Top 100 for English language and literature.

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024

Become part of a vibrant intellectual environment and a dynamic and friendly community. We see our role as enabling you in your learning by delivering expert teaching in a friendly, supportive and student-centred culture.

We value and celebrate curiosity, informed debate, critical analysis and creative thinking.

An element of flexibility in our programmes allows you to shape your degree to suit your interests and strengths while providing the core knowledge you need.

Our teaching is underpinned by world-leading research. We bring together the highest levels of scholarship with a record of innovation and engagement that has helped define our fields and effect change in the world beyond academia.

Our careers and employability support provides you with the opportunity to develop your professional experience and identity. When you graduate, you’ll be ready to make your mark on your chosen field, equipped with the skills and confidence to reach your full potential.

We aim to inspire you and look forward to welcoming you into our community.
Our Degree Programmes

We offer programmes in English language and linguistics, English literature, creative writing, and philosophy, as well as a range of joint honours degrees.

All involve a deep appreciation of language in its complexity and capacity to convey ideas and feelings and to create worlds in which to live. We also open up the world for you to explore, with opportunities to extend your programme and spend a year studying abroad.

“From the moment I visited Cardiff, I knew that it would be a fantastic city to live in, not only because the lecturers at the university are so passionate about their areas of study, but also because the whole city feels like a safe and lively place to live. The best part of my studies was the opportunity to develop my interests and pick modules that let me research my passions.

Victoria Witts, English Language and Literature (BA 2022)

Head to our website for full degree descriptions, entry requirements and module information.
English Language and Linguistics BA

How does your use of language express who you are and who you want to be? Why do babies learn language easily while adults struggle? How and why does language change? You’ll explore questions such as these and gain a deep understanding of how linguistic communication works based on usage from English and comparative examples from a wide range of other languages.

Together, we’ll look at how language is structured and used in the social world. There are two key aspects to doing this. First, knowledge of the relationships between linguistic structures, individual identity, and social organisation. Second, the acquisition of skills for analysing language, not just as it can be used but as it is used in context.

You’ll learn how language works and how to use language to communicate before focusing on how language is and has been used in practice. These topics will equip you to discover how to navigate the use of language and linguistics in today’s modern world and the relationship between language and society.

English Language and Literature BA

In combining studies in English language and literature, you’ll acquire the skills and knowledge to understand, analyse and articulate solutions for the complex problems facing society today.

You’ll look at how language is structured and used in the social world. There are two key aspects to doing this. First, knowledge of the relationships between linguistic structures, individual identity, and social organisation. Second, the acquisition of skills for analysing language, not just as it can be used but as it is used in context.

You’ll also study literature from different periods and cultures, and across the range of principal literary genres, without being restricted to the printed word. We’re intrigued by the connections between literature and film, art, history, technology, language, and everyday life, and our teaching reflects these interests.

You’ll graduate with a range of professional skills, including collaboration, communication and critical thinking. You will be aware of the ethical, social and linguistic challenges that face contemporary society and industry, and have the ideas and confidence required to solve them.

Cardiff has been absolutely amazing as a student for me. When I came here, I had the experience of having a student mentor who really helped me get into the groove of Cardiff and what it was actually like to be a university student here.

Grayson Diamond, English Literature and Philosophy BA
English Literature BA

Our dynamic, flexible degree programme allows you to study literature from different periods and cultures, and across the range of principal literary genres.

You won’t be restricted to studying the printed word: we are intrigued by the connections between literature and film, art, history, technology, language, and everyday life, and our teaching reflects these interests. You’ll learn how literature addresses social, environmental, and economic concerns with the aim of creating a better, more inclusive world and developing sustainable solutions for the future of the planet.

Taught by leading researchers in English literature, our modules work at the cutting edge of the discipline. The focus throughout the degree is on your becoming a careful and informed reader and writer who can communicate precisely, stylishly, and effectively. You’ll become a versatile, highly employable researcher who is both critically independent and collaborative.
English Literature and Philosophy BA

How can literature and art inform our understanding of the world? What are the social factors shaping who gets heard and who gets to participate in literature and social discourse? What are the challenges facing today’s society and how can literature and philosophy help address them? You’ll explore these kinds of questions and many more, which will equip you to understand, analyse and articulate solutions to complex problems.

You’ll study literature from different periods and cultures, and across the range of principal literary genres, without being restricted to the printed word. We’re intrigued by the connections between literature and film, art, history, technology, language, and everyday life, and our teaching reflects these interests.

You’ll develop a solid grounding in central areas of philosophy, such as epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, and moral and political philosophy, and will have the opportunity to study areas such as aesthetics, feminist philosophy, and phenomenology. You’ll develop a deep appreciation for the integration of these areas of philosophical thought and their applications outside the University.

English Literature with Creative Writing BA

Our dynamic, flexible degree programme allows you to study literature from different periods and cultures, and across the range of principal literary genres. You won’t be restricted to studying the printed word. We are intrigued by the connections between literature and film, art, history, technology, language, and everyday life, and our teaching reflects these interests.

The creative writing element of the programme provides you with the opportunity to progress from introductory modules on reading and writing creatively to specialised work within specific forms and genres such as fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction and scriptwriting, culminating in the production of an extended collection of creative work.

Throughout the programme you’ll be encouraged to stretch yourself intellectually and imaginatively by exploring literature as both a creative practitioner and a critic. You’ll focus on becoming a careful, attentive, and informed reader and writer, sensitive to the nuances of language and style and able to produce polished and sophisticated creative work.
Philosophy BA

How should you live your life and relate to others? How should we organise society? Who and what should you believe? How do your mind, brain, body and environment shape your thoughts and feelings?

Our degree investigates important and complex issues like these and enables you to address today’s great global challenges. Our priority lies in developing your skills as a philosopher in your own right: you’ll be doing philosophy, not merely learning about philosophy. We’ll support you to engage critically and creatively with difficult problems in an open-minded and collaborative way, including on sensitive and controversial topics.

During your studies, you’ll have the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge research and work with your lecturers to develop insights into complex new areas of study. Our expertise covers a broad range of philosophical topics and traditions. You’ll develop a solid grounding in central areas of philosophy, such as ethics, epistemology, and philosophy of mind, but also study areas such as aesthetics, feminist philosophy, and phenomenology.

Philosophy and Linguistics BA

How does your language express who you are and who you want to be? How do language, brain, body and environment shape your thoughts and feelings?

Our degree investigates important questions like these from a philosophical and linguistic perspective and explores their intersections. Our priority lies in developing your skills as a thinker in your own right. We’ll support you to critically and creatively engage with difficult problems in an open-minded and collaborative way, including on sensitive and controversial topics.

During your studies, you’ll have the opportunity to explore a broad range of philosophical and linguistic topics and traditions. You’ll develop a solid grounding in central areas of philosophy, such as epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, and moral and political philosophy, and will have the opportunity to study areas such as aesthetics, feminist philosophy, and phenomenology. You’ll develop a deep appreciation for the integration of these areas of philosophical thought and their applications outside the University.

You’ll also develop a grounding in key aspects of phonetics, morphology, syntax and semantics based on usage from English and comparative examples from a wide range of other languages. We’ll also give you the opportunity to explore various other topics, such as forensic linguistics, language and popular culture, professional and intercultural communication and sociolinguistics.

Joint honours options

Choosing a joint honours degree allows you to combine 2 subjects that you are passionate about. We offer a range of programmes with subjects across the humanities and social sciences. Full information can be found on our website.

- Linguistics and a Modern Language BA
- Welsh and Linguistics BA
- English Literature and History BA
- English Literature and a Modern Language BA
- English Literature, Journalism and Media BA
- Music and English Literature BA
- Welsh and English Literature BA
- Philosophy and Politics BA
- Religious Studies and Philosophy BA
- Welsh and Philosophy BA
Important Legal Information
The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2025 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in July 2024. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website at: www.cardiff.ac.uk before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here.

Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

This brochure is printed on paper obtained from well managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this prospectus and the manufacturing process are FSC® certified.

The printers are also accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised environmental standard.

Mae’r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

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This prospectus can be made available in alternative formats, including large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD. To request an alternative format please contact Laura Roberts:
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