18 Reasons for Doing an English Degree in a Nutshell

1. There are many different degrees to choose from – English Literature, English Language, Creative Writing, Linguistics, Cultural Studies, Liberal Arts, Comparative Literature and combined or joint honours too!

2. As an English student, you’ll be part of the longest conversations of humanity, learning from the past, in the present, for the future.

3. It’s about creativity – in the texts you read, how you respond and how you discover creativity in yourself.

4. Language is personal, social and political – it shapes us and our world so studying its use is vital.

5. English and Creative Writing degrees focus on the ways we shape language every day in talking and writing, in literature, the media and the workplace.

6. In English Literature and Creative Writing degrees, you’ll read wonderful novels, poems, plays and other texts from all periods.

7. What you read for pleasure is part of what you study – it will fuel you as a reader and as a person for the rest of your life.

8. In English Language degrees you study everything from Twitter to children’s language, the slang of different ‘tribes’ and the diverse voices of the English-speaking world.

9. Literature has always led technological change, from medieval manuscripts to e-readers and screens.

10. English is rich in variety. Texts in English come from diverse cultures across the globe.

11. English the subject isn’t always in English – texts in translation let us read across national borders and think about communication between cultures.

12. English is contemporary – since language and literature are still growing and changing, you’ll be involved in shaping them.

13. In English degrees you think about technology, history, geography, philosophy, the visual arts and science. You might even use the scientific tools of data analysis.

14. English is about both dissensus and consensus – the disagreements are as intellectually engaging as the agreements.

15. You’ll be taught by enthusiastic experts who are also thinking, researching and publishing on the texts that you’re studying.

16. English degrees are assessed in lots of different ways – creative work, reviews, presentations, coursework, discussions, essays and portfolios as well as traditional exams.

17. Employers LOVE English graduates – research shows companies value communication, collaboration, critical thinking, independence, adaptability and resilience. English teaches all of these.

18. English is about who you are, how you express yourself and how you think critically about the world around you.