

Programme Specification

BA English Literature and Film & Theatre

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: QW34

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA English Literature and Film & Theatre with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA English Literature and Film & Theatre with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	English; Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies; Dance, Drama & Performance

Programme information and content

This programme aims to support you develop your understanding of a wide variety of literary, dramatic and cinematic works from different places and written in different historical periods. You will study familiar genres as well as some less well-known and newer forms. You will have the opportunity to consider different methods of critical analysis and you will develop your skills in close reading and interpretation. You will be supported as you develop your own writing skills.

As a graduate in English Literature and Film and Theatre from the University of Reading, you will have the skills you need to better understand the society in which we live and to express your ideas and opinions more clearly. You will have encountered creative works that will stay in your memory and enrich your life for a long time after you leave us. Many of our alumni work in the creative industries, with roles in arts administration or television and film production. Graduates also go on to work in areas such as commercial marketing and media, advertising, journalism, and teaching.

Part 1:	In Part 1 we consider the major literary genres (poetry, prose fiction as well as drama). You will learn about the academic study of film and of theatre performance, and you will become familiar with key disciplinary debates.
Part 2:	Part 2 allows you to investigate literature and drama from different historical periods in more detail. You will also look at moving image culture in different contexts. In all our modules, we consider how our

	interpretative work can help us to understand our own cultural moment better.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Professional Placement Year and Study Abroad opportunities are available between Parts 2 and 3.
Part 3:	Our Part 3 modules allow you to specialise in ways that suit your interests; these modules also enable you to contribute to debates that shape our subject by choosing from a range of modules built around the research specialisms of our staff.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA English Literature and Film & Theatre

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	To demonstrate broad, deep, and coherent knowledge of English literature in its principal modes and genres: across poetry, prose, and drama; covering a range of historical periods; and comprehending the regional variety and global reach of the English language
2	To apply discipline-specific practices of close reading, interpretative analysis and critical argument
3	To distinguish and evaluate different research methods, themes, and theoretical debates in current literary studies
4	To undertake autonomous learning, enquiry and research within the discipline of English literature, applying your mastery of relevant knowledge, skills and methods
5	To discuss and appraise published research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, within the field of English literature
6	To initiate, devise, compose and conclude critical projects of different scales: from learning journals, presentations, reports and coursework essays, to extended essays and dissertations
7	To articulate your own and other people's ideas concisely, accurately, and clearly
8	To apply a critical awareness of film, television and/or theatre's relationship with wider social, political, industrial, cultural and ecological practices and contexts.
9	To analyse the relationship between historical and contemporary forms and practices in film, television and/or theatre.
10	To apply knowledge and understanding of a range of methods and approaches for the practical, creative, critical, theoretical and/or historical analysis of film, television and/or theatre.
11	To design, undertake and present research appropriate to the disciplines of film, television, and/or theatre and performance

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To demonstrate an ability to bring critical thinking and creative practice into a sustained and mutually beneficial relationship.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes

Study Abroad

By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.

Placement

By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4
EN1TPW	Theories and Practice of Writing	20	4
FT1ATF	Approaches to Film	20	4
FT1ATP	Analysing Theatre and Performance	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of English Literature and the Department of Film, Theatre and Television. Students must take 60 credits of modules from the Department of English Literature and 60 credits of modules from the Department of Film, Theatre and Television. Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Students must select 20 credits in either FT2FFC or FT2IPC.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of English Literature and the Department of Film, Theatre and Television. Students must take 60 credits of modules from the Department of English Literature and 60 credits of modules from the Department of Film, Theatre and Television. Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available from an approved list.

Students must take at least one module from a list of up to 4 modules covering historical periods before 1900, as specified by the department.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4-year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad. Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Parts 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must select one 40 credit dissertation or Creative Research Project module. Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in English Literature. Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in Film, Theatre and Television. Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available from an approved list.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the

optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will begin your degree with some familiar concepts and genres but we will consider ways of interpreting film, drama, and literary texts that may be new to you. You will also build your writing skills, for academic and non-academic purposes. Your learning experience will involve a mix of lectures, asynchronous recorded content and small-group seminar discussion as well as workshops and tutorials.

In Part 2 you will choose modules designed to study film, texts and performances in a variety of cultural contexts. There is a greater emphasis on small-group discussion at Part 2, but material to help you familiarise yourself with the subject knowledge needed for each module will be provided in live lectures and in asynchronous recorded content.

In Part 3 you will choose the modules that best reflect your interests as a critic and a writer. You will be responsible for researching the texts yourself, and your learning will mostly consist of small-group discussion. You will have the option to do a larger piece of self-directed research in the dissertation or Creative Research Project module.

In Film & Theatre you will be taught through lectures, seminars, supervision tutorials and, depending on your specialisation and module choices, practical workshops and tutorials using our specialist equipment and facilities.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

Across your three years of study, you will be assessed by coursework essays, but you may also be asked to do assessed presentations, develop learning journals and blogs, write critical/creative work, and undertake research projects. Depending on your module choices you may be assessed through practical group work (with accompanying written documentation) in film, theatre or television. Detailed guidance will be given for assessment methods and you will be given module-specific marking criteria for each module.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and
- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits

taken in Part 2; and

(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or

- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library, but you will need to purchase some materials for private study. We recommend that you budget between £150-200 per year for purchasing books. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. Reading lists and module-specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions. Some optional modules may involve additional costs for fieldtrips or travel to work placements. You will be advised of these costs before you enrol on the module.

In Film & Theatre you will incur costs for theatre, cinema and/or gallery trips linked to Department modules and module assessments. These visits are an essential and very enjoyable part of your studies. We recommend that you budget between £60-to £100 for this per year. We secure discounted tickets in good seats through group booking, and travel costs can be significantly reduced by booking well in advance, travelling off-peak, and using Group Travel discounts and a 16-25 rail card. To help reduce costs, we also include visits to venues in Reading and Oxford as well as London where appropriate, and we invite practitioners to the department to perform/exhibit work and hold workshops and master classes for our students.

You are not required to purchase any practical equipment, as the Department provides the necessary equipment and facilities. If you require specialist materials for practical work, a technician will source this for you, following consultation with the relevant academic member of staff.

If you take part in Study Abroad you should expect to pay for services which you would normally expect to pay for at Reading e.g. housing, food, travel, social activities, etc. Additional costs will vary depending on the host institution and location. Please see the Study Abroad website for further details.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA English Literature and Film & Theatre for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27
4 July 2025

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