

## Programme Specification: Undergraduate

### For students starting in Academic Year 2018/2019

#### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme(s) and award title(s)</b>	BA (Hons) English and American Literature BA (Hons) English and American Literature with International Year (see also Annex A)
<b>Award type</b>	Single Honours
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 6
<b>Duration</b>	3 years 4 years with International Year
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele University – main campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<b>UK/EU students:</b> Fee for 2018/19 is £9,250*  <b>International students:</b> Fee for 2018/19 is £14,000**  The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee
<b>Additional Costs</b>	Refer to section 18

**How this information might change:** Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

#### 2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on English and American Literature. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the

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\* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

\*\* We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules outside English and American Literature, in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

### **3. Overview of the Programme**

The programme gives you a unique opportunity to study the contrasts and interactions between two major and internally complex national literary traditions. A clearly structured course of study combines breadth with more intensive and specialized work. You will develop skills in critical argument and textual analysis, engaging imaginatively and intellectually with literary texts from past and present. Each part of the programme develops understanding of relevant critical and theoretical perspectives, and there are opportunities to engage in multi- and inter-disciplinary work. You will broaden your awareness of the role of historical, socio-political, ethnic, gender and geographical contexts in the materials with which you will be working as well as of the ways in which the formal characteristics of literature (linguistic, generic and structural) have developed within the English-speaking world.

#### **English and American Literature at Keele**

A national first, English and American Literature at Keele was established in 2001 and has since built a reputation as the leading such programme in the country. Combining the distinctive strengths of English and of American Studies, the programme is founded on the core principles of quality, innovation, flexibility and diversity. The historical range of the programme runs from the medieval period to the present day, focusing on the full chronological range of the traditions of English and American literature, and considering their direct intersections from the nineteenth century onwards. The formal and cultural range of the programme extends to include modules in creative writing, film, and literature in translation.

All modules are taught by dedicated staff with a commitment to lively and innovative teaching methods. All staff are research-active, and many are leading practitioners in their field. The programme provides the option to exchange with a partner university in North America, thereby permitting you to experience a different academic environment while pursuing your Keele degree as well, in order to enrich your understanding of the respective cultures of the two countries whose literature you are studying.

### **4. Aims of the Programme**

The broad aims of the programme are to enable students to:

- Think critically, creatively, and comparatively about literature in English.
- Engage in wide and varied reading among the regional and global varieties of literature and literary criticism.
- Develop and demonstrate skills of information collation and critical interpretation using a variety of analytical methods.
- Understand, evaluate, and apply a range of critical ideas and theories relevant to textual criticism.
- Develop a critical understanding of the defining characteristics of key literary genres (prose fiction, poetry, and drama) and periods.
- Communicate ideas and arguments with clarity and care in a number of different forms (essay, short paper, web projects, oral presentation etc.) using appropriate language and techniques of presentation.
- Work both constructively and critically, by yourself and as part of a team, to deliver specific projects and to reflect productively on your strengths and weaknesses.
- Obtain the knowledge, skills, and personal qualities necessary to find a fulfilling career and to maintain a lifelong interest in literature and related fields.
- Develop an international awareness, thus enhancing the ability to play an active and thoughtful role in society.

## 5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

### Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of a range of literary texts from the Medieval period to the present day
- Apply knowledge and understanding of a range of literary texts and critical materials
- Describe and evaluate key concepts and theories in literary criticism and apply these approaches critically

### Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply skills of bibliographical, library and internet research
- Construct clearly articulated and effective arguments using advanced literacy and communication skills, and be able to harness these skills in oral presentation and in writing
- Use the knowledge and abilities they have acquired as the basis for more advanced learning or training

### Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Record and reflect on their achievements
- Locate and evaluate information and ideas from a variety of sources, including on-line and digital materials
- Present materials in a written form, with clarity in the use of language, professional referencing, and lucid and effective layout
- Present materials orally in a clear and effective manner
- Write and think under pressure, and meet deadlines
- Organise their learning through self-management
- Work with others in a constructive and respectful way

### Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

## 6. How is the Programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- **Lectures** in which the lecturer provides you with a framework for reading and independent study. Some lectures involve interaction (for example, when students are asked to consider and then respond to tasks or questions set by the lecturer). Lectures may involve the use of audio-visual materials and PowerPoint presentations
- **Tutorials, seminars, and workshops** in groups of about 20 students where key issues and reading (usually a primary text and some associated reading) can be discussed in more depth. Written guidance on preparation will be given. Students play a full part in - and occasionally lead - these discussions. Some classes involve student presentations or group work and some involve audio-visual presentations
- **Independent study** based on directed reading of primary (novels, poems) and secondary (books, articles) texts
- **Web-based learning** using the Keele Learning Environment (KLE). The KLE is an online learning environment which provides a range of tools to support your learning, including access to documents and other resources, quizzes, discussion boards, assignments and announcements. It is accessible to all students on and off campus
- Final year **Independent Study Projects (ISPs)** provide the opportunity to undertake independent research or creative writing and to be individually supervised by a member of staff with expertise in the field. Both English and American topics can be pursued, and comparative work is also welcomed

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Personal Tutors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- **Lectures** allow you to gain a wider understanding of the contexts (cultural and historical) in which English and American literature may be understood as well as giving you ideas and examples for seminar discussion and independent study
- **Seminars, tutorials, workshops and online discussions** provide opportunities for you to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, problems arising from literary and critical analysis, and to present ideas clearly and effectively. They provide a supportive environment for discussion and an opportunity to express ideas as well as to interact with other students
- **Workshops** in creative writing allow you to present your own work at draft stage and receive constructive feedback both from the tutor and other members of the group as well as providing the opportunity to respond and learn from others' work
- **Lectures, seminars, tutorials and web-based activities** encourage you to reflect on your learning and take responsibility for its development by addressing areas of difficulty, perhaps by discussing particular academic or intellectual issues with fellow students or by receiving additional help from a member of staff
- Undertaking an **ISP** allows you to formulate relevant research questions and strategies for answering those questions in a scholarly way and to appropriate standards of presentation
- An **ISP** in Creative Writing allows you to work on an extended piece of writing and, with the support of a supervisor, to submit this work to rigorous standards of editing

## 7. Teaching Staff

The permanent teaching staff on the programme currently consists of professors, senior lecturers and lecturers. All current full-time members of staff have doctorates and/or a track record of publication in their field including critical monographs, articles in international journals, poetry collections, and novels. As a group, the staff group has a wide range of interests in literatures in English, as well as in film and creative writing.

The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level in universities in the UK, continental Europe, and North America. Several members of staff have been leading members of the

English Subject Centre. Qualifications of the staff group include the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and the Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults. All new academic staff undertake Keele’s nationally accredited Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Programme. One member of staff has received a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme’s content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

## 8. What is the Structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April.

Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

All modules (except ISPs, which are worth 30 credits across two semesters) are worth 15 credits. Students must accumulate at least 270 credits in English and American Literature approved modules (compulsory or optional) to graduate with a Single Honours Degree in English and American Literature. This is equivalent to eighteen modules, or sixteen modules plus the ISP.

There are three types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules – a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules – these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules; Elective modules – a free choice of modules that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows, with a minimum of 90 subject credits (compulsory plus optional) required for each year. [Example credit split in the table below]

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
1	60	30	60	0	30
2	30	60	90	0	30
3	30	60	90	0	30

### Module lists

#### Year 1 (Level 4)

In Year 1 (Level 4), all students take two core modules in each semester, plus two more optional modules, giving a 90 credit minimum in English and American Literature-approved modules. Students must choose further modules, which can but need not include English and American Literature optional modules.

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Reading Literature	15	Telling Tales	15
Starting Out: An Introduction to American Literature	15	Playing Parts	15
Composition	15	New York, New York	15

Transatlantic Gothic: Studies in Nineteenth- Century English and American Literatures	15	Poetry through Practice	15
		Fiction through Practice	15
		A Beginner's Guide to Contemporary America	15

## Year 2 (Level 5)

In Year 2 (Level 5), students take one compulsory and two optional modules in each semester (optional modules may also be taken as electives), making a minimum of 90 English and American Literature-approved credits for the year. Students must choose further modules, which can but need not include English and American Literature optional modules.

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
From Modernity to Counterculture: Literature and Social Criticism in Twentieth-Century American Literature	15	Victorian Performances	15
The Romance of Fiction: History and Society in Nineteenth Century American Literature	15	The Renaissance: Shakespeare and Beyond	15
		Alfred Hitchcock's America	15
		The Detective and the American City	15
		Twentieth-Century British Fiction and Poetry	15
		Romanticisms	15
		Revolution and Restoration	15
		Medieval Literature	15
		Work Placement	15

## Year 3 (Level 6)

In Year 3 (Level 6), students take the 30 credit ISP, Dissertation in English and American Literature, the core module Literature and Society and a minimum of 45 credits of optional modules, which may include a second ISP, Creative Writing Portfolio, giving a total of 90 credits for the year. Students must choose further modules, which can but need not include English and American Literature optional modules.

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Dissertation in English and American Literature	30	Film Noir: The Dark Side of America	15
		Creative Writing Portfolio	30
		Dissertation in English Literature	30
<b>Optional modules</b>		Writing at the Borders	15
Words and Pictures: The Contemporary American Graphic Novel	15	Postmodernism: Fiction, Film and Theory	15
Tristram Shandy	15	Freedom and Death	15
Violence and Power	15	Postcolonial and World Literature in English	15
Writingscapes	15	The Alcohol Question	15
Gender and Power in Restoration Literature	15	That womb where you imprison'd were: Pregnancy, Childbirth and Maternity in the Early Modern Period	15
High Culture: Drink, Drugs, and the American Dream	15	Modernist Manifestos and Magazines	15
		Literature and Society	15

Students may choose to study elective modules which are offered as part of other programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and across the University. These include:

- Modules in other subjects closely related to English and American Literature such as Film Studies or History.
- Modules in other subjects in which they may have a particular interest such as Media, Culture and Creative Practice or Politics.
- Modules designed to help students for whom it is not their first language to improve their use of English for Academic Purposes.
- Modern foreign languages modules at different levels in French, German, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Chinese (Mandarin).
- Free standing modules related to the development of graduate attributes, student volunteering, and studying abroad as part of the University's exchange programme.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit:

[www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/az](http://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/az)

## Learning Outcomes

### Year 1 (Level 4)

First year modules provide students with a thorough grounding in academic study skills and introductory modules in English and in American literature (one core module and one elective module in the second semester treat these national traditions comparatively). Students cover a wide range of primary texts (poetry, prose and drama) and are introduced to some of the key critical and historical contexts for studying these. In addition to the core modules, students may identify pathways in Creative Writing and Film Studies in their selection of electives.

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Engage in description and analysis of varied examples of literary forms: prose, poetry and drama	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Demonstrate insight into some of the critical and theoretical traditions that have shaped the understanding of literature	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Carry out varied reading from a range of authors within the literary period 1600 to the present	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Articulate an appreciation of the regional and global varieties of English literature	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of questions of socio-historical contexts in understanding literary meaning	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Develop knowledge of different	Composition	Portfolio

forms and styles of writing and issues of writing for an audience		
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<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Use appropriate bibliographic search tools to find relevant primary and secondary literary materials in hard copy and electronic formats	Composition Starting Out Transatlantic Gothic	Short written exercises, essays, portfolio
Develop analytic skills: close reading, description and analysis of form, meaning and discourse	Reading Literature Composition Starting Out Transatlantic Gothic	Short written exercises, unseen exams, class participation
Present written work in English in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of citation and using basic word processing skills	Composition Starting Out	Short written exercises, essays

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Work constructively with others, weighing up differing or opposing critical positions and assessing their relative value	All English and American Literature approved modules	Class participation; peer review
Construct a clear and convincing argument using reasoning, analysis and judgment	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essays, unseen exams, peer review, short written exercises
Acquire, assess, organize and engage with a wide variety of sources as part of the practice of research	All English and American Literature approved modules	KLE assessment, short written exercises, essays, unseen exams, peer review
Develop a facility for self-reflective and critical thinking	All English and American Literature approved modules	Short written exercises, unseen exams, peer review, class participation
Reflect on and plan their own learning by acting appropriately on feedback	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essays, unseen exams, peer review

### **Year 2 (Level 5)**

In the second year students build on the skills and subject knowledge they acquired in the first year. The level 5 learning outcomes are reflected in the core modules, which provide an opportunity to focus your studies by



looking at specific periods and literary traditions. You can combine these modules with programme approved electives and develop pathway choices within your degree.

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Identify some of the distinctive formal and thematic features of literature from a given period	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Describe the defining characteristics of specific literary forms	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; portfolio and class participation
Understand and apply a variety of critical approaches to the interpretation of particular works	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; portfolio and class participation
Engage in contextualised close analysis	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; and class participation
Compare and contrast literature by different authors writing within the same literary period	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; portfolio and class participation
Interpreting literary texts in the light of historical and cultural contexts	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Use a range of bibliographic search tools	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; KLE assessment and short written exercise
Construct clear and convincing arguments using advanced literacy and communication skills on paper and orally	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay and unseen exam
Weigh up differing or opposing critical positions	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; portfolio and class participation
Harness a range of communication skills in appropriate contexts, and for a range of audiences, through oral presentation and in writing	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Work under pressure of time to produce examples of writing that is clear, logical and analytical	All English and American Literature approved modules	Exam
Demonstrate skills in listening, responding and close reading both in person and on paper	All English and American Literature approved modules	Presentation and short written exercise
Articulate examples of both abstract thought and historical and textual fact	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; portfolio and class participation
Manage their time and organise resources, both independently and when working with others	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation

### **Year 3 (Level 6)**

In the third year students deepen their knowledge of selected authors, genres and literary periods with 30-credit ISP modules in English and in American Literature (a third 30-credit ISP is available in Creative Writing). You must take one of the three ISPs, but you can take more than one ISP. The credit balance is made up of elective modules based on the specialist expertise and research interests of members of staff.

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Critically assess and evaluate the relevance of aspects of critical theory to the practice of literary criticism	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Clearly articulate and substantiate through argument and detailed analysis (in person and on paper) their critical judgements about literature	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Reflect on the status and value of the subject	Literature and Society	Essay

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Apply skills in textual analysis and intellectual argument and engagement in a diverse range of contexts	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Demonstrate complex skills in	All English and American Literature	Essay; exam; short exercise;

literacy and reasoning	approved modules	portfolio and class participation
Work productively as individuals and as group members, in both structured and unstructured contexts, exercising initiative and personal responsibility.	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation
Plan, research and produce work within the limitations of time and resources available to them and responding to feedback on this work positively.	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio and class participation

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>		
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>	<b>Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used</b>
<i>Successful students will be able to:</i>		
Acquire and present bibliographical and other evidence to an advanced level	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay; exam; short exercise; portfolio; dissertation and class participation
Work independently to produce significant research projects using advanced skills of written expression, analysis, argument and persuasion	All English and American Literature approved modules	Essay, dissertation
Demonstrate advanced skills of verbal expression and team-working skills in class and small group work	All English and American Literature approved modules	Class participation and presentation
Reflect on the acquirement of key and transferable skills	Literature and Society	Essay

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

<b>Honours Degree</b>	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6.  You must accumulate at least 270 credits in English and American Literature (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in English and American Literature.
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

**English and American Literature with International Year:** in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree in English and American Literature with international year. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year English and American Literature programme.

## 10. How is the Programme assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used within English Literature and American Literature at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used within English Literature and American Literature:

- **Closed examinations** test your knowledge of literature and ability to construct a clear argument using detailed textual knowledge under timed conditions. In some cases, you are supplied with a copy of the examination paper up to a fortnight in advance of the exam. Exam papers generally consist of two answers. Students are sometimes asked to analyse short extracts
- **Essays** allow you to demonstrate your ability to articulate ideas clearly using argument and reasoning skills and with close reference to the contexts and critical concepts covered in the modules. Essays also develop and demonstrate research and presentation skills (including appropriate scholarly referencing)
- **Close reading exercises** test your skills in close textual analysis, your ability to identify key aspects of literary form, and your ability to articulate the connection between form and meaning in a text
- **Class tests** taken either conventionally or online via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) assess subject knowledge and your ability to apply it in a more structured and focused way
- **Formative exercises** are used either to test your understanding of key critical terms or to develop writing and research skills. In either case, you receive early feedback on your academic progress in a particular module
- **Short papers** enable you to apply and develop research and bibliographic skills and to develop a reflective awareness of the writing process
- **Peer Review** requires you to offer constructive feedback on the draft copies of work (essay or exam drafts, for example) submitted by other students. You are assessed on the quality of reflection, insight and thoughtfulness that they bring to the process
- **Individual and Group presentations** to the seminar or tutorial group allow you to give an oral presentation to the larger group on an aspect of a text, or on a particular author or critical concept. They also test your ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what you know both orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of your own personal development. Students will be supported in their use of appropriate technology and visual aids
- **Reviews** of books, poetry, drama, films or other scholars' work test your ability to identify the differences between academic and journalistic discourse and key distinctions within these fields as well as to summarise the key points of a text and to evaluate the quality of arguments (in an academic work) and the evidence used to support them
- **Creative Writing Portfolios** give you the opportunity to submit a range of creative pieces (poetry, short stories, novel extracts, drama, travel writing) and tests your ability to compose innovative and interesting literature that displays an awareness of existing literary conventions and structures
- **Reflective Diaries** require you to keep a record of your critical or creative responses to the work of the module. You are assessed on the quality of this reflection and on your ability to respond constructively

to the challenges and difficulties you encounter in the process of your own creative development and learning

- **Annotated Bibliographies** test your ability to construct a bibliography according to, for example, the Harvard system of citation. It also asks you to reflect critically on the content, usefulness and importance of the secondary sources you have encountered and their contribution to your own learning

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

### Assessment rationale

In the first year, students are introduced to a range of assessments to develop and test a number of key skills and knowledge sets which will be of use to them as they proceed onto more specialised modules in Levels 5 and 6. First-year assessments therefore include short papers involving close reading of texts (for example on Telling Tales and Playing Parts), portfolios (for example on Composition) as well as essays and examinations. There are more examinations in the first year than in later years, partly because of the need to give new students a range of assessments and cater for different learner types, but also because of the need to test important subject-specific content and ideas.

Thus the core module *Reading Literature* includes a seen examination. Level 5 and 6 assessments move progressively toward essays, culminating in the independent dissertation for final-year students, as students begin to dig more deeply into more specific topics and, using skills and approaches acquired in the first year, applying them to longer, more discursive pieces of writing.. The trend in assessments, as in the module subjects more generally, is toward increased depth and specialization. On Creative Writing modules, commentaries and portfolios of student work are the main forms of assessment throughout the three years, but the final-year individual study project is a more substantial submission (for example a series of poems or a longer prose work).

## 11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year/stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity	Year 1 (Level 4)	Year 2 (Level 5)	Year 3 (Level 6)
Scheduled learning and teaching activities	16%	15%	13%
Guided independent Study	84%	85%	87%
Placements	0%	0%	0%

## 12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

### 13. Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

#### Course Regulations

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

### 14. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?

Subject	A-level	Subjects not included	International Baccalaureate	BTEC	Access to Higher Education Diploma	GCSE requirements
English and American Literature (Single Honours)	BBB/ABC A-level English Language, English Lit, English Lit and Language combined or Drama and Theatre Studies (AQA)	None	32 points to include Higher Level English at 6 or above	DDM To include a BTEC Level 3 qualification in Performing Arts or Advanced Practice in Early Years Education.	Obtain Access to Higher Education Diploma with 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction. You must also have taken sufficient English credits, please contact us for advice.	English Lang @ C (or 4)

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

Please note: All non-native English speaking students are required to undertake a diagnostic English language assessment on arrival at Keele, to determine whether English language support may help them succeed with their studies. An English language module may be compulsory for some students during their first year at Keele.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/accreditationofpriorlearning/>

### 15. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Module and seminar tutors are responsible for providing support for learning on the modules and in the groups for which they are responsible. They also give individual feedback on in-course assessments and examinations.
- Every student is allocated to a personal tutor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on the student's academic progress.
- Personal tutors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues which may affect their learning and can refer students on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services co-ordinated by the University's Student Services.
- Students for whom English is not their first language are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. In addition to credit-bearing modules on English for academic study, students also have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth

of resources for self-study and practice.

- Additional help with study skills and development can be sought from Student Services.

All members of teaching staff are available to see students during advertised weekly Advice and Feedback hours and at other times by appointment.

## **16. Learning Resources**

The programme is taught in modern teaching rooms across the University, almost all of which are equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups.

The learning resources available to students include:

- The extensive collection of research materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. These materials include books, journals, newspapers, and DVDs. Material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources – video, audio and text- based – accessible from external providers via the internet. It may also be used for assessments such as quizzes and seminar preparation tasks such as discussions threads, Chat sessions etc.
- A collection of American literature publications and materials is held in the Undergraduate Resource Centre in the University's Chancellor's Building, room CBB1.045. The URC is open at regular times during teaching periods and the resources are specifically related to the needs of students on the American Studies and English and American Literature Programmes.

## **17. Other learning opportunities**

### **Study abroad (semester)**

Students on the English and American Literature programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

### **Study Abroad (International Year)**

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided at Annex A.

### **Other opportunities**

Students have the opportunity to take advantage of the many Creative Writing events and resources available at Keele. Amongst these are a prestigious and long-running series of poetry readings - Poetry Live! - which has seen many of the major names in contemporary British poetry visit and give remarkable readings. Several poets have also participated in workshop events with students to help develop their own writing voice and style.

Student writing is also supported by Keele Writing: this magazine is produced in both hard copy and as an online publication.

Keele has a flourishing Creative Writing Society, with its own Facebook group. They run their own writers' workshops, and help organize regular and varied literary and social events.

Keele also has a Literature Society, which organizes both regular and occasional events.

### **Enhanced Degree: With Language Competency/With Advanced Language Competency**

English and American Literature students successfully completing a series of language elective modules have the opportunity to gain an enhanced degree title including their language competency such as, "BA (Hons) English and American Literature with competency in Japanese". Students taking language modules of at least 60 credits counting towards their main degree at Keele, and successfully completing minimum stage 6 in the chosen language, will be awarded an enhanced degree title with the designation 'with competency in [Language]'. Students taking language modules of at least 60 credits counting towards their main degree at Keele, and successfully completing stage 10 in the chosen language, will be awarded an enhanced degree title with the designation 'with advanced competency in [Language]'.

### **TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) electives pathway**

English and American Literature students who successfully complete a series of 4 TESOL electives modules have the opportunity to acquire the externally accredited and internationally recognised teaching Qualification 'Trinity (London) Cert TESOL'. A small administration charge of currently £150 is payable to Trinity College (London) if students opt for external accreditation.

## **18. Additional costs**

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation.

We do not anticipate any further costs for this undergraduate programme.

## **19. Quality management and enhancement**

The quality and standards of learning in English and American Literature are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The Learning and Teaching Committee of the School of Humanities is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the English and American Literature Programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year and as part of the University's Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Internal Quality Audit (IQA) process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every English and American Literature module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:



- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of the Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.
- Findings related to the English and American Literature Programmes from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the English and American Literature Programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student’s degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/ga/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

## 20. The principles of programme design

The English and American Literature Programmes described in this document have been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

- a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>
- b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: English (2015) and Area Studies (2016)  
[http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-english-15.pdf?sfvrsn=4f9df781\\_10](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-english-15.pdf?sfvrsn=4f9df781_10)  
[http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-area-studies-16.pdf?sfvrsn=e9edf781\\_14](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-area-studies-16.pdf?sfvrsn=e9edf781_14)
- c. *In at the Deep End? The First Year in Undergraduate English*, Report 17, The English Subject Centre, David Ellis, June 2008
- d. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

## 21. Document Version History

**Date of first approved version (v1.0):** 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Revision history

Version number <sup>1</sup>	Author	Date	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	Jonathon Shears	January 2019	Removal of one compulsory module in year 3 (Literature in Society), which is now optional, and other changes to optional modules

<sup>1</sup> 1.1, 1.2 etc. are used for minor changes and 2.0, 3.0 etc. for major changes (as defined in the University’s Guidance on processes supporting curriculum changes)

## Annex A

### BA English and American Literature with International Year

#### International Year Programme

Students registered for Single Honours English and American Literature may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Single Honours 'English and American Literature with International Year'. Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the BA (Hons) English and American Literature and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for 'BA (Hons) English and American Literature with International Year'.

#### International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

#### Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 60% across all modules at Level 5 is normally required)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year tutors and programme director)

#### Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

#### Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

- i) Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments

- ii) Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
- iii) Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.

In addition, students who complete 'BA (Hons) English and American Literature with International Year' will be able to:

- iv) Design, plan and critically evaluate literary critical and/or creative projects within the field of Anglo-American literary studies, record relevant information accurately and systematically and be able to reflect upon a range of sources in a critical manner.
- v) Integrate, apply and develop principles relating to literary production in history, or creative practice in the present, to describe and explain cultural phenomena and reflect critically on problems relating to contemporary society and culture

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

### **Course Regulations**

Students registered for the BA (Hons) English and American Literature with International Year' are subject to the course specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any English and American Literature module with significant overlap to Level 6 modules to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

### **Additional costs for the International Year**

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

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