



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Master in English Literature

120 Credits / Tromsø Campus

The programme description has been approved by the board of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education on 24.9.2025.

From autumn 2026



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 programme is well suited for students who wish to obtain a comprehensive understanding of literature from across the Anglophone world and 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 programme helps students refine their abilities to think analytically and creatively.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	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 must have a minimum grade average comparable to a Norwegian C (2,5) in the ECTS scale, see UiT's webpage for international admissions for more information on how the point average is calculated. Admission to master's programmes is regulated by Forskrift om opptak til UiT §§ 12.-16
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 it 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-3193 Literature, Text, Education (Fall), ENG-3192 Literary and Cultural Theory (Spring) and one course from each of these categories:

Courses related to literature and society at 3000-level:

(Fall, i.e., ENG 3105 Border-Crossing Narratives; ENG 3109 Indigenous Literatures of North America; ENG 3130 Literature and the Environment; ENG 3196 Literature and Justice)

Period Studies at 3000-level:

(Fall, i.e., ENG 3114 Modernism; ENG 3150 Literary Historical Studies; ENG 3194 Contemporary Fiction; ENG 3108 Colonial and Postcolonial Discourses in English Literature)

Studies in Genre at 3000-level:

(Spring, i.e., ENG 3102 The Development of the Novel; ENG 3106 Short Fiction in English; ENG 3122 The Novel after the Death of the Novel; ENG 3195 Poetry: Innovations in Genre; ENG 3197 Genre Fiction)

The remaining 10 credits of coursework can be fulfilled by taking the ENG-3000 elective offered in literature/culture during the spring semester. 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 10 credits, this substitution must be approved by the programme board on an individual basis.

The mandatory course titled Literature, Text, Education asks students to situate their study of literature within the context of education as both a theoretical and a practical concern. 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 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. 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 is chosen in consultation with a faculty member/supervisor and the thesis is written during the student's second academic year in the programme.

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

Table: programme structure	Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits
	1. semester	ENG-3193 Literature, Text and Education	Studies of Literature and Society at ENG-3000-level	Period Studies at ENG-3000-level
	2. semester	ENG-3192 Literary and Cultural Theory or exchange	Studies in Genre at ENG-3000-level or exchange	Elective course in English Lit./culture at 3000-level or exchange
	3. semester	ENG-3992 Master's Thesis in English Literature		
	4. semester			
Learning activities, examination and assessment	The coursework 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 programme is to agree to do so. Most courses include written assignments and/or oral presentations that must be approved in order to take the exam. 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. 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. For further information about work requirements, exam formats and evaluative criteria, see the individual course descriptions.			
The study programme's relevance	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 careers.
Work scope	In order to reach the learning goals, students should expect to work 40 hours a week attending lectures, seminars and studying independently.
For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	The master's degree is theoretically-informed work of independent research on a limited topic within English-language literature. Theses are 70-100 pages in length (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman 12-point font). 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 literature 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 5-7-page (1.5 spacing) research proposal defining their thesis topic 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	English
Internationalisation	The programme's international profile is ensured in the following ways: • recruiting and accepting students internationally • including international literature in the reading lists • making courses open to international exchange students visiting UiT • encouraging local students to make use of our exchange agreements
Student exchange	Students taking the Master of English Literature are encouraged to make use of one of our exchange agreements in the second semester. During the second semester they should take 30 ect points of coursework in English literature and culture. Other subjects relevant for their thesis topic may be approved as well, up to 10 ect points. Among UiT's many exchange agreements, we especially recommend the following: • University of Limerick

	• The Norwegian Study Centre, University of York • University of Konstanz
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 study programme leader.
Quality assurance	It is the study programme leader's duty, in conjunction with the other instructors in the programme and students, to assure the quality of the programme and implement regular evaluations. Study programme evaluation addresses areas that are of particular importance for the integrity and coherence of the programme, and for the students' learning outcomes. The study programme is to be evaluated in accordance with its current development plan and the extent to which teaching meets the programme's stated outcomes. Instructors will implement student course evaluation surveys for each course every second year. (For courses that are taught less frequently, evaluation surveys will be implemented each time the course is taught.) Evaluation results and measures are made known to the students in the study programme. In addition, the programme's external evaluator, in conjunction with the study programme leader, will evaluate all courses within the programme on a periodic basis.

