
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Master´s Programme in English Literature

120 credits

Tromsø

The programme description has been approved by the board of The Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education on 14.09.2018

Study programme name	Bokmål: Mastergradsprogram i engelsk litteratur Nynorsk: Mastergradsprogram i engelsk litteratur Engelsk: Master´s Programme in English Literature
Degree obtained	Master of English Literature
Target group	The Master in English Literature is well-suited for students who wish to obtain a comprehensive understanding of literature from across the Anglophone world and who wish to further develop their ability to communicate in English. Courses highlight how literature shapes and is shaped by history, its relevance for contemporary issues such as climate change and conflict resolution, and its ability to challenge and refine a reader´s ways of thinking. Building on a diversity of critical approaches, the program helps students refine their abilities to think analytically and creatively.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	<p>Admission to the master's programme in English literature requires a bachelor's degree (180 ECTS), or equivalent qualification, in English literature, or a degree combining English literature and a closely-related discipline (minimum 80 ECTS in English). Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent issued in Europe, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand: An average grade equivalent to C or better in the Norwegian grading system is required. Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent issued in countries other than the above mentioned region/countries: An average grade equivalent to B or better in the Norwegian grading system is required.</p> <p>Applicants must enclose an application essay (Statement of purpose) written in English (maximum of two pages) about their motivation for pursuing a degree in English literature, their choice of UiT, and their ideas for a master's thesis topic.</p> <p>The application deadline for Norwegian and other Nordic applicants is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 April for admission to the autumn semester <p>The application deadline for international applicants is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 December for admission to the autumn semester. <p>More information on admission requirements is found at the UiT website.</p>

The study programme's Learning Outcome

After completing the master's degree in English literature, candidates will have the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge:

The candidate:

- has gained advanced knowledge about English literature from a diversity of national contexts and periods, with specialized knowledge in the area chosen for the thesis
- understands and can engage with diverse theoretical approaches to literary and cultural texts
- can apply knowledge from one literary sub-field within a new sub-field
- can analyse and interpret literary texts in relation to history, genre, and socio-cultural debates

Skills

The candidate can:

- evaluate and engage with literary criticism expressing diverse perspectives and use them to structure and formulate scholarly arguments
- analyse existing literary theories and interpretations and work independently on theoretical or interpretive problems
- use relevant methods of historical and literary research and creative thinking to develop ideas in an independent manner
- formulate research questions and carry out an independent research project about English literature in the form of a master's thesis and related presentation with the support of supervision and in accordance with the norms of research ethics

General Competence

The candidate is able to:

- communicate sophisticated content to specialists and the general public using appropriate literary critical terminology
- apply his or her knowledge and skills in new areas in order to carry out advanced assignments and projects
- contribute to new thinking in the field of English literature

Academic content and description of the study programme

The master's programme in English literature gives students the opportunity to study a broad range of literary and cultural texts in English, while specializing in an area of their choice under the leadership of a researcher in that field. The English section can offer supervision in British, Irish, American and post-colonial literatures, and is particularly strong in the areas of romanticism, modernism, and contemporary literature.

Each year, students are offered courses organized around central themes, literary periods and prominent authors. All master's level courses include training in secondary research and literary theory, practice in close analysis, and feedback on students' written work.

In moving from coursework to the master's thesis, students move toward a more specialized focus and more independent research. This research is supported by each student's supervisor and by a series of organized work-in-progress seminars targeting the skills needed for master's-level research.

The programme consists of:
60 credits coursework in English literature
60 credits Master's thesis (ENG-3992)

The mandatory coursework includes

ENG-3192, Literary and Cultural Theory (Autumn) and one course from each of these categories:

Period Studies at 3000-level (Autumn; ie. – ENG-31xx, Modernism; ENG-31xx, Postmodern Literature)

Studies in Genre at 3000-level (Spring; ie. ENG-3106, Short Fiction; ENG-3102, Development of the Novel; ENG-31xx; Contemporary Poetry)

Courses related to literature and society at 3000-level (Spring; ie. – ENG-31xx, Literature, Rights and Imagined Communities; ENG-31xx, Literature and the Environment)

The remaining 20 credits of coursework may be fulfilled by choosing from any ENG-3000 courses offered in literature/culture. Specific courses being offered vary and will be stated in the course catalogue for the current semester.

If a student wishes to substitute courses from other relevant fields (typically selected to support research for the master's thesis or

during an exchange), up to 20 credits, this substitution must be approved by the programme board on an individual basis.

The mandatory course in literary and cultural theory provides a comprehensive overview of theoretical approaches to English literature. Studies in genre, period studies, and literature and society courses then expand students' understanding of formal, historically-oriented, and socially-engaged approaches to literature, equipping them with the methodological tools and broad familiarity with English literature needed to formulate, research, and write a thesis. Other courses offered by the department include studies in post-colonial literature, intensive analysis of canonical authors from the British and American traditions, and investigations of literary criticism today. These course offerings reflect the English section's diverse research profile.

The master's thesis is a shorter scientific thesis of 60 credits (70-100 pages). The topic chosen in consultation with a faculty member / supervisor.

The programme is to be completed on a full-time basis (2 years).

Table: programme structure

Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits
Semester 1	ENG-3192 Literary and Cultural Theory	Period Studies at 3000-level	Elective course in English Lit./culture at 3000-level
Semester 2	Studies of Literature and Society at 3000-level or exchange	Studies in Genre at 3000-level or exchange	Elective course in English Lit./culture at 3000-level or exchange
Semester 3	ENG-3992 Master Thesis in English Literature		
Semester 4			

Learning activities, examination and assesement

The course work consists of a combination of lectures and seminars. The candidate is expected to take an active part in their own learning experience, and to accept an offer to study on the

	<p>programme is to agree to do so. Most courses include written assignments or oral presentations that must be approved in order to take the exam.</p> <p>The most common forms of examination are home exams written on assigned topics over a one-two week period or term papers on topics that students choose in cooperation with course instructor. Grades range from A-F, where A is the highest grade and F is fail.</p> <p>The master's thesis requires independent research and writing on a specialized topic chosen by the student in collaboration with a supervisor. Students are expected to anticipate and organize their research and writing tasks and to produce work to be discussed at regular meetings with their supervisor.</p> <p>For further information about work requirements, exam formats and evaluative criteria, see the individual course descriptions.</p>
The study programme's relevance	<p>English master's candidates possess sought-after analytical and creative thinking skills and are respected for their skills in oral and written communication. A master's degree in English literature prepares students for work in the literary and cultural industries through positions in publishing, journalism, museums, libraries, and bookstores. It also prepares graduates for a wide range of jobs that require culturally-sensitive international communication. The independent work of the master's thesis provides experience relevant for higher positions in the government and in business. Finally, the programme qualifies students for admission to doctoral programmes in literature, thereby providing possibilities for further research career.</p>
Work scope	<p>In order to reach the learning goals, students should expect to work 40 hours a week attending and lectures, seminars and studying independently.</p>
For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	<p>The master's degree is theoretically-informed work of independent research on a limited topic within English literature. Theses are 70-100 pages in length (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman 12).</p> <p>Students are assigned a supervisor appropriate for their topic. The topic of research will be decided upon in collaboration with a member of the English section. During enrolment in the master's thesis course (ENG-3992), students are expected to attend seminars to aid them in their research and writing. In the first semester of enrolment in ENG-3992, students must submit a two-page (1.5 spacing) research proposal defining their thesis topic</p>

	and outlining their proposed argument in reference to existing research. Students are also required, typically in their last semester, to present a selection from their work orally to other students in the programme and to comment on other students' work.
Language of instruction and examination	The language of all teaching and examinations is English.
Internationalisation	<p>The programme's international profile is ensured in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by including international literature in the reading lists • by making use of international guest lecturers • by having international exchange students visit UiT • by encouraging local students to make use of our exchange agreements • by allowing data collection to take place in another country • by making it possible for students to attend an international conference
Student exchange	<p>Students taking the Master of English Literature are encouraged to make use of one of our exchange agreements in the second and/or third semester. During the second semester they should take 30 ects points of coursework in English literature and culture. Other subjects relevant for their thesis topic may be approved as well, up to 10 ects points. During the third semester, students must work on their thesis under the supervision of a UiT instructor, while simultaneously benefitting from the international experience.</p> <p>Among, UiT's many exchange agreements, we especially recommend the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Limerick • The Norwegian Study Centre, University of York • University of Konstanz <p>For more information on exchange possibilities, please consult the international coordinator at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education.</p>
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	Administration of the programme is handled by the Department of Language and Culture within the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education. Academic responsibility is handled by the programme board.
Quality assurance	The programme will be evaluated every year, while the courses will be evaluated once during the two-year period of the study

programme. The board of the programme decides which methods are to be made use of for the evaluation, as well as how the results should be reported back to the students and used for the improvement of the programme.