

English literature and creative writing

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Head of School of Literature and Languages

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Why literature?

Literature and the humanities



To study literature and creative writing is to study:

- What it means to be human
- Literary form, literary history, literary style
- Literature's insights into history, society, and culture
- Contemporary concerns: national identity, global issues, media and culture, narrating experience.

Literature and creative writing students are good at:

- Communicating
- Writing and interpreting
- Understanding motivation, making connections
- Being creative and imaginative.



Our curriculum

Our teaching





Programme overview

Our degree programmes

- » BA (Hons) English Literature
- » BA (Hons) English Literature with Creative Writing
- » BA (Hons) English Literature and Languages [French or Spanish]
- » BA (Hons) English Literature with another subject [Politics, Sociology, German]
- » Each of our degree programmes can be studied over three years or over four years, incorporating a Professional Training placement.



What you'll study

- » Modules are dependent on your programme
- » Year one modules are compulsory
- » Increasing flexibility as you progress
- » Modules cover a range of theoretical concepts and literary periods eg. Medieval, Early Modern, Romantic, Victorian, Twentieth-Century, and Contemporary.



Module catalogue:

<https://catalogue.surrey.ac.uk/2020-1/programme/UPG13-1>

Full-time

Full-time with PTY

Year 1 - FHEQ Level 4

Module code	Module title	Status	Credits	Semester
ELI1010	THEORIES OF READING I	Compulsory	15	1
ELI1018	HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE I	Compulsory	15	1
ELI1021	UNDERSTANDING POETRY	Compulsory	15	1
ELI1024	UNDERSTANDING DRAMA	Compulsory	15	1
ELI1011	THEORIES OF READING II	Compulsory	15	2
ELI1022	HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE II	Compulsory	15	2
ELI1020	SHAKESPEARE	Compulsory	15	2
ELI1025	UNDERSTANDING THE NOVEL	Compulsory	15	2

» Look up 2020/21 modules

» Access reading lists

Year one: English literature

Semester one	Semester two
History of English Literature I	History of English Literature II
Theories of Reading I	Theories of Reading II
Shakespeare	Understanding Drama
Understanding the Novel	Understanding Poetry



Year one: creative writing

Semester one	Semester two
History of English Literature I	History of English Literature II
Theories of Reading I	Theories of Reading II
Shakespeare / Understanding the Novel	Understanding Drama / Understanding Poetry
Introduction to Creative Writing	Thinking Like a Writer



Year one: languages

Semester one	Semester two
History of English Literature I	History of English Literature II
Theories of Reading I	Theories of Reading II
Language Modules	Language Modules
Language Modules	Language Modules



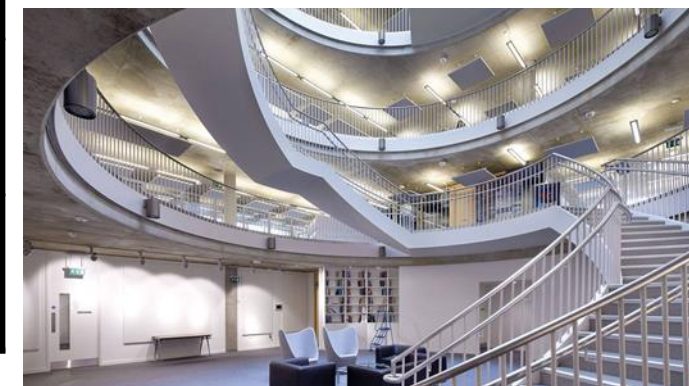
Year one: English literature with another subject (eg. sociology)

Semester one	Semester two
History of English Literature I	History of English Literature II
Theories of Reading I	Theories of Reading II
Introduction to Classical Sociological Thinkers	Social Divisions and Social Identities
Current Sociology: Topics and Issues	Optional: Shakespeare/Understanding the Novel/Thinking Like a Writer



Year two

Semester one	Semester two
Contemporary Literature: Gender and Sexuality	Contemporary Literature: Postcolonial Fictions
Elements of Narrative	Contemporary Storytelling



Plus optional modules such as:

The American Century
 Victorian Literature & Culture
 Modernism
 Monsters, Mystics and Demons
 Introduction to TEFL
 Theorising Film
 Hardcore Shakespeare.

Languages and Literature in Education
 Romantic Literature 1789-1830
 Early Modern Literature
 20thc British and American Drama
 World Cinema after WWII
 Science Fiction
 Significant Others: Victorian
 Creative Partnerships.



Year one spotlight

Theories of Reading I and II

Gives students the necessary methodologies for undertaking close reading of literary texts.

Indicative content includes:

- » Marxism
- » Feminism
- » New Historicism
- » Psychoanalysis.

Year two spotlight

Victorian Literature and Culture

This module explored Victorian literature in relation to a range of social, cultural and political contexts.

Indicative content includes:

- » Urban Life and Industry
- » Men and Women
- » Faith and Doubt
- » Science, Technology and Fantasy
- » Victorian Britain and the World
- » The End of the Century.

Year three spotlight

Children's Literature

Explores children's literature across a variety of genres and ages with close attention to historical development and social context.

Indicative content includes

- » Fairy Tales
- » Picturebooks
- » Classic Works
- » Young Adult Fiction.

Creative writing spotlight

Thinking Like a Writer

Encourages students to reflect on what it might mean to ‘think like a writer’ through the examination of prose, poetry, and writing for film and stage.

Indicative content includes:

- » Introduction to Drama
- » Introduction to Film
- » Writers on Writing
- » Introduction to Narrative Theory.

Languages spotlight

Introduction to France and the French-Speaking World

Language modules provide:

- » Intensive language skills training
- » Introduction to cultures and societies
- » Skills for language experts
- » Training in applied translation.

English literature with ... modules include

- » Introduction to Politics: Power and State
- » Introduction to International Relations
- » Social & Political Thinkers from Plato to Marx.

- » Sociology of Contemporary Societies
- » Current Sociology: Topics and Issues
- » Introduction to Classical Sociological Thinkers.

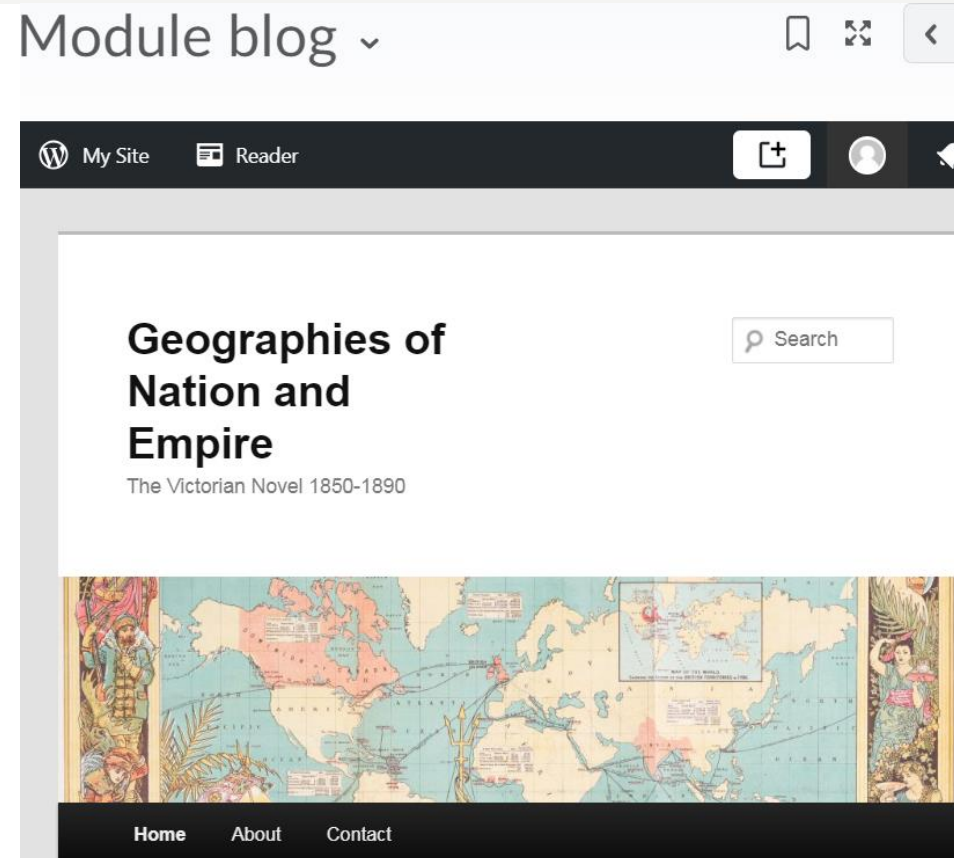


How are modules assessed?

» A range of methods including:

- Essays
- Essay plans
- Exams
- Portfolios of creative work
- Self-reflexive commentaries
- Presentations
- Blogs
- Critical commentaries/analyses
- Dissertation/CW submission.

» *Note that the first year does not count towards your overall degree classification and that the final year is more heavily weighted than second year.*



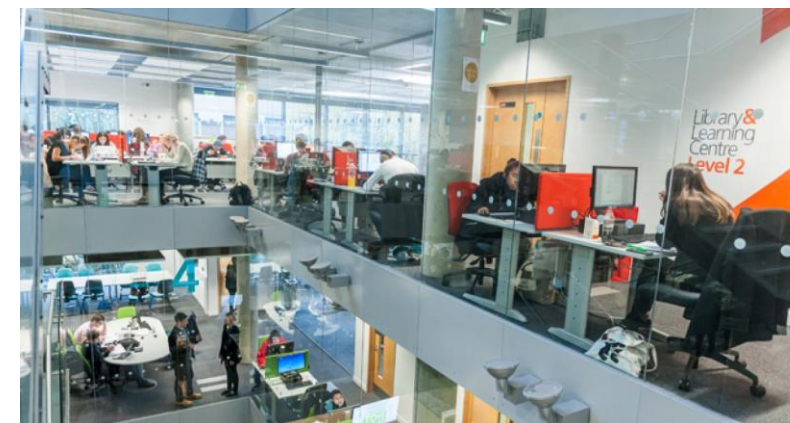
GGA in languages



» All students can take free language classes as part of the Global Graduate Award.

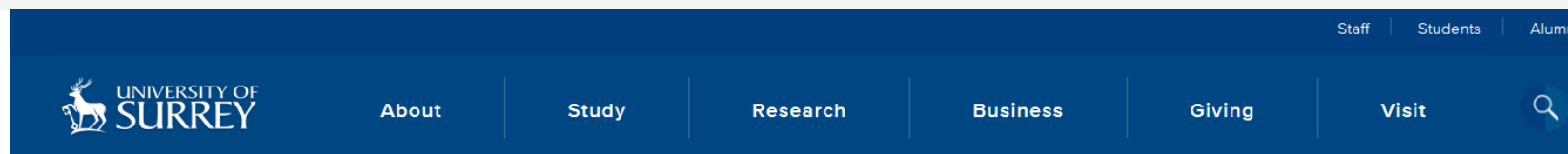
A day in the life of a first-year student

- » 9–10am - Shakespeare lecture
- » 10–11am - Reading for History of English Literature
- » 11am–12pm - Source and collect books from the Library
- » 12–1pm - Introduction to Creative Writing Seminar
- » 1–2pm - Lunch by the lake with friends
- » 2–2:30pm - Personal Tutor meeting
- » 3–4pm – Write in MySurrey Hive
- » 4–6pm – Poetry Readings from staff and students.



Student life – student stories

<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/student-life/what-our-students-say>



STUDENT LIFE > STUDENT STORIES

Alice Kimber

STUDENT PROFILE



Alice Kimber

"The opportunity to do a Professional Training placement was a huge part of why I chose to come to Surrey, particularly because it's relatively unique for a BA (Hons) English Literature course."

Course

English Literature BA (Hons)

Entry year

2016

"I attended both an **Open Day** and an **applicant day** during the university application process. I knew from the Open Day alone that I wanted to come to Surrey. The opportunity to do a **Professional Training placement** was a huge part of why I chose to come to Surrey, particularly because it's relatively unique for a **BA (Hons) English Literature course**. There was a presentation on the day about the industries that previous students had gone into for their placements and I was so excited by the thought of the different

Support at the University



- » Student Health Centre – medical services
- » Centre for Wellbeing – free expert advice and information to support your health, emotional, and psychological wellbeing
- » Wellbeing Champion – Dr Dawn Marley
- » Personal Tutor and a Peer Mentor – support in your academic, personal and professional development
- » My Surrey Hive – immediate support and advice on student-life related queries and socialising space
- » Additional Learning Support – confidential support service for disabled or dyslexic students
- » Academic Skills and Development (SPLASH) – provide guidance on academic work
- » SLL English Language Support – tailored support
- » Student Union – dedicated Wellbeing Officer.



Literary wonderland

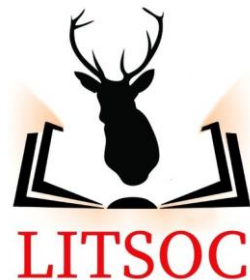
Literary societies and events

Department events

- » Morag Morris Poetry Lecture
- » Poetry Festival
- » Surrey New Writers Festival
- » Guildford Book Festival
- » Quiz Night

» **Twitter:** @SurreySLL

» **Instagram:** @Surr



Student Led

- » LitSoc: English Literature Society
- » MadSoc: Music and Drama Society
- » Musical Theatre Society
- » The Stag (student newspaper)
- » Stag Radio (student radio station)

» **Twitter:** LitSoc - @SurreyEnglish

@SurreyMADSoc

@ussu_mtsoc

@TheStagSurrey

@StagRadioSurrey

The Morag Morris Annual Poetry Lecture

SCHOOL OF LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES

Morag Morris Poetry Lecture 2019/20

**Professor William
Rowe**

*Poems against death: Poetry as
political struggle*

Wednesday, 12th February 2020,
4.30- 6pm, followed by drinks reception.

Room: 01AC01 (AC Building)
University of Surrey (Stag Hill Campus)

Tickets: £4

Concessions: £2

For further details on how to book contact
sel@surrey.ac.uk

Poet in Residence



Robert
Kiely
2019-20



Distinguished Writer in Residence



Iain Sinclair
2018-21



Real-world placements



Microsoft



SONY

Melissa Molloy (1st Class English Literature, class of 2017)

- Public Relations in-house at Sony Consumer Electronics
- After graduation, entered into Freuds London for a month placement
- Now Senior Account Executive at Marlin PR working with innovative technology clients including Slack, Sony Professional and Adzuna.



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