GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN English

Our students are our number one priority.

The Department of English Language and Literature has a strong reputation for its stimulating approach to literature and its high level of support for graduate students.

Our MA and PhD programs address questions about:

- What people understand by the idea of literature in different times and places and why it matters
- Who should have access to literature, either as readers or writers
- The power of literature to forge communities and become a force for change
- How these issues are influenced by broader legal, technological, political and social contexts

Our MA program offers three streams: thesis, research essay or coursework. Our PhD program develops our students’ research agendas and nourishes their work within the theoretical, critical and historical study of the production of literature.

Graduate students can learn from our faculty researchers who are renowned for their expertise in many diverse areas of literature. For more details, you can explore the Bookshelf and Faculty Research Profiles on our departmental website.

At the master’s level, we also offer specializations in African Studies and Digital Humanities.

Degrees Offered
MA, PhD

Career Options
Our degrees provide a competitive edge in the job market, whether in business, government or the non-profit sector — in areas as diverse as publishing, human resources, communications, public relations and marketing. Students will also have an academic advantage when applying for professional qualifications and training in teaching, journalism, law and library sciences.

Ottawa has a lively and long-established literary tradition and is the home to government departments, foreign embassies, many non-governmental associations, research institutes, numerous arts organizations and Library and Archives Canada. Our students benefit both research-wise and career-wise from the wealth of resources offered by these institutions.

For those students admitted to our collaborative specializations in African Studies or Digital Humanities, Ottawa offers a remarkable number of relevant resources and placement opportunities.

Fall Application Deadline
February 1, in order to be eligible for funding

Admission Requirements
MA: A four-year Bachelor of Arts, or equivalent, in English, with at least a B+ average.

PhD: A master’s degree in English, or equivalent, with at least an A- average. Depending on their background, applicants may be asked to complete coursework in addition to the PhD program requirements.