

ENGLISH

WHY STUDY ENGLISH?

Deepen your understanding of human nature and behaviour. Discover the beautiful, the surprising, the impassioned.

Explore our world through the texts that have shaped history, moved ideas and influenced our contemporary culture. You will gain insight and challenge yourself with new perspectives, while learning the art of persuasion. A degree in English sets you on a path to begin to navigate and explain our world and keep seeing it through new eyes. Start writing your story today.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Do you want to be a journalist? Work in publishing or in education? Are you one of our next leaders? Will you shape ideas at local and national government? Or will you make waves in the business world? Are you going to be at the forefront of emerging technology and AI?

Analysis, interpretation, communication and the ability to edit are all skills that set you on to any career path. With an ability to critically analyse, research and deliver a high standard of written communication, our graduates are sought after in a breadth of pathways.

“Studying English at undergraduate level established my eligibility to train as a secondary school English teacher. It wasn’t just my direct experience as a teacher, but also my analytical and critical experience as an Arts scholar that paved the way for the role I’m in now.”



Hannah Lees

**Kairapu Manager, Ako Mātātupu:
Teach First NZ**

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English
+ Philosophy

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in English
Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching
Master of Arts in English



“Words are wor(l)ds. One letter makes all the difference.

“L. L for literature, letters, lit crit, logos, legends, lament, longing, and of course, lust. The discipline of English, one of our founding subjects, has it all. It’s why we teach it. English Literature includes all literatures published in English: from the depths of Oceania’s lettered oracles to Aotearoa’s bedrock bards, to American jazz writers, Modernist ways of “making it new” to Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton.”

Selina Tusitala Marsh
Professor



WHAT CAN I STUDY?

You will study texts from all over the English-speaking world, and literature from the medieval period up to the present. You'll examine the roles texts have played in different cultures and at different periods. And, you will consider the different ways readers have approached texts, and how gender, race and other aspects of our identities have influenced writers and readers.

Get excited about your course options:



Stage 1 Course*

ENGLISH 102 - Great Books: Seduction and Betrayal

Surveys a selection of literary masterpieces by major authors from different periods in the history of English literature. Selection of texts is organised around the theme of seduction and betrayal, understood more particularly as a story arc exploring attitudes to love and sex, to politics and ambition, to ethical conduct, and to the activity of reading itself.

Stage 2 Course*

ENGLISH 221 - New Zealand Literature

Offers an historical survey of major writers and key issues in New Zealand literature. Students will not only read some of the best writing our country has to offer but will develop, through the literature studied, a richly detailed overview of New Zealand experience from the period of first contact until now.

Stage 3 Course*

ENGLISH 330 - Early Texts, Modern Inventions

A study of key works and contexts of selected medieval and early modern writers, including Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, and Behn. Offers a compact history of literary engagements with important social issues that arose in a period notable for revolution and reform; also develops knowledge of literary forms and trends that are historically important, but, in this period, relatively new.

Courses you could study*

Journeys: Travel Narratives in Global Literatures

Reading/Writing/Text

Shakespeare: Comedies and Tragicomedies

Complementary majors include:

English



Art History

Drama

History

Media and Screen Studies

Psychology

Sociology



“English has provided me with analytical lenses which I am able to apply to various types of texts. It has also encouraged me to reflect on the role of literature in the contemporary world.”

Ginevra Bellondi

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English + Linguistics

*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit the Arts website. Published August 2023

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