





# Which universities' English Literature courses could I consider?

According to the Complete University Guide's league table, the top ten UK universities for studying English are:

1. Oxford
2. Cambridge
3. St. Andrew's
4. Durham
5. Warwick
6. UCL
7. York
8. Loughborough
9. Edinburgh
10. Strathclyde

According to The Guardian's league table, the top ten UK universities for studying English are:

1. St. Andrew's
2. Oxford
3. Durham
4. Cambridge
5. Warwick
6. UCL
7. Lancaster
8. Loughborough
9. Surrey
10. Edge Hill

According to the The Times and The Sunday Times' league table, the top ten UK universities for studying English are:

1. Oxford
2. St. Andrew's
3. Cambridge
4. UCL
5. Strathclyde
6. Warwick
7. York
8. Aberdeen
9. Exeter
10. Durham

How are calculations made?

They consider different criteria, for example:

- Entry standards (average UCAS tariff score)
- Student satisfaction
- Research quality
- Graduate prospects
- student-staff ratio
- Spend on academic services

# What will you study?

- Courses vary so it's important to explore what different universities offer.

For example, at Oxford in your first year you study by period (Early Medieval, Victorian, and 1910-present day), whereas at Edinburgh in your first year you study works of literature written in English from around the world and you have a wide range of option courses, including business, economics and informatics, and philosophy, divinity and law. At Exeter, in your first year you study approaches to criticism, literature before 1800, 'Academic English' – and have options that include digital creativity, creative writing and being human in the modern world.

Whichever university you're interested in, you should spend time reading their course guides.



# Why study English Literature?

- An Eng Lit degree teaches you to think critically about complex topics from different perspectives
- It develops your appreciation of other cultures and intellectual traditions
- It broadens your horizons
- It enables you to develop transferable skills
- Reading and analysing good books is good for your mental well-being (“The Pick-me-up Papers”)

# Personal statement

- Wide reading
- Going to the theatre
- Listening to radio plays on BBC Radio 4 or 3
- Volunteering to hear children read or reading to children in a primary school
- Entering essay competitions in school (Kenneth Grahame) and nationally (Betty Haigh Shakespeare prize – deadline September 2024)
- Entering poetry competitions, e.g. next year's Tower Poetry
- Learning poems by heart
- Helping with your House play
- Subscribing (£10 a month) to BBC Maestro for an online creative writing course (writers range from Malorie Blackman and Julia Donaldson to Alan Moore and Jed Mercurio)
- Visiting art galleries to think about stories in art
- Writing reviews of books you read or plays you see
- Starting a book club or a creative writing club at school
- Oxford University English Faculty has public bookable events (e.g. Professor of Poetry lectures)
- Oxford Centre for Life Writing (Wolfson College – most events and talks are free)