

University of Cambridge: Programme Specifications

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ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

1	Awarding body	University of Cambridge
2	Teaching institution	Institute of Continuing Education
3	Programme endorsed by	Faculty of English
4	Name of final award	Advanced Diploma in English Literature
5	Programme title	English Literature
6	JACS code(s)	Q320
7	Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	English
8	Qualifications framework level	FHEQ Level 6
9	Date specification produced/ last revised	November 2010
10	Date specification last reviewed	N/A

The **Advanced Diploma in English Literature** will be delivered by the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education (ICE), as part of its credit-bearing at FHEQ levels 4, 5 and 6 (HE levels 1, 2 and 3) offered to part-time adult students.

ICE is a General Board, non-School institution whose purpose can be defined in two complementary ways. It is a conduit both for transmission of the University's knowledge and research on the one hand and for enabling members of the public to access higher education courses, whether for personal interest or professional development, on the other. In these ways it contributes significantly to the University's public engagement and widening participation commitments.

Applicants seeking entry to Public Programmes courses at FHEQ level 6 should normally be able to demonstrate significant previous study in disciplines cognate to the course to which they have applied. Academic experience up to and including the second year of undergraduate study in a cognate discipline, for example, the Diploma of Higher Education or an equivalent qualification, will normally be regarded as a minimum requirement. Applicants who have undertaken significant work at an appropriate level in this field, but who lack the appropriate academic qualifications may, however, also be considered, and may be asked to submit a piece of written work as part of conditions for their entry to the course.

The Advanced Diploma will be directed by ICE's UTO with responsibility for English Literature, assisted where required by supervisors chosen from ICE's Tutor Panel, all of whom are assessed under quality assurance procedures approved by the General Board. It is a requirement of Panel membership that tutors should have academic qualifications and specialised expertise in their discipline appropriate to the supervision that they are invited to undertake. Academic responsibility for monitoring the performance of individual supervisors rests with the appropriate member of academic staff.

Aims of the Programme

The course aims to

- develop a range of research skills to a high standard;
- write a significant piece of original research in a well-informed, fluent style, with correct referencing, in a 10-12,000-word dissertation;
- place their analysis within the wider relevant literary discourse;
- extend students' awareness of varying literary and cultural perspectives;
- encourage students to engage critically with theoretical and critical sources;
- provide opportunities for progression to further study in English Literature, particularly at postgraduate level.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Advanced Diploma, within the constraints of the course (which may focus on a single author, period or topic), students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- an in-depth knowledge of a major author or authors, texts and genres in modern English literature, and the contexts (historical, social, literary and commercial) in which they were produced and are read today
- fluency with a range of critical, theoretical and practical approaches to the analysis and evaluation of prose and poetry
- an advanced knowledge of the structure, levels, and discourse functions of the English language as exemplified in a range of English literature
- a familiarity with the significance of critical traditions in the development of literary and cultural traditions;
- confidence in the use of precise critical terminology and, where appropriate, linguistic and stylistic terminology.
- an awareness of different critical methodologies.

Critical skills

- critical skills in the close reading, description, analysis, or production of texts or discourses
- ability to articulate knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories relating to English studies
- sensitivity to generic conventions and to the shaping effects upon communication of circumstances, authorship, textual production and intended audience
- responsiveness to the central role of language in the creation of meaning and a sensitivity to the affective power of language
- rhetorical skills of effective communication and argument, both oral and written
- command of a broad range of vocabulary and an appropriate critical terminology
- bibliographic skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of written work
- awareness of how different social and cultural contexts affect the nature of language and meaning
- understanding of how cultural norms and assumptions influence questions of judgement
- understanding of the relationship between the writer and reader and key issues of reading and literary study.

- comprehension of the complex nature of literary languages, and an awareness of the relevant research by which they may be better understood.

Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning on the course will be delivered through a combination of one-on-one supervisions, progression through the written assignments and the group teaching on the day-school (see also Assessment Methods, below).

Assessment methods

The course will be assessed on the basis of

- 10,000 - 12,000 word dissertation;
- Students are expected to submit four other assignments, but this work does not contribute to the final mark (see below).

Programme structure: overview

The course will be an Advanced Diploma, a nationally recognised qualification which is equivalent to 120 credits at FHEQ level 6, the third year of an undergraduate degree.

Programme structure: detail

The timetable runs for 36 weeks from the first supervision to the submission of the dissertation. During this period the student receives five individual supervisions, written comments from the supervisor, and invitation to one Saturday day-school (providing there are two or more students on the course). At this day-school there will be sessions on undertaking research in Cambridge and the resources of the University Library and preparing the dissertation.

The course is structured so that the student undertakes the groundwork of research methods before writing the dissertation. The supervisor will give assistance in this by advice on formulating a research proposal, finding and interpreting primary and secondary sources, asking questions and engaging in critical debates as well as making sure that the student keeps to a manageable timetable. The supervisor and the student should therefore meet at regular intervals throughout the 36 weeks of the programme.

Assignments

There are five assignments during the course. These are compulsory but carry no marks. 100% of the marks are allocated to the final dissertation.

- Assignment 1: Draft Plan, with working thesis, no more than 3 sides of A4;
- Assignment 2: Annotated bibliography no more than 2,000 words;
- Assignment 3: Draft of main chapters, no more than 5,000 words;
- Assignment 4: Final draft of the whole dissertation, not more than 10,000-12,000 words.
- Assignment 5: Submission of final dissertation, no more than 12,000 words inclusive of references but excluding the bibliography.

Delivery

This course is offered over nine months but has the possibility of up to six months' extension, if there are mitigating circumstances.

Programme Requirements

The course is targeted at:

- Students with an appropriate research proposal;
- Previous experience of studying at degree level;
- Students seeking to acquire a significant body of critical skills;
- Students seeking to progress to postgraduate level.

Progression

Successful completion of the Advanced Diploma will require the achievement against the learning outcomes and of the minimum criteria for achieving a pass at FHEQ level 6 as outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

Credit awarded by the Institute can be transferred into the degree programmes of other higher education providers. The amount of credit which can be transferred into degree programmes varies from institution to institution and is always at the discretion of the receiving institution.

Employability

Students completing this Advanced Diploma will have demonstrated high levels of motivation and personal commitment through part-time study. They will also have gained and demonstrated a number of valuable transferable skills, including:

- Structure, coherence, clarity and fluency in written expression.
- The capacity to analyse and critically examine diverse forms of discourse
- The ability to engage in processes of drafting and redrafting texts to achieve clarity of expression and an appropriate style
- Competence in the planning and execution of essays and project-work;
- The ability to understand, interrogate and apply a variety of theoretical positions and weigh the importance of alternative perspectives;
- Skills in critical reasoning;
- The capacity for independent thought and judgement demonstrated through critical and creative practice.

Managing Teaching Quality and Standards

The teaching quality and standards of the course will be monitored throughout by the appropriate member of academic staff who will report annually to the Subject Moderation Panel, consisting of the internal, university and external moderators and other Faculty and ICE members as agreed by the Education Committee.

Student Support

Academic advice to students taking Public Programmes courses is available both before and after they have registered for a course: first, from the appropriate member of the academic staff and, once the course has begun, from the course director and/or the course tutor.