The School of English and Theatre Studies, with over 20 faculty members, is renowned for innovative and interdisciplinary work in literary culture and theatre. Please review our website for sabbatical listings.

MA in English

The MA Program in English is an intensive and highly flexible introduction to graduate level work in English literary studies. Students can draw on the School’s strengths in the following fields: Studies in Canadian Literatures; Colonial, Postcolonial and Diasporic Studies; Early Modern Studies; Studies in the History and Politics of Performance; Sexuality and Gender Studies; Transnational Nineteenth-Century Studies; Critical Studies in Improvisation. Students also pursue an independent research project in consultation with faculty members actively engaged with the literatures of different historical periods and geographical locations, and with current debates in such areas as critical theory, cultural studies, and gender studies.

The study of English at the University of Guelph involves a sense of the histories and theories which inform current developments in the field. The task of historicization applies not only to literature’s role in the consolidation of the nation-state or of various imperial entities, but also to the genealogy of social categories such as race, class and gender. In this expanded field of inquiry, the program engages the full range of literatures and texts in English. Our students emerge from the program well prepared for doctoral study in English and for careers that require a combination of critical thinking and cultural awareness.

MA in Theatre Studies

The MA Program in Theatre Studies is a research-based degree that offers students the opportunity of working with award winning theatre scholars and practitioners. The program provides an integrated graduate education that applies several dynamic approaches to theatre studies that merge theory and practice. The program’s course work provides a rigorous introduction not only to theatre history, but also to the theoretical problems associated with the study of performance and theatre. Of particular importance to the program are questions of how bodies and spaces come together in performance, how difference impinges on theatrical production and reception, and how practical research in the theatre can expand our understanding of scripts, audiences and the social milieu in which they circulate.

The study of Theatre at the University of Guelph is deeply committed to building a sense of both the history of theatre itself and its institutional reception. Students interested in the study of Canadian theatre have the immense benefit of ready access to the L.W. Conolly Theatre Archives of Canadian theatres, one of the finest collections of its kind in the world. All students in the program pursue an independent research project, at times creative in nature, in consultation with faculty members actively involved in research across a range of historical periods and theoretical paradigms.

Distinguished Faculty

Christine Bold
Dionne Brand
Susan Brown
Catherine Bush
Julie Caimie
Gregor Campbell
Elaine Chang
Michelle Elleray
Jade Ferguson
Alan Filewod
Daniel Fischlin
Pat Flood
Mark Fortier
Sky Gilbert
Ajay Heble
Ric Knowles
Mark Lipton
Marianne Micros
Martha Nandory
Daniel O’Quinn
Stephen Powell
Pablo Ramirez
Paul Salmon
Jennifer Schacker
Sandra Singer
Jerrard Smith
J.R. (Tim) Struthers
Judith Thompson
Ann Wilson

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information on MA programs:
englthea@uoguelph.ca

For information on PhD program:
phdlts@uoguelph.ca

www.arts.uoguelph.ca/sets
Literary Studies / Theatre Studies in English PhD

The PhD Program in Literary Studies/Theatre Studies in English at the University of Guelph presents an opportunity for doctoral study that is unique in Canada. Although students might choose to focus on either literary studies or theatre studies, the special opportunity provided by the PhD Program is its contribution to the evolution of interdisciplinary work in the humanities. This bridging of disciplines allows for opportunities not available in more traditional doctoral programs. Students can choose to undertake research in one or more of our fields of specialization: Studies in Canadian Literatures and Theatre; Colonial, Postcolonial and Diasporic Studies; Early Modern Studies; Media, Technology and Literacy in the Humanities; Studies in Performance and Politics; Sexuality and Gender Studies; Theatre Histories; Transnational Nineteenth-Century Studies; Critical Studies in Improvisation. The Program builds on the skills and knowledge of over twenty faculty members with an impressive range of scholarship, approaches, and research achievements.

Graduate study in the program is supported by the Trellis Combined Library Collections, which include the L.W. Conolly Theatre Archive. The program is directly affiliated with major research initiatives such as the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI) and the Orlando Project in Women’s Writing. Guelph faculty have an impressive record of publishing and many hold research grants from national and international agencies. All of this combines to provide students with a high level of awareness of scholarly debate in a supportive and intimate setting. Guelph faculty have an impressive record of publishing and many hold research grants from national and international agencies. All of this combines to provide students with a high level of awareness of scholarly debate in a supportive and intimate setting.

The curriculum of courses and qualifying candidacy examinations offers knowledge and background preparation necessary for doctoral-level expertise in literary and/or theatre studies. The program’s professional and intellectual training fosters flexibility and creativity in defining their areas and methods of research and thus prepares students for a job market that now rarely looks for narrow specialization or coverage of a single field, but rewards interdisciplinarity, breadth, flexibility, and the capacity for wide-ranging and sophisticated cultural analysis. Pedagogical training is provided through faculty mentoring and through Teaching Assistantships. Students also have the opportunity to teach a course late in their degree program once they have attained ABD status. Graduates can pursue careers in postsecondary teaching, research, administration, and other fields in which excellent analytical, organizational, and communication skills are required.

Innovative Research Opportunities

**Canadian Adaptations of Shakespeare Project:** The World’s largest Website devoted to Shakespeare

**Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI):** International Studies in Music, Law, Literature, Culture

**Orlando Project and Orlando Canada:** Database of Writing by British and Canadian Women

What our graduates say:

“I received generous funding during the MA program in the form of scholarships and teaching assistantships. During the PhD, I received OGS and SSHRC funding, which the department supplemented through teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and sessional teaching.”

Heather Davis-Fisch, Theatre Studies MA

“Literary Studies/Theatre Studies in English PhD

“I chose to come to Guelph because of the structure of the PhD program, which emphasises academic innovation and professionalisation, and for the opportunity to work with its faculty.”

Benjamin Authers, Literary Studies/Theatre Studies in English PhD

Contact Information

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