Get to know English Language and Literature

Our Department of English Language and Literature is one of the oldest departments of literature in Canada, dating back to 1888, but it also deals with contemporary writing and new media like graphic novels.

The English curriculum is structured to ensure that in each year of your program you will be in one class small enough to let you feel comfortable making your voice heard and where you won’t get lost in the crowd. Our first-year lecture is supported with tutorials to help ease the transition from high school to university level writing and analysis; our second-year seminars allow you to study in depth a single major work or cluster of related works. Our Creative Writing Program, led by nationally recognized writer/mentors Carolyn Smart and Armand Ruffo, offers workshops and collaborative response to your own work to help you hone your craft. This intensive classroom experience is enhanced by our Writer-in-Residence program which allows all creative writers, not just those in creative writing courses, to consult with a professional writer who offers advice and mentorship to our students.

“English at Queen’s combines traditional literary studies with contemporary texts to develop critical thinkers, communicators and writers for today.”

Degree OPTIONS
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor
Bachelor of Arts (General)

Queen’s ADMISSIONS
Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) website. Secondary School prerequisites include Six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

Course HIGHLIGHTS
“History of Children’s Literature” has become one of our most popular courses for English specialists and non-concentrators alike. Offered regularly both on campus and online, this course explores the cultural role played by works written especially for younger readers such as Charlotte’s Web and Alice in Wonderland. Other exciting courses are Global Shakespeare, and the new Literature and the Fantastic which is a study of literature dealing with the fantastic or containing supernatural or uncanny elements including samples of myth, romance, Gothic literature, and fantasy.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
**English Language and Literature MAJOR MAP**

**1ST YEAR**
- Take ENGL 100. For academic requirements or thresholds, visit the faculty website. Speak with an Academic Advisor at the Arts and Science Office or the Undergraduate Chair for help.

**2ND YEAR**
- Take core courses: ENGL 200 (all plans), ENGL 290 (Seminar for Majors and Medals only). Majors take additional 9.0-12.0 ENGL units, medials take additional 3.0 ENGL units. See English Plan Overviews for full details.

**3RD OR FINAL YEAR**
- Try to complete all major requirements/core courses: Majors: 18.0-300 level ENGL units in three historical distribution groups. Medials: 12.0-300 level ENGL units in two historical distribution groups. Check your Academic Advisement Report in SOLUS to make sure you are on track to meet all of your requirements.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**
- Complete all remaining requirements for your plan (including 15.0 400-level ENGL units). Apply to graduate on SOLUS.

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
- **1ST YEAR**
  - Take ENGL 100. For academic requirements or thresholds, visit the faculty website. Speak with an Academic Advisor at the Arts and Science Office or the Undergraduate Chair for help. **2ND YEAR**
  - Take core courses: ENGL 200 (all plans), ENGL 290 (Seminar for Majors and Medals only). Majors take additional 9.0-12.0 ENGL units, medials take additional 3.0 ENGL units. See English Plan Overviews for full details.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- **1ST YEAR**
  - Get involved in student publications, such as the Queen's Journal, the Queen's Feminist Review, or Ultraviolet Magazine. Explore broadcasting opportunities at CFRC and QTV.
  - If you are interested in creative writing courses, work on your portfolio.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
- Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as Frontier College/Queen's Students for Literacy or Kingston WritersFest.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
- The Queen's University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience. Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

**VISIT CAREERS.QUEENSU.CA/MAJORMAPS.HTML FOR THE ONLINE VERSION WITH LINKS!**

Caution: *This map is meant as a guide to provide suggestions throughout your university career. The activities, resources, and careers mentioned are possibilities – you are not restricted to them and you don’t have to follow this exact timeline. Every person (including you) will find their own unique path through their degree at Queen’s and beyond.*
English Language and Literature

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map
• Got questions about careers and classes?
• Feeling a little lost or overwhelmed by choices?
• Wondering what you are “supposed” to be doing?

Use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of career and academic life. Each map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your accomplishments. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Don’t stress if you haven’t done all of the suggested activities. The map is not a prescription – it’s a tool for finding your own way at Queen’s.

Getting what you need to succeed in the workplace

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?
In a recent survey from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives the top 6 skills sought by employers were:
1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

HOW DO I GET THE SKILLS I NEED?
It is important to develop a balanced skill set – many of which you will develop during your studies. To stand out, take advantage of experiential learning through the multitude of clubs and activities in and around Queen’s. Check out the Get Relevant Experience section of this map.

WHAT CAN I LEARN STUDYING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AT QUEEN’S?
• Communication: present ideas clearly and persuasively, orally and in writing
• Problem solving: approach a complex topic systematically
• Textual analysis: understand how texts create meaning and emotional impact
• Logical thinking: construct an argument for maximum persuasiveness, and use evidence appropriately
• Research: rapidly gain the knowledge you need to support your argument
• History of ideas: understand how cultural forms and notions of value change in time
• Literary theory: explore some of the ways in which literature has been defined, evaluated, and used by different thinkers
• Cultural study: understand the differences between high and low cultural forms, and their function in society throughout history
• Resource and time management

WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL?
No one will get exactly the same experience as you. Take the time to think about what skills you have developed to be able to best explain them with compelling examples in future applications to employers and further education. For help with this, check out the Career Services skills workshop.