ASU's English department boasts an internationally recognized faculty with expertise across historical, geographical and theoretical boundaries. With a flexible, interdisciplinary curriculum, an assigned faculty mentor upon admittance, and various internship and professional development opportunities, this doctoral program prepares you to enter academia and as well as a variety of careers.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD English (Literature)
The PhD program in English with a concentration in literature trains students in various methodologies, pedagogies and areas of inquiry that constitute literary and cultural studies.

With a diverse and distinguished faculty, the program offers opportunities for specialization in traditional areas of literary criticism, cultural analysis and theory, as well as various fields of interdisciplinary study.

A doctorate in literature equips students with a range of highly sought-after skills and competencies: research and analysis of complex material, communication in written and oral modes, collaboration, independence and self-motivation, creativity and adaptability.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#)

Degree Requirements
84 credit hours, a foreign language exam, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

A student with an appropriate master's degree must complete a minimum of 54 credit hours of approved graduate work, which includes 12 credit hours of dissertation, provided the student's master's degree is accepted by the supervisory committee and the academic unit. Research hours may be used toward coursework in consultation with the advisor.

A student without an appropriate master's degree must complete 84 credit hours of work at ASU. At the advisor's discretion, students may include up to 12 credit hours of appropriate, graduate-level coursework undertaken at another university and not previously counted toward any other degree.

Specifically required are six credit hours in theory courses and ENG 501 Approaches to Research. Students must complete eight graduate courses in any of the following categories:

- cultural studies
- ethnic studies
- gender studies
- genre
- history and structure of the English language
- literature 1500-1660
- literature 1660-1900
- literature since 1900
- literature to 1500
- postcolonial or anglophone literatures

Students must take at least five graduate seminars at the 600 level en route to the doctorate, at least three of which must be taken in the doctoral program. Up to 12 credit hours taken outside the department may be counted toward the degree. Students should consult with their supervisory committees when choosing electives.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00= "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 (scale is 4.00= "A") in an applicable master's degree program.
All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. three letters of recommendation
6. academic writing sample relevant to the field
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency. Students should refer to the Department of English website for specific details about English proficiency requirements.

The well-considered, one- to two-page, single-spaced statement of purpose should explain how the applicant's experience and training have prepared them for the program as well as the purpose for pursuing the doctorate. Applicants applying for funding must also submit a statement of teaching philosophy. Students should see the Department of English website for specific details.

Tuition Information
When it comes to paying for college, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Program Learning Outcomes
Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Will demonstrate research skills necessary to bring a project of literary or cultural analysis to fruition, including (i) the ability to evaluate disciplinary debates and developments; (ii) the ability to produce research on historical and cultural meanings of texts and related cultural productions
- Will demonstrate the ability to produce written work of publishable quality
- Will be able to identify and evaluate various disciplinary arguments, trends, traditions and debates within the knowledge community of literary and cultural studies scholars

Career Opportunities
Graduates are prepared for careers in higher education and other fields that value this expertise. Sectors employing high numbers of arts and humanities graduates include: information and communication, financial and insurance, public administration and defense, arts and entertainment, and education.

Career examples include:

- archivist
- art director
- copywriter
- criminal investigator or special agent
- editor
- educator
- intelligence analyst
- librarian
- market research analyst
- museum curator, educator or exhibit designer
- political analyst
- public relations specialist or manager
- technical writer

Contact Information

Department of English | RBHL 170
enggrad@asu.edu | 480-965-3194