

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) English Literature and English Language

<i>School:</i>	Humanities Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	English Literature Languages and Linguistics
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2020-21
<i>in the month(s) of</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>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education English Literature and English Language Diploma of Higher Education English Literature and English Language BA (Ord) English Literature and English Language
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Q390
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	English Linguistics
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study for full time and part time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes

Introduction and special features

Joint Honours programmes give students the opportunity to combine two subjects from a range of areas in a structured way. The selected pairings are designed to complement one another and allow you to have a significant amount of choice and flexibility in relation to your learning experience. In addition, Joint Honours will engage you in a range of learning and teaching experiences and assessment opportunities.

English Literature

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, 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.

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 and how it is acquired, processed and used in communicative contexts, 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. English Language at York St John is distinctive in its focus on real-world applications for language study. Often taking a workshop approach, we offer you 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, management and administration – as well as to do postgraduate research. Research, ICT, information and academic literacy skills are embedded in modules throughout the programme, enabling you to acquire, develop and apply skills valuable for future workplace contexts.

The subject area holds a fortnightly Colloquium Series during term time, to which we invite guest lecturers who are working on research of relevance to modules being offered in the current semester, and ask them to prepare their talks for an audience composed primarily of students. This provides you with the

opportunity to hear about research issues and methods from specialists, including members of our own team, whose work you will be reading about in class.

The programme is supported by a specialist Linguistics Lab, where you can analyse speech using digital software, and by the creative use of web-based teaching and learning spaces, including a dedicated programme website. The programme aims to provide you with the tools required to apply linguistic theory to real world language in use. This is achieved by the careful scaffolding of student learning through beginning to study carefully selected or constructed examples of language in the first year of study, and increasing exposure to real language in the second and third year.

Another distinctive feature of this programme is the opportunity to apply to take the Cambridge English Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) at no additional cost. This means that, in addition to knowledge about language, the acquisition of English and the use of English in global and multilingual contexts, successful applicants will also have the opportunity to acquire valuable practical teaching experience and graduate with an internationally recognised teaching qualification. Places will be awarded subject to a successful application and interview process.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

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.yorksj.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 structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
LAL4001M	4	1	English Language and Linguistics	20	C	NC
LAL4004M	4	2	Descriptive Grammar of English	20	C	NC
LIT4002M	4	1	Introduction to Literary Studies 1	20	C	X
LIT4004M	4	2	Introduction to Literary Studies 2	20	C	X
You must select TWO modules, ONE in each semester, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject overall						
LAL4002M	4	1	Semantics and Pragmatics	20	O	X
LAL4003M	4	1	Language and Society	20	O	X
LIT4003M	4	1	Writing, Research, and Literature	20	O	X
LAL4006M	4	2	Multilingualism	20	O	X
LAL4005M	4	2	Phonetics	20	O	X
LIT4005M	4	2	Theorising Literature: Power and Identity	20	O	X
LIT4006M	4	2	Canonicity	20	O	X
LAB4XXXX	4	2	<i>British Sign Language Module</i>	20	O	X

You must select SIX modules, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject

¹ Work-related learning: You must select ONE of the employability modules, either LAL5007M or LIT5004M.

LAL5007M	5	2	Language at Work	20	O ¹	X
LIT5004M	5	2	Literature at Work	20	O ¹	X

² You can choose a maximum of 20 credits from CRW5002M or CRW5003M

CRW5002M	5	1	Writing Fiction	20	O ²	X
CRW5003M	5	1	Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction	20	O ²	X
LAL5013M	5	1	Sociolinguistics of British Sign Language	20	O	X
LAL5001M	5	1	Linguistic Diversity in the Classroom	20	O	X
LAL5002M	5	1	Applied Phonetics and Phonology	20	O	X
LAL5003M	5	1	World Englishes	20	O	X
LAL5006M	5	1	Analysing Texts	20	O	X
LIT5002M	5	1	Adaptations	20	O	X
LIT5008M	5	1	Mapping America	20	O	X
LIT5007M	5	1 or 2	Science Fiction for Survival	20	O	X
LIT5013M	5	1 or 2	Dawn of Print	20	O	X
LIT5001M	5	1 or 2	Literary Theory	20	O	X
LIT5014M	5	1 or 2	Gothic, Romanticism and Revolution	20	O	X
LIT5010M	5	1 or 2	Sick Novels: Literature and Disease	20	O	X
LIT5011M	5	1 or 2	From Harlem to Hip-Hop: African American Literature and Culture	20	O	X
LIT5012M	5	1 or 2	Shakespeare: Perspectives	20	O	X
LAL5008M	5	2	Language and Literacy	20	O	X
LAL5009M	5	2	Psycholinguistics	20	O	X
LAL5010M	5	2	Sociolinguistics	20	O	X
LAL5012M	5	2	Forensic Linguistics	20	O	X
LIT5005M	5	2	Conflicting Words	20	O	X
CRW5004M	5	2	Writing Poetry	20	O	X
CRW5005M	5	2	Scriptwriting	20	O	X

You must select FIVE modules, including a dissertation module, with a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 80 credits in each subject.

³ You must choose a dissertation module from either LIT6001M, CRW6005M, LAL6010M.

You can only take CRW6005M if you have taken/will take a Creative Writing module at Level 5 or 6.

CRW6005M	6	1&2	Creative Writing Dissertation Project	40	O ³	NC
LAL6010M	6	2	Dissertation	40	O ³	NC
LIT6001M	6	1&2	English Literature Research Project	40	O ³	NC
LAL6001M	6	1	TESOL Theories and Methods	20	O	X

LAL6002M	6	1	English Accents and Dialects	20	O	X
LAL6003M	6	1	Attitudes to Language	20	O	X
LAL6004M	6	1	Language, Identities and Cultures	20	O	X
LAL6006M	6	1	Speech and Language Pathology	20	O	X
LAL6007M	6	1	Child Language Acquisition	20	O	X
LIT6014M	6	1	Research Now 1	20	O	X
LIT6006M	6	1 or 2	The Victorian Novel: Realism, Sensation, Naturalism	20	O	X
LIT6007M	6	1 or 2	The Experimental Century: Cultural Change in the Twentieth Century	20	O	X
LIT6008M	6	1 or 2	Gothic Origins	20	O	X
LIT6009M	6	1 or 2	The Making of Modern Drama	20	O	X
LIT6003M	6	1 or 2	Writing the Caribbean	20	O	X
LIT6011M	6	1 or 2	American Radicals: Outside the Canon	20	O	X
LIT6012M	6	1 or 2	Cultures of the Now: Contemporary Writing	20	O	X
LAL6008M	6	2	Reflections in Linguistics	20	O	X
LIT6004M	6	2	Gender and Sexualities	20	O	X
LIT6015M	6	2	Research Now 2	20	O	X
⁴ You can choose a maximum of 20 credits from CRW6002M, CRW6003M or CRW6004M						
CRW6002M	6	1	Writing Genres	20	O ⁴	X
CRW6003M	6	1	Contemporary Writing 1: Innovation and Experimentation	20	O ⁴	X
CRW6004M	6	2	Contemporary Writing 2: Literary and Publishing Cultures Now	20	O ⁴	X

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

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40) in order to progress.

English Literature

Programme aim(s)

The programme aims to:

1. To encourage students to develop an informed and critical understanding of key themes and debates within English Literature
2. To enhance students' development as independent learners and literary critics
3. To support students in developing a range of transferable skills to equip them for employment and lifelong learning
4. To develop an ability to reflect critically on the process of researching, writing, analysing, and forming an academic argument
5. To provide a supportive learning environment that meets the needs of a diverse set of learners
6. To enhance students' development of appropriate skills in communication, analysis, collaboration, research, and self-management

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Demonstrate awareness of key concepts in English Literature, including historical and theoretical perspectives.
- 4.2 Demonstrate awareness of formal and generic conventions.
- 4.3 Demonstrate competence in the analysis of a variety of texts.
- 4.4 Communicate effectively using a range of basic skills appropriate for the audience and purpose.
- 4.5 Demonstrate a range of basic key transferable skills (including those for lifelong learning) appropriate for further study and future employment.
- 4.6 Demonstrate competence in applying critical and theoretical approaches to literary texts.
- 4.7 Evaluate their research, analysis, and writing process.

Level 5

- 5.1 Demonstrate a critical understanding and knowledge of English Literature, including an enhanced appreciation of historical and theoretical perspectives.
- 5.2 Demonstrate critical awareness of research strategies particular to English Literature.
- 5.3 Apply theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of different texts.
- 5.4 Effectively communicate information, ideas, arguments, and interpretations in a manner appropriate to the task and audience.
- 5.5 Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively in decision making in the context of growing maturity as an independent learner.
- 5.6 Demonstrate transferable skills including organisation, time-management, decision-making, and the ability to construct a coherent argument.

Level 6

- 6.1 Demonstrate a systemic understanding of English Literature, underpinned by a detailed awareness of historical and theoretical perspectives.
- 6.2 Synthesise and apply relevant critical and theoretical perspectives to their own research practice.
- 6.3 An ability to deploy an advanced conceptual understanding of the application of research skills and theoretical approach to English Literature.
- 6.4 Work autonomously within a structured environment.
- 6.5 Manage and reflect critically upon individual learning.
- 6.6 Demonstrate transferable skills to an advanced level that prepares them for employment or further study.
- 6.7 Design and undertake a piece of extended independent research that demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of a specific area of English Literature.

Learning, teaching and assessment

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). We offer an interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature, and you might find yourself studying a film or media adaptation of a text, or considering a specific performance of a play, as well as reading the original source material.

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.

English Language

Programme aim(s)

The programme aims to:

1. Enable you to become an independent and ethical (applied) linguist, able to work for social justice in changing global contexts
2. Enable you to be digitally literate and able to communicate professionally, drawing on sound evidence from linguistic theories and applied linguistics practice
3. Provide progressive opportunities for you to develop as a reflective and versatile learner
4. Foster in you a lasting interest and life-long enjoyment in the study of English Language and Linguistics
5. Provide you with the qualifications and skills to undertake further academic study and to compete successfully in a diverse employment market

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

- 4.1 Handle, analyse and present data in an ethical way using appropriate digital tools.
- 4.2 Recognise and explain socio-cultural, political, psychological, educational and/or historical contexts of language use.
- 4.3 Describe and analyse grammatical structures of language using appropriate terminology.
- 4.4 Describe and analyse the sounds of language using appropriate terminology.
- 4.5 Source and interpret a range of academic literature to effectively communicate, adopting referencing conventions where appropriate.

Level 5

- 5.1 Critically analyse and present naturalistic and/ or experimental data in an ethical way.
- 5.2 Identify and use appropriate theoretical frameworks.
- 5.3 Investigate and interpret socio-cultural, political, psychological, educational and/ or historical contexts of language use.
- 5.4 Communicate professionally, evidencing arguments through correctly referenced sources where appropriate.
- 5.5 Demonstrate an awareness of professional values.

Level 6

- 6.1 Design and carry out an independent research study, presenting and critically analysing data in an ethical way.
- 6.2 Select and apply appropriate theoretical frameworks.
- 6.3 Investigate and critically evaluate socio-cultural, political, psychological, educational and/ or historical contexts of language use.
- 6.4 Appropriately adapt language to communicate professionally with a range of audiences both in writing and orally.
- 6.5 Construct a convincing argument, evidenced by critical engagement with appropriate sources.
- 6.6 Demonstrate professional and transferable skills.

Learning, teaching and assessment

Level 4

At level 4, you are introduced to a wide range of learning situations, including formal lectures, workshops, seminars, and tutorial support. You are also introduced to a range of assessment types, which are outlined below.

From your first weeks at university, you are engaged with information literacy, which is embedded in all level 4 modules. The delivery of these skills sessions is supported by the programme team, the Study Skills team and our Academic Liaison Librarian. These key colleagues contribute to a range of our modules, including the non-compensatable module LAL4001M. You are also assigned an Academic Tutor, who will meet with you at least once each semester.

At level 4, we make use of 'small stakes' assessments, which are designed to engage you throughout the semester. For example, in LAL4004M, you will complete a weekly online quiz which requires you to engage with the set reading. Assessment is varied, including a class test, online tests and postings, as well as oral presentations, essays, and data analysis tasks. Group oral presentations take place in both compulsory for award modules, as a way of ensuring that you are exposed to this crucial employability skill in a supported way from the start of your programme. In the first instance, this is a formative presentation, with the opportunity for you to receive feedback on and reflect upon your performance. There is an examination at the end of level 4, for LAL4004M.

You are encouraged to use your fellow students as a resource, as well as benefitting from the expertise of staff. The programme website supports the culture of a learning community, and you are introduced, at the outset, to its functionality. Peer and self-assessment both feature in level 4 modules.

Choices at Level 4 are limited because of the need to provide a basic 'toolkit' for linguistic study, which will underpin study at level 5. We value language learning extremely highly, and recognise its potential for enabling you to apply your new linguistic skills to a language other than English. However, it is known that students are likely to come with different ideas and experiences of previous language learning. For this reason, there is some choice in Semester 2, with the opportunity to study a new language at beginners' level, continue to study an existing language at a higher level, or to take the Linguistics module, *Multilingualism*, LAL4006M. Language module options vary on an annual basis according to staff availability and demand.

Level 5

At level 5, a range of learning situations is available to you across a number of modules. Some modules are entirely workshop based, while others continue the lecture/seminar approach. At this level, you will select an employability module, *Language at Work* being the English Language option, where you will be encouraged to consider the skills you have and how these could apply in the workplace.

Work at level 5 is characterised by more contexts where you determine the direction of your work. This may be, for example, where tutors ask you to find your own data to analyse, or set up your own research direction within materials provided. Research skills are embedded within modules; for example, work on ethics, project design and argumentation skills as well as training in the use of specialist software in some modules. The presentation of your work is expected to be more professional, and your oral presentations more accomplished.

You may choose to apply for international exchange for one semester at level 5. Where you elect to study abroad in semester 2, you may take the distance version of our work experience module. In some cases, students are 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.

Level 6

Skills and subject knowledge introduced at level 4 and enhanced at level 5 are consolidated at level 6. You are expected to be maximally self-reliant and to learn how to use your tutors as one resource among many. In terms of subject knowledge, you 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 LAL6002M and LAL6001M.

You will be supported in your dissertation by your supervisor, including in research skills where appropriate. You will also present your dissertation research to an audience as part of the assessment for this module. In LAL6008M, you will also carry out the independent reflective portfolio, drawing on tutorial support to enable you to make connections between aspects of your undergraduate programme. You will receive tutorial support in developing research skills for dissertations and project work.

Level 6 offers you more career orientation through modules that have a direct application to a number of working contexts, for example, LAL6001M and LAL6003M. There are additional opportunities for career development outside credit bearing modules. Digital and communication skills, as key graduate attributes, are focused on in the assessment strategies for LAL6008M. You are encouraged to write academically strong pieces of work in an accessible way, as well as to reflect on your experience across the programme, drawing out for yourself the transferrable skills that you have developed.

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 as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised: 19.7.19

Programme originally approved: