film Studies
- French

English and two Modern Languages

Any combination of Arabic, French, German, Italian, Persian, Russian, Spanish is available (5 Modern Language modules (150 credits) and 3 English modules (90 credits) at Honours). See page 130.

W Available With Integrated Year Abroad – see Modern Languages.
E Where first-level Russian modules clash with EN1003 and/or EN1004 then CO1001 and/or CO1002 should be taken instead.

MA Mediaeval Studies

This degree (in which English modules may be taken) is administered through the Department of Mediaeval History. See page 106.

Entrance Requirements

Obtaining the following grades will not guarantee you a place as we consider all aspects of every application, including the Personal Statement.

SQA Highers and GCE A-Levels must include English Language or English Literature or Drama

SQA Highers: AAAB
GCE A-Levels: AAA
International Baccalaureate Points: 38 including HL6 in English

For full Faculty Entrance Requirements, see page 53.

For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher Entrance Requirements determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific Entrance 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 need previous knowledge of this subject?

– Yes, see above.

Features

- In the UK Research Excellence Framework 2014, the School is rated top in Scotland and sixth in the UK.
- In our most recent teaching review, the curriculum was rated ‘broad, well balanced and notable for its generous range of options covering all periods of literary writing in English from Anglo-Saxon times to the present. Students benefit from engagement with enthusiastic, highly regarded research-active staff who are also dedicated to teaching and ensuring students have the best possible experience at St Andrews’.
- Members of the School include winners of the Queen’s Gold Medal, the Forward Prize, the Whitbread Prize and T S Eliot Prize for poetry, and the Jerwood Fiction Prize, the Saltire Scottish Book of the Year Award, the Somerset Maugham Award, and a Commonwealth Writers Prize for fiction.
- Varied programme of published authors as visiting speakers, giving students the chance to discuss contemporary literature and criticism with leading modern writers.

What will I study?

St Andrews has a long and illustrious history of teaching literature in English. The School combines expertise in research with a dedication to teaching in a caring and friendly environment. Special research strengths include mediaeval language and literature, the Renaissance, the Romantic and Modern periods, Scottish literature, Creative Writing, and Women’s Writing. Studying English develops techniques that enable you to read with close attention and to consider the ideas, human values, and historical forces that have helped to form our literature. The opportunity to read, to discuss, and to reflect with clarity on a wide variety of texts develops analytical, descriptive, and evaluative skills. You learn to communicate more fluently, lucidly, economically, and persuasively. These skills are both intrinsically enriching and eminently transferable.

In your first and second years the modules in English will take up one third of your time. At Honours, in the third and fourth years, you can do all your work in English or, if you choose to take a Joint Honours degree, you can divide your time between English and another subject. In all four years you will be assessed partly on your coursework, submitted during the semester, and partly on your performance in examinations at the end of the semester. The emphasis in our first- and second-year modules is on introducing texts from the full range of English literary history and methods for interpreting them. At Honours you are able to make choices from the wide range of modules taught by specialists in the School, on subjects ranging from Beowulf to science fiction.
“Having originally applied to read English Literature, the chance to take Philosophy modules at sub-honours ignited an interest in that subject and therefore I am now studying for a Joint Honours degree. I feel that the flexibility of the degree programmes, and the support for any difficulties you may have along the way, is what makes a degree at St Andrews unlike many others. Students are encouraged to embark on an independent journey of academic and self-discovery whilst having access to a network of academic, social and welfare support.”

Francesca (Tadworth, Surrey, England)