

Programme specification

BA (Hons) English Literature and English Language

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ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

<i>School:</i>	School of Languages & Linguistics
<i>Entry from:</i>	2019-20 <i>in:</i> September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Diploma of Higher Education English Literature and English Language Certificate of Higher Education English Literature and Linguistics
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Q390
<i>QAA benchmark group(s):</i>	English, Linguistics
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

The pairing of English Language and English Literature allows students to develop skills in critical thinking, analysis, and the application of theoretical perspectives to both data and literary texts. The subjects work in dialogue with one another: English Language's approach to analysis and the technicalities and complexities of language complements English Literature's focus on literary techniques and narrative strategies. This is a degree pairing that allows students to pursue research interests in both areas of their degree, and students will have the opportunity to explore issues relating to formations of identity, culture, and society in both subjects. Joint Honours programmes enable students to combine two subjects from a range of areas in a structured way. The selected pairings are designed to complement one another and allow students to have a significant amount of choice and flexibility in relation to their learning experience. In addition, the Joint Honours pairings involve students engaging in a range of learning and teaching experiences and assessment opportunities.

English Language/Linguistics concerns the study of language from a broad range of perspectives, including the way speech is articulated, how language is structured and related to meaning, and how it relates to speakers' intentions and purposes in social interaction. As well as studying how speakers and writers use language, Linguists also study social attitudes to language, and the way language functions to express identities and cultural values. New forms of communication, such as email, texting and instant messaging, have opened up new and interesting fields for the study of Language as a form of social behaviour.

The English Language programme at York St John is distinctive in its focus on real-world applications for language study. Taking a workshop approach, we offer students ways to apply theoretical knowledge to real data, and show how Linguistic concepts and issues have vocational relevance in the working world. Graduates of the programme go on to careers in many varied fields where language use is of paramount importance – for example, teaching, speech and language therapy, journalism, marketing and PR, publishing and administration –

as well as to do postgraduate research. Students on the programme will be able to tailor their choices to suit their interests and needs, following pathways that are more scientific and technical, more social and cultural, or more creative and media-oriented. Where a student is interested in developing an area of interest outside of the normal programme, it may be possible to offer them the opportunity to take an Independent Learning Unit, depending on staff availability and expertise.

The programme is supported by a dedicated Linguistics Lab, where students can analyse speech using digital software, and by the creative use of web-based teaching and learning spaces, including a programme website where staff and students have built a virtual learning community. There are opportunities to take a semester's study abroad in Europe, Japan or in Canada.

Students wishing to study abroad may be eligible to take a 'Study Abroad' module, allowing a more flexible approach to the work students do while they are on international exchange. Students on this module will do a combination of modules at the host institution and independent work negotiated with the Head of Programme at YSJ. This module is designed to complement the existing arrangements for study abroad and not replace them. JH students wishing to take up the opportunity to take this 'Study Abroad' module will be subject to the agreement of the Head of Programme for both subject areas.

English Literature is a rich and vibrant area of study. At YSJU, we are a dynamic, engaged, and research-active team who are committed to providing our students with a cutting-edge education. By studying English Literature, you will have the opportunity to learn about a range of different genres, historical periods, and literary forms. Our philosophy is simple: *words matter*. Words shape the world we live in (books can and have changed the world) and the connections between the written page and the concerns of the 'real' world are a crucial part of the programme. Overall, the degree will enable you to develop your expertise as a reader and critic of a range of literary materials, whilst also supporting you in the development of a portfolio of professional skills which will aid you in the wider job market. As you become adept at independent learning, you will become a more sophisticated reader of texts, and you will find that your confidence as a writer and as a critic will increase as your degree progresses.

Through the course of a wide-ranging suite of modules, you will develop an extensive knowledge of both classic and contemporary texts, and will have the opportunity to gain some professional experience on our dedicated employability module, 'Literature at Work'. The choice of modules on offer will help you to develop your own interests and allow you to shape your degree accordingly. For example, students can choose to follow an historical pathway that might include modules such as 'Revolution and Response', which examines writing from the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, or 'The Victorian Novel', which focuses on nineteenth-century fiction. In addition, students can focus on other specialised areas represented by modules including 'Mapping America', 'Sick Novels: Literature and Disease', 'Science Fiction for Survival', and 'Gothic Origins'. We pride ourselves on a diverse and stimulating syllabus, and you might find yourself studying Native American writing, prison narratives, radical poetry, avant-garde writing, political polemics, Civil Rights literature, speculative fiction, LGBT rights literature, experimental writing, and literature of the Caribbean, as well as canonical writers such as Shakespeare, Dickens, and Austen, all as part of your English Literature degree.

A team of research-active academics who are all recognised in their respective specialisms will facilitate and guide your learning. We use a variety of assessment methods to help you develop different types of learning. You will not sit any traditional exams as part of your degree in English Literature, and instead you will be encouraged to try new forms of writing. In addition to more traditional assessments such as the essay, you might be asked to write a blog post, to compile a research portfolio, or even to curate an online exhibition. Field trips are an integral part of the programme, and students in recent years have had the opportunity to visit London,

Stratford-upon-Avon, and Whitby, as well as local sites including Castle Howard and York Theatre Royal.

During your degree, you will develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills. As well as having the opportunity to become an adept reader, critic, writer, writer and researcher, you will also become highly skilled in critical thinking, problem solving, constructing and developing an argument, time-management, public speaking, and project management. These skills are all valued highly by employers, and you have the chance to develop more professional skills on our bespoke employability module 'Literature at Work'. On this module, you will be able to experience an external work placement, or choose to work on a team project (such as designing a publication or curating a small exhibition). Students regularly contribute to our popular Literature blog, *Point Zero*, which is an excellent way to gain relevant professional experience and exposure for your critical and creative perspectives.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate/postgraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- Programme academic requirements – these will be met by the achievement of appropriate grades in Level 3 qualifications and GCSE Level examinations. For full details of the tariff offer, please see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/languages--linguistics/english-language--linguistics-ba-hons/english-language--linguistics-.html#section-entry-requirements>

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

1. To develop an understanding of the, theories, trends, philosophies, and practical applications of the fields of study related to English Language and Linguistics;
2. To encourage students to develop an informed and critical understanding of key themes and debates within English Literature;
3. To enhance students' development as independent learners and literary critics;
4. To enhance students' development of appropriate skills in communication, analysis, collaboration, research, and self-management;
5. To enable students to understand how the component topics of their degree subject relate to each other and are underpinned by a set of core linguistic concepts
6. To enable students to place their chosen area of study into the wider context of academic study
7. To enable students to develop their skills in communication, team-work, self-management and organisation and problem-solving so that their personal and work-related experiences are significantly enhanced thereby;
8. To develop an ability to reflect critically on the process of researching, writing, analysing, and forming an academic argument;
9. To provide students with recognised qualifications and the transferable skills to undertake further academic study and to compete successfully in a diverse employment market;

10. To provide a supportive learning environment that meets the needs of a diverse set of learners.

Programme learning outcomes

Level 4

- 1.1 Demonstrate awareness of key concepts in English Literature, including historical and theoretical perspectives
- 1.2 Within the field of Linguistics demonstrate an appreciation of the nature of a theory and of what constitutes an explanation
- 1.3 Specify and illustrate some of the core analytical concepts relevant to areas of linguistic analysis.
- 1.4 Demonstrate competence in the analysis of a variety of texts.
- 1.5 Recognise the ethical issues involved in the collection of data from informants in the field or from subjects in the experimental laboratory.
- 1.6 Demonstrate an understanding of some of the issues involved in the basic techniques of data analysis.
- 1.7 Communicate effectively using a range of basic skills, appropriate for the audience and purpose.
- 1.8 Demonstrate competence in applying critical and theoretical approaches to literary texts.
- 1.9 Demonstrate an understanding of argumentation.
- 1.10 Demonstrate a range of basic key transferable skills and literacies including numeracy, ICT, digital literacy and information literacy appropriate to lifelong learning, further study and future employment.
- 1.11 Evaluate their research, analysis, and writing process.

Level 5

- 2.1 Demonstrate a critical understanding and knowledge of English Literature, including an enhanced appreciation of historical and theoretical perspectives.
- 2.2 Demonstrate an understanding of some alternative analyses of a given data set
- 2.3 Demonstrate an understanding of selected issues and problems and the type of data that are relevant to their solution.
- 2.4 Identify the technical issues involved in the collection of reliable data,
- 2.5 Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues involved in data collection.
- 2.6 Demonstrate critical awareness of research strategies particular to English Literature.
- 2.7 Apply theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of different texts.
- 2.8 Effectively communicate information, ideas, arguments, and interpretations in a manner appropriate to the task and audience.
- 2.9 Demonstrate an understanding of professionalism and employability
- 2.10 Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively in decision making in the context of growing maturity as an independent learner.
- 2.11 Demonstrate transferable skills including organisation, time-management, decision-making, numeracy, ICT, digital literacy, and the ability to construct a coherent argument.

Level 6

- 3.1 Demonstrate the ability to acquire and make flexible use of some of the basic concepts, information, practical competencies and techniques which are standard features of Linguistics.
- 3.2 Demonstrate a systemic understanding of English Literature, underpinned by a detailed awareness of historical and theoretical perspectives.

- 3.3 Synthesise and apply relevant critical and theoretical perspectives to their own research practice
- 3.4 Demonstrate an ability to evaluate the appropriateness of certain approaches to problem solving associated with both disciplines.
- 3.5 Work autonomously within a structured environment.
- 3.6 Demonstrate a critical awareness of interdisciplinary connections
- 3.7 Manage and reflect critically upon individual learning.
- 3.8 Demonstrate transferable skills to an advanced level that prepares them for employment or further study.
- 3.9 Proficiently use some of the basic generic and subject specific intellectual qualities ie:
- be able to communicate the results of their work;
 - present a structured and coherent argument;
 - access and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data.
- 3.10 An ability to deploy an advanced conceptual understanding of the application of research skills and theoretical approaches to English Literature and Linguistics.
- 3.11 Design and undertake a piece of extended independent research that either demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of a specific area of English Literature or English Language/Linguistics.

Please note: 3.11 is compulsory for the award of BA (Hons) English Language and English Literature. Students enrolled on a Joint Honours degree may choose to write their dissertation in either subject.

Programme Structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1LL300	4	1	English Language and Linguistics	20	CA
1EN600	4	1	Introduction to Literary Studies I	20	C
1LL301	4	1	Semantics and Pragmatics	20	O
1LL302	4	1	Language and Society	20	O
1EN601	4	1	Writing, Research and Literature	20	O
1EN602	4	2	Introduction to Literary Studies II	20	C
1LL303	4	2	Descriptive Grammar of English	20	CA
1LL305	4	2	Multilingualism	20	O
1LL304	4	2	Phonetics	20	O
1EN603	4	2	Theorising Literature: Power and Identity	20	O
1EN604	4	2	Canonicity	20	O
1XXXX	4	2	Language Module	20	O
2LL306	5	2	Language at Work	20	O
2EN510	5	2	Literature at Work	20	O
2LBS09	5	1	Sociolinguistics of British Sign Language	20	O
2LL300	5	1	Linguistic Diversity in the Classroom	20	O
2LL301	5	1	Applied Phonetics and Phonology	20	O
2LL302	5	1	World Englishes	20	O
2LL305	5	1	Analysing Texts	20	O
2LL307	5	2	Language and Literacy	20	O
2LL308	5	2	Psycholinguistics	20	O
2LL309	5	2	Sociolinguistics	20	O

2LL311	5	2	Forensic Linguistics	20	O
2EN601	5	1 or 2	Science Fiction for Survival	20	O
2EN600	5	1 or 2	Civil War to Civil Society: British Literature, 1640-1740	20	O
2EN470	5	1	Adaptations	20	O
2EN450	5	1 or 2	Literary Theory	20	O
2EN602	5	1	Mapping America	20	O
2CW100	5	1	Writing Fiction	20	O
2CW101	5	1	Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction	20	O
2EN603	5	1 or 2	Revolution and Response: British Literature, 1740-1840	20	O
2EN604	5	1 or 2	Sick Novels: Literature and Disease	20	O
2EN511	5	2	Conflicting Words	20	O
2EN605	5	1 or 2	From Harlem to Hip-Hop: African American Literature and Culture	20	O
2EN606	5	1 or 2	Shakespeare: Perspectives	20	O
2CW103	5	2	Writing Poetry	20	O
2CW104	5	2	Scriptwriting	20	O
3LL310	6	2	Dissertation 40-CR	40	CA if taken
3EN996	6	1 & 2	Literature Dissertation (JH/SH)	20	CA if taken
3CW204	6	1 & 2	Creative Writing Dissertation (40 credits)	40	CA if taken
3LL300	6	1	TESOL Theories and Methods	20	O
3LL301	6	1	English Accents and Dialects	20	O
3LL302	6	1	Attitudes to Language	20	O
3LL303	6	1	Language, Identities and Cultures	20	O
3LL306	6	1	Speech and Language Pathology	20	O
3LL307	6	1	Child Language Acquisition	20	O
3LL308	6	2	Reflections in Linguistics	20	O
3EN600	6	1 or 2	The Victorian Novel: Realism, Sensation, Naturalism	20	O
3EN601	6	1 or 2	The Experimental Century: Cultural Change in the Twentieth Century	20	O
3EN602	6	1 or 2	Gothic Origins	20	O
3EN603	6	1 or 2	The Making of Modern Drama	20	O
3CW201	6	1	Writing Genres	20	O
3CW202	6	1	Contemporary Writing 1: Innovation and Experimentation	20	O
3EN608	6	1	Research Now 1	20	O
3EN270	6	1 or 2	Writing the Caribbean	20	O
3EN290	6	2	Gender and Sexualities	20	O
3EN605	6	1 or 2	American Radicals: Outside the Canon	20	O
3EN606	6	1 or 2	Cultures of the Now: Contemporary Writing	20	O
3EN609	6	2	Research Now 2	20	O

*C: Compulsory, CA: Compulsory for award, O: option

Please note: all modules are subject to staffing and timetable availability each year, in accordance with CMA regulations.

Level 4 choices:

Students must select 6 modules, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject.

Level 5 choices:

Work-related learning: students must select one of the employability modules, either 2EN510: Literature at Work or 2LL206: Language at Work.

Students can choose a maximum of 20 credits from 2CW100: Writing Fiction or 2CW101: Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction.

Students must select 6 modules, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject.

Level 6 choices:

Students must choose a dissertation module from 3EN996: English Literature Dissertation, 3CW103: Creative Writing Dissertation, 3LL309: Dissertation.

Students must select 5 modules, including a dissertation module, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject. Students can take 3CW103: Creative Writing Dissertation if they have taken/will take a Creative Writing module at Level 5 or 6.

"Learning, teaching and assessment"

English Language

Our over-arching strategy on the programmes is the embedding of a range of skills within all modules. There is no separation of key skills or research skills in the programme, as we have found that students are more engaged when they have the opportunity to apply new skills in context from the outset. From their first weeks at university, students are engaged with information literacy, supported by the programme team and our Academic Liaison Librarian, who contributes to a range of our modules, including the compulsory module 1LL300. The programme team support digital literacy, for example, training students in the use of wikis, blogs and cloud-based document sharing services for academic collaboration. The programme team are very experienced in the use of web-based resources for teaching and learning; all modules are supported by well-populated and creative sites hosted on the University VLE.

At level 4, 1LL300 introduces the University's VLE alongside a wide range of other learning situations, including formal lectures, workshops and seminars, and tutorial support. Particular effort is made to acquaint students with the range of different ways that learning will take place on their degree. Assessment is also varied, including class tests, online tests and postings as well as oral presentations, essays and data analysis tasks. There is an open examination at the end of level 4, for the compulsory module 1LL303.

Research skills are embedded in modules as students are introduced to library skills, academic writing, data analysis and using web tools for analysis.

Students are encouraged to use each other as a resource, as well as using the expertise of staff. The programme website supports the culture of a learning community, and students are introduced at the outset to its functionality. Peer and self-assessment both feature in level 4 modules.

1LL300 and 1LL303 are compulsory for Joint Honours students as they underpin study at level 5. Students may choose any of the modules from the Single Honours programme at level 4 within the constraints of the Joint Honours Framework.

Students will have timetabled group tutorials with their Academic Tutor once in each semester; at level 4, focus is typically on academic writing and referencing.

At level 5, Joint Honours English Language students may take the module, Language at Work, or they may take a module with a careers orientation in their other subject area.

Although a module with a careers orientation is normally compulsory (may be taken in either programme area), there may be some particular circumstances where an exemption is appropriate – for example, where a student is retired and is no longer in need of careers orientation. In such circumstances, it may be possible for students to take an alternative module. This decision is at the discretion of the programme team, and, in particular, the Subject Director.

Students may go on international exchange at level 5, either for one semester or two. Where students do elect to study abroad, Language at Work is not compulsory. A similar module may not be on offer at the host institution, but we feel that the experience of studying at another institution in another country outweighs the drawbacks of not taking this module. In some cases, students are still able to take up opportunities for work experience for academic credit, such as through the completion of the SMiLE programme (teaching English in schools) available at one of our partner institutions in Spain. Students will also have the opportunity to engage with issues of professionalism and employability in other areas of the programme, such as academic group tutorials. The Study Abroad module is intended to support students visiting institutions that cannot provide enough appropriate modules, or to support students where the host institution does not teach in English. This module enables students to complete a range of assessed work. Portfolio content is flexible and designed to suit the needs of the individual student and their programme according to the resources available.

Beyond the compulsory modules, Joint Honours students can exercise choice across level 5, opting for those areas in which they see interest value and a fruitful knowledge base for their future development.

Work at level 5 is characterised by more contexts where students determine the direction of their work. This may be, for example, where tutors ask them to find their own data to explore, or set up their own research direction within material. Research skills are embedded within modules, for example, work on ethics, project design and argumentation skills. The presentation of work is expected to be more professional; and oral presentations more accomplished.

Skills and subject knowledge introduced at level 4 and enhanced at level 5 are consolidated at level 6. Students are expected to be maximally self-reliant and to learn how to use their tutors as one resource among many. In terms of subject knowledge, they are expected to be able to see some of the limitations of theoretical approaches, while also using knowledge gained over the previous two years to problem-solve and critically evaluate different linguistic phenomena. Research skills are increasingly present in modules, corresponding to project work concerning both written and spoken data undertaken at level 6, for example in 3LL301, English Accents and Dialects, 3LL304 Language in InterAction, and 3LL300 TESOL Theories and Methods. Students may opt to take their dissertation in either of their programme areas. Students are supported in their dissertations by their supervisors, including in research skills where appropriate. Group academic tutorials support research skills for dissertations and project work. Level 6 offers more career orientation through modules that have a direct application to a number of working contexts, for example, TESOL Theories and Methods and Attitudes to Language.

English Literature

The aims of all our teaching is to help you to become a better writer and literary critic, to challenge you to consider new ideas and concepts, and to support you in understanding the complex connections between literature and contemporary society. Literature is a dialogic discipline: that is, informed discussions and debates are a crucial part of the learning process. We do not want students to be passive learners, but instead expect you all to be actively engaged and involved with your degree subject.

We use a range of teaching styles and settings to help support you during your time at University. You will attend lectures, seminars (groups of students with a tutor), tutorials (one-to-one meetings with a tutor), workshops, and experience collaborative learning (working with your fellow students), events, field trips, as well as independent study sessions, and times when you will need to use online resources through the University's Virtual Learning Environment.

Your first year with us is about supporting you in making the transition to university-level study. You will be assigned your own Academic Tutor, a member of staff who will meet with you and other students on a weekly basis during your first semester at YSJU. Modules such as 'Writing, Research and Literature' have been specially designed to help you adapt to the University environment and the requirements of the subject. As you progress to your second and third year, you will be able to shape your degree according to your own research interests. You can choose to specialise in a certain genre, historical period, or literary form. We have a diverse range of modules for you to choose from, and you will have lots of opportunities to study types of literature that you might not have experienced previously (such as, for example, Caribbean literature, utopian writing, and creative non-fiction).

There are no exams, and your English Literature degree will be assessed through coursework. As well as writing essays, however, there are other assessment opportunities designed to help you develop new skills and prepare for graduate employment. You will encounter a wide range of assessment, including portfolios, close-reading exercises, and opportunities for reflective writing. Some modules are assessed by one piece of coursework (usually a portfolio) and you will have the chance to work on this throughout the semester. The feedback you will receive focuses on how you can improve your work for future assessment, and we encourage all students to keep a feedback folder to help keep track of their academic development. You will have the chance to work with published and professional writers, as our resident Royal Literary Fellow is available for additional tutorials and writing support.

In your final year, you will be ready to take on a bigger role in the management of your learning. You might find yourself leading a class discussion, or doing a non-assessed presentation in a seminar. You will write a dissertation (an extended project that runs for the whole academic year) on the subject of your choice, and with the support of an academic supervisor. In many ways, this is in the intellectual culmination of your degree, as you become an independent researcher and are required to manage your own academic project. Many of our students note that this is one of the most enjoyable sections of their degree, as they are specialising in a literary topic that they are passionate about, and are putting into practice the skills they have accrued during their time at York St John University.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) undergraduate [awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]

- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 18/08/17

QSC PASP (15.1.19) replaced 3LL203 with 3LL213 wef 19/20