

Programme Specification

BA Art and English Literature

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: QW31

UFFAXEN

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

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Awarding Institution | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution | University of Reading |
| Length of Programme | 4 years |
| Accreditation | N/A |
| QAA Subject Benchmarking Group | Fine Art & Design; English |

Programme information and content

The BA Art & English Literature is a unique four-year programme that brings together creative practice in art and English literature with academic knowledge, helping you to become a skilful, informed, and thoughtful creator. Your learning on this programme supports sustained experimentation and creative enquiry in large credit practical studio modules alongside complementary studies to introduce, develop and master skills and knowledge of art and literature.

Your programme affords sustained time, focus and resources to develop meaningful expertise in both subjects. Your learning on this programme supports experimentation and creative enquiry in large credit practical studio modules alongside complementary studies to introduce, develop and master skills and knowledge of art. You will have opportunities in each year of your degree to explore the historical range of literature written in English, from the Middle Ages to the present.

In **Art** the programme aims to provide you with the tools to develop, make and present art. It fosters investigative, critically reflective and independent learning through the study, discussion and practice of contemporary art. You will be guided by the diversity of staff expertise in intellectual and technical production of art to find your own forms and expressions, and to help you to become a skilled and confident creative practitioner. In **English Literature** you will study some texts in familiar formats, and some in new and less well-known genres. You will sharpen your expertise in close reading and interpretation, mastering appropriate methods for critical analysis. You will develop your own writing skills in regular assessment exercises, and through reflection on constructive feedback.

Your BA Art & English Literature plays a vital role in connecting how people understand and shape the world globally, and so sustainability, accessibility and social engagement are thoroughly embedded into your studies. You will explore how creative practitioners respond to and shape our rapidly changing world and develop your ability to make creatively ambitious work.

As a graduate of the BA Art & English Literature you will be equipped to sustain a practice as an artist, writer or curator, to find employment within the creative industries or to continue to postgraduate study. You will have acquired skills in close reading of texts and artworks, critical analysis, and experimental writing. You will be practiced at articulating ideas creatively and persuasively. These skills will allow you to engage with confidence in professional and public discourse. In your personal and working life they will enable you to look beyond immediate tasks and problems to wider social, cultural, civic, and global contexts.

| | |
|---------|---|
| Part 1: | <p>Art introduces you to a range of art making approaches and current discourses through a series of practical projects in different media, including Health & Safety training.</p> <p>In English Literature you will survey the major literary forms (poetry, prose fiction and drama).</p> |
| Part 2: | <p>Part 2</p> <p>Art provides you with the opportunity to develop your own art project in the studio guided by a series of individual skills training and the opportunity to gain more in-depth knowledge and understanding of art historical issues.</p> <p>In English Literature your investigations of literary themes, theories and historical periods will have a more comprehensive focus, and involve more detailed enquiry.</p> <p>Part 2i</p> <p>Art provides you with the opportunity to build on the intellectual and technical skills through increasingly independent art practice and its relation to art history and theory.</p> <p>In English Literature you will pursue specialized and independent study that reflects your own interests, choosing from a wide range of modules built around the research of our staff. You will join the larger debates that shape our subject. In all your modules, you will be supported to find the most appropriate theoretical perspectives for the texts you study.</p> |
| Part 3: | <p>Art facilitates your mastery of a sustained and focused studio practice with an emphasis on independent research, critical reflection, production and presentation skills. In English Literature you will consolidate your skills in research, planning and writing in the dissertation module.</p> |

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Art and English Literature

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 | Demonstrate knowledge of a diversity of Art practices and English Literature across its principal modes and genres. |
| 2 | Apply critical understanding of Art practices in relation to their global histories and discipline-specific practices of close reading, interpretative analysis and critical argument to your research. |
| 3 | Initiate self-directed processes and investigations, sustained by imagination and experimentation, towards critical projects of different scales from short essays to large scale exhibitions. |
| 4 | Demonstrate informed decision-making and reflective development, with a clear position and sense of ownership in relation to the produced artwork, its context and your intentions. |
| 5 | Distinguish, evaluate and select appropriate research methods, themes, and theoretical debates in order to respond creatively and imaginatively to essay questions and research tasks. |
| 6 | Undertake autonomous learning, in each discipline, applying your mastery of relevant knowledge, skills and methods. |
| 7 | Demonstrate concise written and oral communication skills, including argumentation and discussion of viewpoints, and the use of appropriate IT, to write, present and visualise information within academic conventions. |
| 8 | Apply an informed, effective and skilful use of materials, media and techniques in their relationship to ideas, with purpose, proficiency and imagination, in a safe and responsible manner. |
| 9 | Develop independent work with appropriate and effective methods, mindful of their dissemination, context and their audiences. |
| 10 | Make informed judgments on complex and culturally sensitive issues based on a commitment to and critical awareness of global perspectives. |
| 11 | Apply discipline specific practices of close reading, interpretative analysis and critical argument. |
| 12 | Distinguish and evaluate different research methods, themes, and theoretical debates in current literary studies. |

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 | |
|------------------------------|--|
| N/A | |

| 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 |
| FA1ART | Art Studio | 40 | 4 |
| FA1DR1 | Drawing | 20 | 4 |
| <p>Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of English Literature.</p> <p>Students with English as a second language who enter the programme with IELTS (or equivalent) below 7.0 will be required to take an additional non-credit-bearing language course provided via the Academic English Programme.</p> | | | |
| Part 2 Modules: | | | |
| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
| FA2ART | Art Studio 2 | 40 | 5 |
| <p>Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of English Literature and the School of Art.</p> <p>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.</p> | | | |
| Part 2 (continued) modules: | | | |
| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
| FA2IART | Art Studio 2b | 60 | 5 |
| FA2ISAP | Situated Art Practice | 20 | 5 |
| <p>Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of English Literature.</p> | | | |
| <p>If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.</p> | | | |
| Part 3 Modules: | | | |

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|---------|--|---------|-------|
| EN3DISA | Dissertation for Art and English Literature Joint Honours Students | 40 | 6 |
| FA3ARTB | Art Studio 3b | 80 | 6 |

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 experience a range of approaches to teaching which are tailored to the learning outcomes of the subjects you will study and the overall objectives of the joint programme.

Student-centered learning in **Art** is situated within the art studio, your shared learning space, where you study amongst students from your programme; this core learning environment is informed by group work, collaboration and peer exchange, fostering inclusive and diverse debate.

Your learning experience will involve a mix of lectures, asynchronous recorded content and small-group seminar discussion. In Art, your learning will be initially guided through set practical projects, group and one-to-one feedback and weekly seminars. You will have the

opportunity to be inducted in workshop facilities, technical and Health & Safety training. In addition, there are directed study visits to museums and galleries. You will begin your learning in English with some familiar concepts (we will look at poetry, prose fiction and drama), but we will consider ways of reading and interpretation of texts that may be new to you. You will also build your writing skills, for academic, and non-academic purposes, in the year-long Writing module. This will include opportunities to work with Creative Writing.

In Part 2 and 2i your learning will be increasingly self-directed, supported by further training in skills and the deepening of your expertise through exhibiting your artwork, the visiting artist lectures and optional study visits. In English there is a greater emphasis on small-group discussion with material provided to help you familiarise yourself with the cultural and historical context of our set texts. In this part you have increased optionality to support your own individual study path, your interests and strengths to allow you to bridge the two subjects.

In Part 3 in Art you extend your learning towards mastering your skills and knowledge in a final exhibition. Alongside this you will develop a larger piece of self-directed research in the English dissertation module.

Throughout the programme, you will receive academic guidance through verbal and written feedback in scheduled meetings with your Academic Tutor.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

For the BA Art and English Literature there are dedicated resources available online via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard, including video channels of recorded artist lectures.

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

In Art assessments are authentic to support learning through diverse and inclusive strategies, to provide real world professional practice and to prepare you for the workplace.

Summative assessment points are all 100% coursework as a combination of different assessment methods.

Practical modules support accumulative learning documented through portfolios of practice, combined with written reflective elements, and in larger credit modules, an end-of year group exhibition of your artwork. Our studio assessment methods provide inclusive and diverse combinations that enable students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge relevant to their individual creative practice and strengths, and are supported through detailed assessment handbooks.

Academic research, writing and presentation skills are captured alongside knowledge acquisition through journals, essays, and reflective reports, culminating in written dissertations.

Formative assessment as linked feedback and feedforward in large-credit practical modules consists of a series of exhibitions and a mid-module rehearsal of the summative assessment.

In English you will be formatively assessed through peer group and seminar leader feedback (including tasks for which you will receive written feedback), and summatively assessed through essays and the dissertation.

Formative assessments include a range of methods to build assessment literacy and competency, including assessment scheduling and briefings, self-assessment based on rubrics, peer-review, presentations, planning and drafting of written work, and revision of samples of previous good practice.

Both summative and formative assessment volume and timing are distributed evenly across semesters and shared from the beginning of the academic year.

Timely feedback and feedforward is both written and verbal:

In practical modules it is ongoing and continuous through one-to-one and small group tutorials; every learning activity includes an embedded feedforward element.

In 20 credit modules feedback is attached to formative assignments and feedforward tutorials support planning towards summative assessment.

Academic Tutorials scheduled across the year help you acknowledge, consolidate and act on formative and summative feedback.

Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

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.

For students transferring from BA Art and English Literature to BA Art and Creative Writing, EN1TPW may be substituted for EN1CW.

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 2i, 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.

Part 2i

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2i; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2i; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

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

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:

Four year programmes

Part 2: one-sixth

Part 2i: one-sixth

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

The Department of Art houses its own art supplies shop that provides a range of materials at subsidised prices. Equipment and software for video and digital media practices are all available to hire at no cost through our student media resource. Due to the individual nature of studio practice, the cost of materials throughout your programme will vary depending on your choice of media. At Part 1 most materials are provided by the department except where students wish to use specialist or unusual materials of their choice. In subsequent years we would suggest an approximate budget of £200 per year to cover basics. For the final year exhibition, you may wish to invest more in materials. This is not a necessary requirement and advice should be sought from the module convenor. However, a reasonable budgetary expectation would be an additional £200. In addition, it is recommended that you budget approximately £100 per year for optional exhibition and museum trips.

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 Art and English Literature for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27

25 June 2025

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