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 such as 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.”

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). 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.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in English / Minor is Medieval Studies
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Internship option available

Course HIGHLIGHTS

“History of Children’s Literature” has become one of our most popular courses for English specialists and as an elective for other students. 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.

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the opportunity to work with our advisors and faculty to discover your real interests and identify opportunities for success. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year at Queen’s will be a great experience.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
## English Language and Literature Major Map

### 1st Year

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

In first year take ENGL 100. Each Plan will have at least one required first year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in Academic Writing or explore other certificates available.

### 2nd Year

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

In second year take core courses: ENGL 200 (all plans), ENGL 290 (Seminar for Majors and Medials only). Majors add additional 9-12.0 ENGL units, medials add additional 3.0 ENGL units. See departmental websites for full details.

Need help mapping all of your core, option, and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

### 3rd Year

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

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 Requirements Report in SOLUS to make sure you are on track to meet all of your requirements.

### 4th Year

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

Complete all remaining requirements for your plan (including 15.0 400-level ENGL units).

By fourth year you should be working on your remaining core, option, and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

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### Get Relevant Experience

**GET INVOLVED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as Frontier College/Queen’s Students for Literacy or Kingston WriterFest.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as Soul Food and the Inquire publication.

**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 QUCI 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.

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### Consider a 12-16 Month QUIP Internship

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest. Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services Skills workshop for help.

Consider joining professional associations like the Editors’ Association of Canada (EAC). Join groups on Linkedin reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in English.

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### Where could I go after graduation?

- Advertising
- Archives
- Broadcasting - radio and T.V.
- Business writing
- Communications
- Consulting
- Consumer services
- Copyright law
- Copywriting
- Corporate training/development
- Diplomatic service
- Editing
- Education (including English as a second language)
- Foreign service
- Human resources
- Immigration services
- Journalism
- Libraries
- Linguistics
- Marketing
- Media – electronic and print
- Public service and administration
- Public relations
- Publishing
- Social work
- Speech and language therapy
- Technical writing
- Translation
- Travel and tourism

Some careers may require additional training.

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### Majors

- Linguistics
- Libraries
- Journalism
- Journalism
- Immigration services
- Foreign service
- Education (including English
- Editing
- Diplomatic service
- Development
- Copywriting
- Copywriting
- Consulting
- Communications
- Broadcasting - radio and T.V.
- Advertising
- Archives
- Broadcasting - radio and T.V.
- Business writing
- Communications
- Consulting
- Consumer services
- Copyright law
- Copywriting
- Corporate training/development
- Diplomatic service
- Editing
- Education (including English as a second language)
- Foreign service
- Human resources
- Immigration services
- Journalism
- Libraries
- Linguistics
- Marketing
- Media – electronic and print
- Public service and administration
- Public relations
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**Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!**
How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE?

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