

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

Certificate: Anglophone Literature and Culture

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 wish to focus on texts and media from the Anglophone world without wanting to delve deeper into questions of theoretical syntax or North American literature, for example. This Certified Study Area caters for this type of student by providing them with a large range of modules that, together, cover all aspects of Anglophone literature and culture: from historical developments to Anglophone literature in a global world, from canonical UK literature to non-European productions.

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 studied in depth specific areas, topics or authors with a view to both understanding their complexity and critically examining their workings and uses;
- have gained insight into the development of Anglophone literature prior to the Renaissance;
- 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?

The Single Honours Master with a focus on Anglophone Literature and Culture offers students a huge variety of modules on that topic. There are five 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.

- M.EP.04a: "Advanced Anglophone Literature and Culture", an advanced module on literature and culture, and
- M.EP.09a: "Research Course: Anglophone Literature and Culture", a module which offers students the opportunity to do their own research.
- Also obligatory is the "Completion Module" (M.EP.06a), which prepares students for the MA thesis.

These last three modules cover 24 credits and aim at providing students with critical practice in a particular topic or area (M.EP.04a) followed by an extensive research period (M.EP.09a) which ends in a MA thesis, accompanied by the completion module M.EP.06a.

Another 42 credits are earned through a variety of modules focusing on Anglophone literature and culture. To achieve a total of 120 credits, students also have to hand in their MA thesis (30 credits) and enrol in soft skills modules ("Optionalbereich", 12 credits), which offer 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 collect credits from various areas:

- obligatory modules on language skills and British/American Culture and Institutions: 12 credits
- obligatory core curriculum modules on Anglophone Literature and Culture: 18 credits
- modules on a variety of topics in Anglophone Literature and Culture: 42 credits
- completion module in Anglophone Literature and Culture: 6 credits

- soft skills modules: 12 credits
- MA thesis: 30 credits

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 obligatory modules, with lighter colours signifying that the modules do not focus on topics of Anglophone literature and culture. White blocks show elective modules in the core curriculum.

Semester	1	M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills OR M.EP.15b American/British Culture and Institutions	M.EP.01a Anglophone Literature and Culture	M.EP.10a Historical Aspects of Anglophone Literature and Culture in Focus	M.EP.02b/02c Medieval English Studies	German A1 (for students with no German language skills)	30	credits in total
	2	M.EP.04a Advanced Anglophone Literature and Culture	M.EP.10b Anglophone Literature in Focus	M.EP.10c Anglophone Literature(s) – Developments and Contrasts		German A2	30	
	3	M.EP.09a Research Course: Anglophone Literature and Culture		M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills	M.EP.10g Non-European Backgrounds		24	
	4	M.EP.06a Completion Module in Anglophone Literature and Culture	MA Thesis (30 credits)				36	
							= 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.01a: *Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

This module **introduces students to the study of Anglophone Literature and Culture**. It combines a lecture with independent studies. The **lecture** covers a general overview of the literature and culture of a certain period of time, e.g. the eighteenth century, or a particular topic, e.g. travel literature. The **independent study section** accompanies the lecture by deepening students' knowledge on cultural and literary theories which are instrumental in doing in-depth academic research. Students are expected to read up on specified texts and theories, to summarise and critically analyse them. The module finishes with a **written end-of-term** or an **oral exam** focusing on the contents of the lecture but taking the skills acquired independently into account. The competences acquired help students to deal with cultural products which are a vital part of this course of studies.

- M.EP.10a: *Historical Aspects of Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 6 credits

(ELECTIVE)

As with module M.EP.01a, this module **deepens students' knowledge of a particular area or theme in Anglophone Literature and Culture**. It consists of a **lecture series** and **independent study** periods. This module, however, expects students to produce **reading logs** in which they summarise and critically examine selected texts from primary and secondary literature, as specified by the lecture series' instructor.

- M.EP.02b/02c: *Medieval English Studies* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

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**.

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

This serves just 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.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.10b: *Anglophone Literature and Culture in Focus* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

This module **deepens students’ knowledge of a particular area or theme in Anglophone Literature and Culture**. It combines a seminar with independent studies. The **seminar** may cover the work of a particular author, or texts that share the same ideas or approaches, or that explore specific themes and motifs. For the **independent study section** accompanying the course, students are expected to

prepare additional specified texts and theories, to summarise and critically analyse them. The module finishes with an **presentation in class**, followed by a discussion which the student presenters are expected to moderate; in addition, the main points are to be written up in form of a research paper of about 4000 words. Students thus learn to present their findings in an academic context, to react to others' responses and criticism, and to critically reflect on them.

- M.EP.10c: *Anglophone Literature(s) – Developments and Contrasts* – 12 credits

(ELECTIVE)

This module **deepens students' knowledge of Anglophone literary history** from the Renaissance to the present day. It combines two **advanced courses (either lectures or seminars)** with **independent studies**. The two courses selected have to be completely different in focus. In the independent studies part, the themes and texts dealt with in class will be deepened in theory and methods-based self-study and literary and cultural critical skills extended. The module ends with an **oral exam** (30 mins.) in which students have to demonstrate their knowledge on literary historical, cultural historical and reception history gained in the advanced courses and independently. Students show that they can present methodologically sound theories and research positions and that they can recognize, outline and critically reflect on lines of development within individual periods of Anglophone literary history.

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

This serves just 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.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.10g: *Non-European Backgrounds* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

This module opens students' minds to **areas of Anglophone writings** that are **located outside the UK** such as India, South Africa, New Zealand or Canada. The module combines a seminar with independent study. The **seminar** focuses on the respective country's historical and political background, on its society and economic developments. As part of their independent studies students are expected to learn about the different cultural contexts in which Anglophone literature is produced in these countries. The module closes either with a **final end-of-term test** (90 mins.) or a **term paper** of about 5000 words.

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.

Credits earned in this semester: 36

Overall credits: 120

Information correct as of October 2022.