

Programme Outline: Single Honours Master of Arts in English: Language, Literatures and Cultures

Certificate: Studies in English Literature and Culture: Focus on Literary and Cultural Management

What is a Certified Study Area?

By choosing certain modules from the general curriculum, students can obtain an additional certificate along with their MA in English: Language, Literatures and Cultures. This means a specialisation on one of the four topics offered. The requirements for starting in one of these areas are the same as for the Single Honours programme. Obligatory modules cover the same as in the single honours curriculum plus the specific ones needed to get the study area certified.

What Does the Certificate Entail?

Many students are not all that much interested in continuing at university after graduation, but would still like to do "something with books". Working in a publishing company, an archive or a library is one of the first ideas that spring to mind. While students still need a firm in-depth knowledge of how literature works, they also have to move beyond the sheltered academic world. This certificate gives students the opportunity to experience the literature and culture industries at first hand by doing internships and working with texts in non-academic (i.e. non-university) contexts. The modules on offer for the certificate on the one hand cover different aspects of Anglophone literature and culture: from historical developments to Anglophone literature in a global world, from canonical UK literature to non-European productions. On the other hand, they contain internships and visits to places where texts in their various forms are housed, produced or restored to use.

What are the Overall Learning Objectives?

After completing this course of study, students

- have a good working knowledge of theoretical approaches and methodology;
- can use these on analysing texts and critically reflecting on secondary literature;
- have a good overview knowledge of historical periods in the development of Anglophone literature and culture;

- have an insight into areas where printed or manuscript texts are the objects of work, not the foundation;
- have gained practical experience in working in a company or institution belonging to the literature and culture industry;
- have the methodological and practical knowledge to do research on a particular topic or area of interest to them;
- have the critical and analytical skills to turn their research interest into a thesis of about 25,000 words.

How Does This Study Area Work?

Students have to collect credits from various areas:

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| • obligatory modules outside Literary and Cultural Management: | 12 credits |
| • modules on Anglophone literature and culture (core curriculum modules): | 24 credits |
| • modules on North American Studies, Linguistics or Medieval Studies (additional, core curriculum modules): | 12 credits |
| • practical modules (core curriculum modules): | 24 credits |
| • completion module in Anglophone Literature and Culture: | 6 credits |
| • soft skills modules: | 12 credits |
| • MA thesis: | 30 credits |

The Single Honours Master with a focus on Literary and Cultural Management offers students a variety of modules on that topic. There are two obligatory modules:

- M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills **PLUS**
- **EITHER** M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills
OR M.EP.15b American Culture and Institutions / British Culture and Institutions (for MA-students)

These modules help improve the students' academic writing and academic research skills as well as their practical English language skills and give them a deeper insight into customs, institutions and cultural practices in either Britain or the United States of America; they cover a total of 12 credits.

- Also (semi-)obligatory is the “Completion Module” (M.EP.06a), which prepares students for the MA thesis.

Another 24 credits are to be filled with modules that explore aspects of Anglophone Literature and Culture from the Middle Ages to postmodern times. In addition, students can choose between modules focusing on North American Studies, Linguistics, and Medieval English Studies to the extent of 12 credits; these modules are meant to give students the chance of broadening their view by taking other areas into account. A sizeable research module (M.EP.09a) results in a MA thesis, accompanied by the completion module M.EP.06a.

Complementary to the academic topics are the practical modules. Students can choose between four different types, depending on their preferred approach; they must take at least two of them to the extent of at least 24 credits.

For completing the 120 credits required for the MA degree, students also have to hand in their MA thesis (30 credits) and enrol in soft skills modules (“Optionalbereich”, 12 credits), which offers students classes to prepare them for life after university by e.g. teaching public speaking, language skills or working space organisation. For students without sufficient German skills, classes on German language are obligatory.

Which Module Should I Take in Which Semester?

Students have to cover three obligatory modules and can choose from eleven additional ones to fit their personal interests. The large variety of modules makes it difficult to standardise timetables. The following table should be considered as a suggestion only. Each standard block is worth 6 credits; double blocks are worth 12 credits. Grey blocks indicate soft skills modules. Blue blocks show modules focusing on the “academic” aspects of Anglophone literature and culture, while green signifies that the modules do not focus on topics of Anglophone literature and culture. Orange indicates practical/internship modules. White blocks show elective modules.

Semester	1	M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills OR M.EP.15b American/British Culture and Institutions	M.EP.020 Introduction to English Linguistics	M.EP.02b/2c Medieval English Studies	M.EP.01b North American Literature and Culture	German A1 (for students with no German language skills)	30	credits in total
	2	M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills	M.EP.04a Advanced Anglophone Literature and Culture	M.EP.05b Encountering the Medieval Text	M.EP.12a Forms of Literary Reception	German A2	30	

3	M.EP.09a Research Course: Anglophone Literature and Culture	M.EP.12b Literary Events	2 4
4	M.EP.06a Completion Module in Anglophone Literature and Culture	MA Thesis (30 credits)	3 6
			= 120

The modules are explained in more detail in the following.

Semester I:

- **EITHER** M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills **OR** M.EP.15b American Culture and Institutions / British Culture and Institutions (for MA-students) – 6 credits
(OBLIGATORY)

The module is designed to **improve** the students' **practical language skills** or give them a deeper insight into **customs, institutions and cultural practices** in either **Britain or the United States of America**, e.g. in giving presentations, writing essays, moderating talks, etc., and how to use these skills during their studies. Students can choose between several options to meet their individual interests.

- M.EP.020: *Introduction to English Linguistics* – 6 credits
(ELECTIVE module outside Anglophone Literature)

This module is for relative beginners in Linguistics. It combines a **seminar** which gives an overview of the topics covered in the departmental programme with an **independent study** period. Areas covered are phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and pragmatics. Students learn to apply these methods to the central issues of modern linguistics; they also learn to analyse arguments and form a structured opinion on these matters. The module ends with a written end-of-term exam (90 mins.).

- M.EP.02b/2c: *Medieval English Studies* – 6 credits
(ELECTIVE module outside Anglophone Literature)

This module combines a **lecture** which is designed as an **overview** about the literature and culture of medieval England with a **seminar** about a specific topic. Thus, students learn about the culture and the functions of literature in that period of time as well as having a closer look at certain works. Students with no prior knowledge on medieval English will be placed in an overview course on the development of Old and Middle English language and literature to enable them to proceed studying these languages and texts in subsequent modules. As the literature

of that time was handwritten, knowledge about the techniques and materials used are also part of the learning outcomes. Furthermore, students will have to put their existing competences on languages into a new context and learn how to decipher and read original manuscripts. The module ends with either an **end-of-term exam** or a **term paper**.

- M.EP.01b: *North American Literature and Culture* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

This module introduces students to the study of North American Literature and Culture through a lecture series on American Literary and Cultural History or on Literary, Cultural and Media Theory. The module finishes with a **written exam**. Through this module, students gain insights in the field of studies covered by the North American Studies department and into the necessary methods and theories.

- *German: A1* – 6 credits (SOFT SKILLS/EXTERNAL ELECTIVE)

This serves as an example of what students can choose from for the “Optionalbereich”. German as a language can be started from scratch. Students will get a certificate about their command of the language after successfully finishing the final test. For international students who do not have sufficient skills in German language, it is obligatory to take these classes.

Credits earned this semester: 30

Overall credits: 30

Semester II:

- M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills – 6 credits (OBLIGATORY)

This module is designed to deepen students' academic writing and academic research skills. The module expects students to write a **portfolio** of about 1200 words **and a term paper** of about 2200 words.

- M.EP.04a: *Advanced Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 6 credits

(OBLIGATORY)

The advanced module grants deeper insights into the study of Anglophone Literature and Culture. The knowledge and competences from the basic module are honed and applied in new contexts. Students can choose from a variety of seminars and lectures for this module to meet their individual ambitions, e.g. seminars on Shakespearean tragedies, their transformation into a TV series, or on postcolonial theory. This **topic-centred seminar** is combined with a lecture that focuses on a specific literary period or topic; the **lecture** serves to give additional background information to help understand the seminar discussions.

The module ends with a **term paper** of about 7500 words on a topic from the seminar. After having finished the module, students have access to the research module. This means that at this point, they will have acquired all the competences needed to work with academic literature and form a balanced critical opinion of their own based on the theories used.

- M.EP.05b: *Encountering the Medieval Text* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

This module combines an advanced-level **seminar** on a specific field of research with **independent studies**. Students deepen their knowledge of the linguistic and literary characteristics of medieval texts, improve their editing skills also with a view to using contemporary media, and learn to use databases and corpora for additional research. The module expects a **term paper** of about 7500 words. Students have to show that they are able to apply the scientific theories and approaches discussed in the seminar.

- M.EP.12a: *Forms of Literary Reception* – 6 credits

(ELECTIVE practical module)

This module aims at introducing students to the great variety of uses literature has in the world outside university. To that end, students have to attend **two talks, two readings**, and a **theatre or opera production**, each of which focuses on or responds to texts from Anglophone literature in its broadest sense. The module also requires students to attend a block seminar in which they report and reflect on their experiences, always with an eye to how texts and authors are placed and exploited on the various markets and by the different audiences. The module ends with an ungraded **portfolio** of about 3000 words in which students creatively rework their findings and experiences.

- *German: A2* – 6 credits (SOFT SKILLS/EXTERNAL ELECTIVES)

This serves as an example of what students can choose from for the “Optionalbereich”. German as a language can be started from scratch. Students will get a certificate about their command of the language after successfully finishing the final test. For international students who do not have sufficient skills in German language, it is obligatory to take these classes.

Credits earned in this semester: 30

Overall credits: 60

Semester III:

- M.EP.09a: *Research Course: Anglophone Literature and Culture*: 12 credits

(OBLIGATORY)

The research module combines a **colloquium** with independent studies. This leads to unique research projects which will be accompanied by regular meetings with lecturers where students present their results and discuss their progress. On the one hand, this is a perfect preparation for the MA thesis, and on the other hand it paves the way to follow one's own interests in the world of cultural and literary science. Students have to show that they are capable of working on their own, developing research questions, come up with fitting methods to answer them and reflect on the results to improve their following projects.

The module ends with a **portfolio** which contains the various parts of drafting a research project (e.g. an annotated bibliography, critical summaries of secondary literature, reflections on possible methodologies). Students should note that they will spend most of the time outside the classroom, and plan accordingly.

- M.EP.12b: *Literary Events* – 12 credits (ELECTIVE practical module)

This module combines an **internship** in the literature industry with a **seminar** to reflect on one's own and benefit from other students experiences. By reporting on their internship and handing in an ungraded **portfolio** of about 3000 words, students show how ideas about their later work life have developed through the internship. This module thus aims to prepare students for a career in the literature/culture industry.

Credits earned in this semester: 24

Overall credits: 84

Semester IV:

- M.EP.06a: *Completion Module in Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 6 credits

(OBLIGATORY)

This module is designed to give advice and support to students while writing their MA theses. Students meet with their supervisor in a **colloquium** and discuss their plans and progress for their theses. This gives valuable feedback throughout the semester and a chance to get inspiration from other students' work. The module ends with an **oral exam** in which the key ideas and results of the MA thesis are presented and discussed critically.

- *Thesis in Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 30 credits (OBLIGATORY)

The MA thesis is usually the last thing students hand in during their studies. With it students show the competences acquired throughout their studies by working on their own project, using the methods of research and theories they got introduced to during their MA degree. For this certificate, students are actively encouraged to choose a research project from the literature industry which further qualifies them for working in that area.

Credits earned in this semester: 36

Overall credits: 120

Information correct as of October 2022.