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## Reasons for Doing an English Degree

### in a Nutshell

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- 1 There are many different degrees to choose from – English Literature, English Language, Creative Writing, Linguistics, Cultural Studies, Liberal Arts, Comparative Literature and combined or joint honours too!
- 2 As an English student, you'll be part of the longest conversations of humanity, learning from the past, in the present, for the future.
- 3 It's about creativity – in the texts you read, how you respond and how you discover creativity in yourself.
- 4 Language is personal, social and political – it shapes us and our world so studying its use is vital.
- 5 English and Creative Writing degrees focus on the ways we shape language every day in talking and writing, in literature, the media and the workplace.
- 6 In English Literature and Creative Writing degrees, you'll read wonderful novels, poems, plays and other texts from all periods.
- 7 What you read for pleasure is part of what you study – it will fuel you as a reader and as a person for the rest of your life.
- 8 In English Language degrees you study everything from Twitter to children's language, the slang of different 'tribes' and the diverse voices of the English-speaking world.
- 9 Literature has always led technological change, from medieval manuscripts to e-readers and screens.
- 10 English is rich in variety. Texts in English come from diverse cultures across the globe.
- 11 English the subject isn't always *in* English – texts in translation let us read across national borders and think about communication between cultures.
- 12 English is contemporary – since language and literature are still growing and changing, you'll be involved in shaping them.
- 13 In English degrees you think about technology, history, geography, philosophy, the visual arts and science. You might even use the scientific tools of data analysis.
- 14 English is about both dissensus and consensus – the disagreements are as intellectually engaging as the agreements.
- 15 You'll be taught by enthusiastic experts who are also thinking, researching and publishing on the texts that you're studying.
- 16 English degrees are assessed in lots of different ways – creative work, reviews, presentations, coursework, discussions, essays and portfolios as well as traditional exams.
- 17 Employers LOVE English graduates – research shows companies value communication, collaboration, critical thinking, independence, adaptability and resilience. English teaches all of these.
- 18 English is about who you are, how you express yourself and how you think critically about the world around you.

## **18 Reasons...**

[Click here to see Professor Robert Eaglestone presents the '18 reasons to Study English' poster](#) (4.5 minute video).