Get ready for BA(Hons) English Literature

I hope that you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Admissions Tutor, I warmly welcome you onto **BA(Hons) English Literature**.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us. I look forward to meeting you!

Dr Mariadele Boccardi
Admissions Tutor

Dr Gillian Ballinger and Dr Sarah Robertson
Programme Leaders for English Literature

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme. Starting Block will help you settle into university and get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practice the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

You can find key dates for the academic year on our term dates webpage.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Registration website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

Have a go at these activities to start preparing for your programme and induction:

- Visit the UWE Bristol website, find the pages for the School of Creative and Cultural Industries, and look up the English Literature staff: they will be teaching you, they will be your **Academic Personal Tutors**, and you will generally be seeing them around. It's good to know the faces in advance!
- Visit the UWE Bristol Library pages to find out about all the services the Library offers. Then have a go at using the library search tool (for example by searching for critical work on your favourite author or book). Good research is crucial to your academic success, and it benefits from practise.

Read around your subject

It is important that, as an English Literature student, you have opinions about novels, poems, plays, authors and so on, so do read widely over the summer to develop your literary tastes and critical approaches to literature. Think about why you might enjoy some texts but not others and be prepared to articulate the reasons once our course starts. Consider using the summer to complete some of the set reading for your course. We hope you will enjoy these texts, as well as giving yourself a head start in your studies.

The core modules for your course are **Approaches to Literature and Criticism** and **Literature and the Marketplace**, running for the first term. The texts below are core reading used extensively in class, so these would be a great place to begin reading. It will be helpful to get the recommended edition of each one, but you can use a different edition if needed:

Approaches to Literature and Criticism

- Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Edited by Tony Tanner, Penguin, 2000.
- Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. Edited by John S. Whitely, Wordsworth, 1992. (Alternatively, the Penguin edition, edited by Pauline Nestor.)
- Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness.* Edited by Owen Knowles and Robert Hampson, Penguin, 2007.
- Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. Edited by Alden T. Vaughan and Virginia Mason Vaughan. Arden Shakespeare, 2014.
- Palahniuk, Chuck. *Fight Club*. Vintage, 1997. (The Norton edition is also fine.)

Literature and the Marketplace

- Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Bloomsbury, 2014.
- Galbraith, Robert. *The Cuckoo's Calling*. Sphere, 2013.
- Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*. Edited by Thomas Keymer, Oxford University Press, 2024.

- Austen, Jane. *Persuasion*. Edited by James Kinsley, Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. Edited by Sandra Clark and Pamela Mason, Arden, 2015.
- Nesbo, Jo. *Macbeth*. Translated by Don Bartlett, Vintage, 2018.

As you read, think of these five questions:

1. Who is telling the story and whose perspective are we given? Who is speaking and who is seeing? How does this affect the plot, structure, and reader experience?
2. Can you recognise what genre these texts belong to and what the conventions of the genre might be?
3. How different is the experience of reading a play from that of reading a novel? And how different is the experience of reading a play from seeing it performed on stage?
4. Do you think these are "great books"? Why/why not?

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Connect with others

Before term starts, I will set up a dedicated MS Teams group for new English Literature students that you will be able to join. There, you will find a supportive environment to ask any questions you may have about the course.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

For this programme we recommend the Core **Specification**.

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact the Admissions Tutor:

Dr Mariadele Boccardi at this email address: mariadele.boccardi@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026