

MA Literary Studies: English Literature and Culture

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**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands



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From: <http://cnrsociety.org/english.html>

MA Literary Studies Tracks 2019-20

Italian
Literature
&
Culture

Literature
&
Society

French
Literature
&
Culture

German
Literature
&
Culture

**English
Literature
&
Culture**

The Basic Structure of the MA in English Literature and Culture (60 ECTS)

First Semester:

- Course 1 10 ECTS
- Course 2 10 ECTS
- Course 3 10 ECTS

Second Semester:

- Course 4 10 ECTS
- MA Thesis 20 ECTS

Note:

A minimum of 2 courses **AND** the thesis need to fall within the specialisation English Literature & Culture (so 40 of the 60 ECTS)

A third course **can** (but need not be) be chosen from other tracks of the MA Lit Studies programme: German, French, Italian, Literature & Society

A fourth course **can** (but need not be) be chosen within the MA Literary studies, a course on a literary subject taught in another MA (e.g. NAS), a course offered within the MA Linguistics: English Language and Linguistics, or a course offered via Masterlanguage

Another possibility:

A combined programme of Literary Studies/
English courses and Linguistics/English courses:

- Two courses (20 EC): Literary Studies/English
- Two courses (20 EC): MA Linguistics/English
- MA thesis Literary Studies (20 EC)

This is a good option if, after your MA, you intend to apply for the Educational Master.

And yet another possibility:

- You can choose for an internship (10 EC) instead of an elective in your second (or third) semester provided you have finished at least 30 EC in course work.
- For further information:
- <https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/courses/show/60203/internship-ma-literary-studies>

Members of staff who offer courses in 2018-19

- Prof.dr. Peter Liebregts



Dr. Sara Polak



- Dr. Joke Kardux



- Dr. Jan Frans van Dijkhuizen



- Dr. Michael Newton



- Dr. Evert Jan van Leeuwen



- Dr. Thijs Porck



- Dr. Krista Murchison



Courses on offer in 2018-19: 1st semester

- Core Course “European Modernism” (Liebregts et al.)
- American Comics Against the Code: Autobiography and Journalism in Graphic Novels (Polak)
- A Short Course About Love (Newton)
- Tales of Terror and Wonder: Gothic, Horror and Science Fiction in Social Context (Van Leeuwen)
- Beowulf and Beyond (Porck)
- Long-Distance Romance: la transmission du roman courtois médiéval (Murchison)

- Core Course Medieval and Early Modern Studies

- A course offered by the MA Linguistics: English Language and Linguistics
- A course offered via Masterlanguage English
- A course offered by the MA Literary Studies
- A course offered on a literary subject in another MA

Courses on offer in 2018-19: 2nd semester

- The Art of Stanley Kubrick (Liebregts)
- Migration Matters: (Im)migration, Memory, and Identity in American Literature and Film (Kardux)
- Books and Readers in Medieval England (Kwakkel)
- With Dangers Compast Round: Paradise Lost in Context (Van Dijkhuizen)

- A course offered by the MA Linguistics: English Language and Linguistics
- A course offered by the MA Literary Studies
- A course offered on a literary subject in another MA
- A course offered via Masterlanguage English: “Holy Heroes: Saint’s Lives in Early Medieval England” (Leiden; Thijs Porck. Marcelle Cole (Utrecht), Niké Stam (Utrecht), Kees Dekker (Groningen), Rolf Bremmer (Leiden/Franeker), Christine Rauer (St Andrews)).

Possible specialisation I

- Medieval and Early Modern English Literature and Culture:
take the core course “Medieval and Early Modern Studies” as a basis and supplement it with courses in one or both these fields.

Possible specialisation 2

- Modern and Contemporary English and Anglophone Literature and Culture:
take the core course “European Modernism” and supplement it with courses in one or both these fields.

The Significance of Written Coursework:

1. Kubrick: either two essays of 2500-3000 words each (50 % each), or one written paper of ca. 4000-5000 words (100%).
2. Milton: Short weekly writing assignments (200-400 words each) (35%); 1 end-of-term research essay (5000 words) (65%)
3. Migration Matters: oral presentation and discussion (30%); research essay of ca. 4000 words (70%).
4. Tales of Terror: a research proposal (25% of the grade); a 4000-5000 word research paper (75% of the grade)

Some Examples of MA theses

- The Rise of the Psycho-Hero in Popular Culture, Exemplified in *Dexter*: “America’s Favourite Serial-Killer”
- The Social Lyrics of Elizabeth, Countess of Rochester (1651-1681)
- Belonging in Stephen King’s Apocalyptic Novels
- “Known Some Call is Air Aim”: Post-modernism in Mark Z. Danielewski’s *House of Leaves*
- “Framing the Past”: The Tabular Structure of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
- Only Connect: Communication through the Allegory of Music in the Early Novels of E.M Forster and D.H. Lawrence
- Coverts, Apostates and Hermits: Religious Conversion and Gender Identity in Early Modern English Drama
- Courtship and Conduct in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*
- A Tretys of Goostely Batayle. An Edition of Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS 142, ff. 111r-121r

The student's perspective!

Lilian Akkerman

Bachelor English Language & Culture in Leiden

BA Thesis:

*Magic and Science: The Adaptation of Norse
Mythology in Modern Marvel Movies*

MA Thesis on Jonathan Edwards → Puritan
experiences of the Divine in 18th Century
America

My Courses

Semester 1 (2017-2018)

- Working Through 9/11: Literature, Film, and Memorial Culture
- Situated Literatures I → English, French, German, Italian literature
- Situated Literatures II: James Joyce as a European Writer → *Ulysses*
- The Comic Spirit: Shakespeare's Comedies and Classic Hollywood Comedy → *Love in the Afternoon* (1957), *Bringing Up Baby* (1938)
- Literature in Society: Narrative, Fiction and Voice → from the *Literature in Society* track

Semester 2 (2017-2018)

- With Dangers Compast Round: *Paradise Lost* in Context → John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and various of his prose texts

Semester 1 (2018-2019)

- A Short Course About Love: Love in Shakespeare and on Film
- MA Thesis

Why Leiden?

- Broad choice, you can choose your own path
- No exams!
- However, essays: write, write, write!
- Vast amount of primary sources (f.e. Leiden Lydgate MS)

Academic Knowledge & skills

Knowledge:

- You will have advanced knowledge of the history, development and international scope of English-language literature and culture.
- You will have advanced knowledge of various academic approaches to literary and cultural studies.
- You will be an expert in the field of your chosen MA thesis topic.

Skills:

- The ability to think critically and independently, especially about literature and art, but also important and complex social and cultural topics. This skill will help you to recognise the complexities and subtleties of not only English-language culture, but many other cultures as well.
- Excellent English verbal and written communication skills, which are very desirable in most jobs today.
- Advanced research and essay-writing skills, which will give you the capacity to solve complex challenges – individually and in groups.

Contribution MA to development academic skills (scale 0 – 5)

- Critical reflection/ thinking: 4.3
- Research, analysis, creativity: 4.3
- Social skills: 4.2
- Writing skills: 4.6
- Presentation skills: 4.0
- Digital skills: 3.8
- Learning to work independently: 4.5
- Projectmanagement: 2.9

Your future field of work?

Students have gone on to :

- Teach at an international school in the Lake District (UK)
- Research and Write a PhD
- Teach at High School and HBO
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers (financial sector)
- ICT department
- Translation/editing business
- Cargill (trade sector)
- Accenture (consulting)
- Government ministry of culture

In what branches do graduates work? (based on questionnaires 2012-2016)

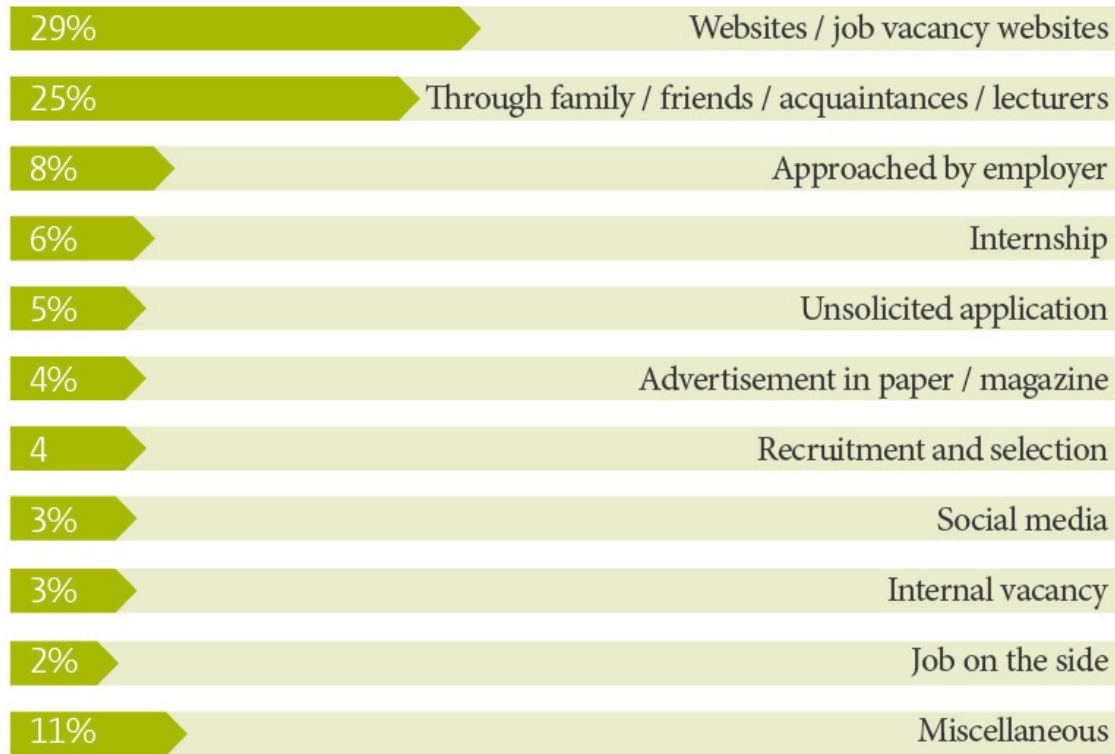
- Education 47%
- Business 14%
- ICT 10%
- Communication 6%
- Publishing 4%
- Health/welfare sector 2%
- (Semi-)Governmental 2%

Main tasks (! Academic skills)

- Teaching/ training 49%
- Communication 24%
- Writing/ editing 22%
- Consultancy/ coaching 20%
- Administration 16%
- HRManagement 10%
- Sales 10%

Your future prospects?

By which means did you obtain your current position?



77% find a job within 2 months; 95% within half a year.

70% immediately find a professional university or academic level job.

More or less 39% find first job their personal network (family, friends, lecturers, internship, job)

29% find first job via vacancy. 6% are asked to continue to work at the internship location.

www.yourprospectsforwork.nl

What kind of preparation works?

- Acquiring relevant work experience alongside your studies (via an internship, board membership or job)
- A master's programme does pay off: In their first job, but also after a few years of work experience, master's students often occupy higher-level positions than bachelor's students
- Contact our Student Career Service for advice on internships and work: hum.leiden.edu/careerservice

