Invest in your future as a teacher.

In 2014 the University of Sydney launched a new Master of English Studies, which offers special benefits to secondary school English teachers. The Department of English was rated the best in Australia and the 18th best in the world in the recognized 2015 QS World University rankings. Since its foundation, the English Department has had a strong commitment to enriching the expertise of Australia’s teachers in the field of English.

At the centre of the program are four core units of immediate relevance to the contemporary teaching of secondary English, and in particular, HSC English: critical reading, literary history, genre, and English as a world literature. These units will equip you with an essential skill-set in the understanding, interrogation and appreciation of literature and will be of considerable value in preparing for the English Stage 6 Prescriptions. Developing from this core is a broad selection of more specialized, elective units through which you may pursue topics and authors of particular interest to you. The new suite of units has many points of contact with Stages 4-6 syllabus content and text requirements, including Shakespeare, Australian, British and American literature, creative writing, drama, poetry and modern fiction, and the eighteenth-century novel. A number of these units are especially relevant to teaching and learning in English Advanced, English Extension 1, and English Extension 2. You will particularly value the flexible assessment options that offer the opportunity to conduct research related to your professional practice and, where suitable, to develop rich teaching materials for use in the secondary classroom, 7-12. Seminar classes will normally run in the evenings, and are supported by an expanding eLearning environment to maximize accessibility for working teachers.

A capstone unit enables you to complete the degree with an extended research project that can be tailored to suit a wide range of professional contexts, interests and collaborative modes.

Postgraduate coursework students have exclusive access to “The Quarter,” a new space specifically designed to support the teaching, learning and wellbeing needs of postgraduate coursework students.

Now is the ideal time to consider postgraduate study in English. Join us and invest in your future as a teacher.

For further information, see:


Fully accredited as professional learning by the NSW Institute of Teachers
University of Sydney - Faculty of Education and Social Work - NSW Institute of Teachers’ endorsed provider of Institute Registered professional development for the maintenance of accreditation at Proficient Teacher/Professional Competence.

Scope of Endorsement

− All Standards of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers at the level of Proficient Teacher
− All Elements of the NSW Professional Teaching Standards at Professional Competence

Units of Study within the Master of English Studies are registered with the NSW Institute of Teachers for 26 hours (each) of professional development at Proficient Teacher/Professional Competence. This includes the four core units of study, and 25 elective units of study. Standards addressed are listed for each unit within the Institute’s web portal. NSWIT course codes and course names contain the Unit of Study code for search purposes.

English Studies 2016

Individual units are accredited as professional learning by NSWIT. Over time, you can combine successfully completed units as part of an English Studies degree.

The degree program is offered at Graduate Certificate (0.5 year full-time), Graduate Diploma (1 year full-time) and Master (1.5 years full-time) levels. Part-time study is also available.

A 1 year option for the Master degree is available to applicants with a Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma in the program with minimum credit average or an Honours degree in a relevant discipline.

View the Admission Requirements here:


The normal entrance requirement is a BA in English or a related discipline.

Graduate Certificate in English Studies requires completion of 24 credit points, including 12 credit points of core units of study and 12 credit points of elective units of study.

Graduate Diploma in English Studies requires completion of 48 credit points, including 24 credit points of core units of study and 24 credit points of elective units of study.

Master of English Studies requires completion of 72 credit points, including 24 credit points of core units of study, 42 credit points of elective units of study and 6 credit points of capstone units of study.

Units of Study

Core units of study

ENGL6100 Approaches to Literary History
ENGL6101 Approaches to Genre
ENGL6102 Approaches to Critical Reading
ENGL6103 Approaches to Global English Literatures

Elective units of study

ENGL6040 Introduction to Old English
ENGL6041 Old English Texts
ENGL6042 Old Nurse
ENGL6104 American Gothic
ENGL6106 The Idea of the South
ENGL6107 Sentiment and Sensation
ENGL6108 Modern Australian Poetry and Poetics
ENGL6109 Modern and Contemporary Drama
ENGL6110 The 18th Century Novel: Theory & Example
ENGL6111 History Writing in English, 1500-1900
ENGL6112 Wooing Women in Middle English Romance
ENGL6113 American Romance
ENGL6114 Language and Subject
ENGL6115 Reading Suburbia
ENGL6116 Life and Literature in the Age of Chaucer
ENGL6091 Creative Writing: Fiction Workshop*
ENGL6092 Creative Writing: Poetry Workshop*
ENGL6093 Creative Writing: Screenwriting Workshop*
ENGL6097 Essay (English)*
ENGL6098 Creative Writing: Supervised Project*
ENGL6099 Critical Contexts for Creative Writing
ENGL6100 Research Methods for Creative Writing
ENGL6101 Literary Culture: Sydney
ENGL6102 Writers at Work: Fiction
ENGL6103 Major Movements in Contemporary Prose
ENGL6104 Writers at Work: Poetry
ENGL6105 Major Movements in Contemporary Poetry
ENGL6901 Writers at Work: Screenwriters
ENGL6908 Magazines and Australian Print Culture
ENGL6909 Children’s Writers at Work
ENGL6910 The Art of the Screenplay
ENGL6915 Recovering Meaning: Novel into Film
ENGL6933 Twentieth Century Confessional Writing
ENGL6938 Literature and Desire
ENGL6948 American Author, American Auteur
ENGL6960 The Cold War
ENGL6967 Literary Theory and Critical Practice
ENGL6970 Magazines and Australian Print Culture
ENGL6982 Shakespeare and Modernity
ENGL6984 Creative Non-Fiction Workshop
ENGL6985 Shakespeare and his Contemporaries
ENGL6991 Australian Literature and the Canonical Imaginary
ENGL6992 Henry James and the Art of Fiction
FASS7001 Academic English for Postgraduates
FASS7002 Academic Literacies for Postgraduates
WRIT6000 Professional Writing
WRIT6001 Professional Editing
GCST6905 Gender in Cultural Theory
ICLS6901 Literary Comparison: History and Methods

Capstone units of study

ENGL6929 Dissertation Part 1*
ENGL6930 Dissertation Part 2*
ENGL6935 Research Essay*

Note:

All teaching is delivered face to face on the Camperdown Campus of the University of Sydney. Each unit of study is worth 6 credit points. Not every unit is offered every year. A full list of 2016 units is at:


* English Studies students who wish to enrol in these units require permission from the Degree Coordinator.