

English @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 20*

1 Durham	A*AA	11 Glasgow	AAB
2 Cambridge	A*AA	12 Newcastle	AAA
3 Oxford	AAA	13 Nottingham	AAA
4 St Andrews	AAA	14 Sheffield	AAB
5 York	AAA/A*AB	15 Aberdeen	BBB
6 Exeter	AAA/A*AB	16 Manchester	AAA
7 UCL	AAA	17 KCL	AAA
8 Lancaster	AAB	18 Warwick	AAA/A*AB
9 Birmingham	AAB	19 Sussex	AAB
10 Bristol	AAA	20 Loughborough	AAB

* Complete University Guide April 2020

Must haves

English Literature A Level is required at many of the top universities. Alongside this, universities are looking for applicants with strong essay writing abilities, so subjects like history, economics, modern languages, classics, geography, music are favoured. Drama and theatre studies combine well, too.

Other degrees to consider

English and drama, liberal arts, a joint degree with another humanity, language or social science.

Example course modules

These can be really wide-ranging and, depending on the degree, cover literature and language. Modules may include modernist fiction, 20th century American literature, British romanticism, literary and cultural theory, creative writing, Shakespeare in performance, modern cinema, film, Chaucer, linguistics, the development of the English language.

Contact hours per week: 7-11, average 9. (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

English is one of the most popular subjects and in recent years more than 12,000 students a year graduated with English degrees. As good communication is so important to modern business, you can find English graduates in all parts of the economy although, obviously, you can't expect to get a job as a doctor or nuclear physicist. Rightly or wrongly an English literature degree tends to be more highly regarded than those in English language, although many of the skills you gain will be the same. About one in five English graduates went into further study last year. Apart from further degrees in English, graduates were also likely to go on to teaching, law or publishing. All in all, it's a flexible option; consider a career as a public relations officer, communications manager, social media manager, marketing executive, advertising executive, journalist or maybe working for the Civil Service or Foreign Office.

Average starting salary: £18,000