

MA English Studies – an introduction for first-year students

10 October 2024

The MA programme in English Studies

The programme focuses on **Anglophone literatures and cultures (outside North America)**, but rather than studying national literatures, the focus is on inter- and transcultural phenomena in a global perspective.

The course programme seeks to **interface Language, Literary and Cultural Studies** and offer a non-compartmentalised approach to the subjects studied.

It aims to raise students' awareness of the **linguistic characteristics of literary and non-literary texts, their historical contexts and intertextual and intermedial relations**. Particular emphasis is placed on improving students' **written and oral language skills**.

The **study programme** includes

- a) modules in Literary and Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Gender Studies, Medieval Studies, Literary and Cultural History, Contemporary Literature and Culture, and Intermediality.
- b) academic skills modules: academic writing, literary translation, communication skills and contemporary Britain

The MA programme in English Studies

Students will have to complete 4 core modules in literary and cultural studies and 2 language modules. Core modules consist of one seminar and one tutorial; language modules consist of two tutorials; all modules have 15 credits. At the end of your study programme, students will write a final thesis (30 credits, c. 22,000 words).

The coursework includes

- I. 2 mandatory core modules
- II. 2 elective core modules (out of 6)
- III. 2 academic skills modules (out of 4)

The MA programme in English Studies

Mandatory Core Modules

- “How to Read: Methods of Analysis and Interpretation in Literary and Cultural Studies” (participation only, no exam)
- “Literary and Cultural Theories” (written assignments)

Elective Core Modules

- Literary and Cultural Histories
- Literature and Media
- Negotiating Gender
- Medieval English Literatures
- Postcolonial and Global Literatures
- Studying the Present Moment

(the exam for all of these modules is a final essay or a portfolio of essay)

Academic Skills Modules

- Academic Writing (essay portfolio)
- Literary Translation (translation)
- Communication Skills (oral presentation)
- Contemporary Britain: Language and Identity (oral presentation)

The MA programme in English Studies

Semester	Core Modules		Academic Skills Modules	
1	How to Read		Module 1	Module 2
2	Literary & Cultural Theories			
3		Module 2		
4	MA Thesis (22,000 words, 24 weeks)			

Please note that this is a suggestion for a study plan, which is not mandatory. We do, however, strongly recommend that you start with the “How to read”-module.

You don't have to complete modules in the same semester or in consecutive semesters. But some modules may not be offered every semester, and your module will only show as completed with your grade and your credits once you have completed both parts and passed the exam.

Your lecturers

Core Modules

Professor Andrew Johnston (ajjohnst@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

Professor Stephan Karschay (stephan.karschay@fu-berlin.de)

Professor Wolfram Keller (wolfram.keller@fu-berlin.de)

Professor Caroline Kögler (caroline.koegler@fu-berlin.de)

Professor Stephan Laqué (slaque@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

Professor Sabine Schülting (sabine.Schuelting@fu-berlin.de)

Academic Skills Modules

Dr. Ruth Wishart (ruth.wishart@fu-berlin.de)

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about your courses or the MA programme.

Selecting your courses

The complete **course catalogue** of Freie Universität Berlin is available here:

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/fb?>

Select “Philosophy and the Humanities” (in “Departments”), scroll down to “Institute of English Literature and Linguistics”, and select “MA in English Studies”. The courses from which you can choose are listed under the second bullet point (“English Studies”)

NB: a two-hour course (e.g. 10 a.m. – 12) will start at 10:15 and end at 11:45.

Please enrol for your courses on **Campus Management** (by the end of week 3)

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/campusmanagement/index.html>

Campus Management lists all your courses, and this is where your credits and grades will be entered.

Many lecturers use **Blackboard**, FU’s e-learning platform, to upload the syllabus, readings, study questions etc. In most cases you will automatically be connected to the Blackboard site of the course you are enrolled in. Access to Blackboard is here:

<https://fu-berlin.blackboard.com/>

(Please note that you will have to register once; click on ‘Selbstregistrierung’ = self-registration, enter your FU user name and your password, and click on ‘Anmelden’ = register)

All of these links are accessible via the Quicklinks/ Direktzugang of the FU website (www.fu-berlin.de)

The Academic Calendar

Winter Semester 2024/25

Duration: 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025

Lecture period: 14 October 2024 to 15 February 2025

Winter break: 23 December 2024, to 4 January 2025

Summer Semester 2025

Duration: 1 April to 30 September 2025

Lecture Period: 14 April to 19 July 2025

Recognition of courses from other institutions

Courses that you attend at other universities (e.g. during a semester abroad) or at other departments of FU Berlin may be recognized for the MA English Studies. Please contact one of the professors on the programme before you select this course in order to check whether the course is equivalent and can be recognized. Once you have completed the course, please contact the professor again and give them your certificate/transcript in order to start the official recognition process.

Questions and problems?

Please don't hesitate to contact us via email or during our office hours.

Information on our office hours, the location of our offices and our email addresses can be found on the **website** of our institute:

<https://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/we06/institut/index.html>

(Apologies: The website is currently being updated and not all information is available in English.)

For **general questions** about your student status, matriculation, re-registration etc. please see this website

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/studieren/studienorganisation/index.html>

or contact FU's Student Service Center:

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/beratung/ssc/index.html>

For issues with your **email account**, Campus Management, WebEx, access to the university network etc., please contact the Zedat, our computing centre. <https://www.zedat.fu-berlin.de/Home>

Freie Universität's Counselling Services

FU's info service for students: https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/beratung/ssc/_inhaltselemente_alt/ssc/info-service_studium.html

psychological counselling for students (personal problems, learning difficulties, psychological issues): https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/studienberatung/psychologische_beratung/index.html

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/mentalwellbeing>

the faculty's **diversity and anti-discrimination officer**: Prof. Marina Allal; email: Marina.Allal@fu-berlin.de

the faculty's **women's representative/equal opportunities officer**: Petra Salomon, email: frauenbeauftragte@geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de

Libraries

FU Berlin has a central university library as well as separate libraries at the various faculties (<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/ub/standorte/index.html>)

For us, the following libraries are the most important:

- the Central Library in Garystr. 39
- the Philological Library in Habelschwerdter Allee 45 (the futurist building with the glass dome)
- the library of the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies in Lansstr. 7-9
- the Campus Library in Fabeckstr. 23/25

You can search these libraries as well as the digital holdings of FU Berlin through the library catalogue PRIMO: <https://fu-berlin.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/>

Other libraries in Berlin (of Humboldt University, Staatsbibliothek) may also be useful. Their holdings can be searched via <https://portal.kobv.de/> (For Staatsbibliothek you will need a separate reader's pass, which is free of charge.)

Connecting to the university network

Please note that in order to access the digital holdings of FU's libraries, you have to be connected to the university network through Eduroam (on campus) or via a VPN connection

via **EDUROAM**:

Please follow the instructions on this site:

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/ub/service/abisz/wlan.html>

via a **VPN** connection:

Please follow the instructions on this site (unfortunately only in German, but fairly straightforward)

<https://www.zedat.fu-berlin.de/VPN>

Further information

If you haven't done so yet, please get your **FU campus card**, which you will need for the libraries, for the cafeteria, for public transport etc.

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/studieren/studienalltag/campuscard/faq-campuscard/index.html>

Please note that you will have to renew it every semester after **re-registering**. This is mandatory and you will be notified a few weeks before the deadline).

Please see the following website for information on re-registration and further relevant topics on the organization of your studies.

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/studieren/studienorganisation/index.html>

For the **Mensa/cafeteria**, you will need to load credit on your Campus Card. You cannot pay cash or with a credit card.

Student Life

In addition to the main cafeteria, there are a number of cafés run by students, such as

- the **Caledonian Café** at the English Institute (in JK 29/231, 1st floor; www.instagram.com/caledoniancafe)
- the **Café Kauderwelsch** (in the L-street, ground floor, close to the entrance to the Campus Library)
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The **FSI**, the student representatives of the English Institute, can be contacted in the Caledonian Café.

The **AStA** is the general student committee of Freie Universität. It is located in Otto-von-Simson Str. 23. <https://astafu.de/en/node/5>