

BA English

As an English undergraduate on our prestigious BA course, you will develop expertise in analysing literary texts across the whole range of English literature, from medieval to modern; and you will explore a wide range of theoretical approaches, from historicism to postcolonialism and digital culture. You will be supported in your learning by our excellent research and teaching staff, whose specialisms reach from the literature of the Anglo-Saxon period to the literature and culture of the digital age.

You will also benefit from the Department of English Literature's close connections with other parts of the School of English, Drama and American & Canadian Studies. In your first year, you can take modules in exciting modes of creative practice - film, creative writing, drama, or language. In your second year, you might choose to make one of these a central pathway in your studies, or to revert to more traditional literary studies. You'll also have the opportunity to work with colleagues at the world-renowned Shakespeare Institute in nearby Stratford-upon-Avon, both through our second-year Shakespeare modules and through our annual Stratford residential trip. This collaboration will give you access to unparalleled resources for the study of Shakespeare, including the Royal Shakespeare Company. In third year, you can choose from a wide range of specialist modules in subjects ranging from 'Fantasy and Fandom' to 'Last Year's Novels' and 'Imagining the Digital'.

From your first to your final year, we will support you to become a confident and accomplished reader, researcher and writer with excellent career prospects, whatever field you choose to go into. The wide range of posts our graduates have secured includes roles in journalism, law, marketing, publishing and teaching at every level.

[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

Course fact file

UCAS code: Q300

Duration: 3 years

Places Available: 143

Applications in 2013: 570

Typical Offer: AAB (**[More detailed entry requirements and the international qualifications accepted can be found in the course details \(? OpenSection=EntryRequirements\)](#)**)

Start date: September

Contact

AdmissionsTutors: **[Dr Daniel Moore \(/staff/profiles/english/moore-daniel.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/english/moore-daniel.aspx)** and **[Dr Luke Kennard \(/staff/profiles/fcw/kennard-luke.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/fcw/kennard-luke.aspx)**

Admissions and Recruitment Co-ordinator: Sophia Robertshaw

Telephone enquiries: +44 (0)121 414 5511

Email: **[english-ug-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk \(mailto:english-ug-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:english-ug-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

[Department of English Literature \(/schools/edacs/departments/english/index.aspx\)](/schools/edacs/departments/english/index.aspx)

Details

This innovative course offers you an exciting core programme in English Literature, as well as the option to explore pathways and specialisms in Creative Writing, Film Studies, English Language, Drama and Shakespeare.

First year

Our first-year modules in BA English will introduce you to key genres of English Literature across a wide historical and international span, and train you in new ways of thinking about literature. By studying core modules on 'Poetry', 'Prose' and 'Plays and Performance', you will develop the close reading skills needed to analyse all kinds of texts, from medieval plays and early modern poetry to contemporary drama. You will also develop new understanding of how the historical and cultural contexts in which literature is produced and read can shape its meaning.

Alongside these literature-focused modules, 'Language for Literature', taught by expert colleagues in English Language, will develop your technical skills and understanding of how literary texts are put together, and how literary language works.

Enhancing these traditional subjects, the first year is also an opportunity for you to explore more creative options, according to your interests. Two 'Creative Practice' modules give you the chance to sample topics in Creative Writing, Film, Language or Drama. You will have the option of focusing more closely around these subjects in the second and third years of your BA English degree. Alternatively, you can choose to take one of our 'Comparative Literary Cultures' modules and develop your knowledge of European literature in translation or medieval literary contexts.

In addition, you will also take a Module Outside the Main Discipline (MOMD) in e.g. History, Psychology or Modern Languages. This is an excellent opportunity to continue a subject you enjoyed at A Level, or to pursue a brand new interest.

- **[Detailed description of English first year modules \(/undergraduate/courses/english/english-year-one-modules.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/english/english-year-one-modules.aspx)**

Second year

The second year of your degree is an excellent opportunity to build on the new interests and passions that you discover in your first-year modules. You can choose from 12 modules in 'Histories of Literature' to deepen your knowledge and understanding of all literary periods from medieval to the present day.

In the second year you will also encounter Shakespeare's work through two exciting modules taught in collaboration with Birmingham's world-leading Shakespeare Institute, based in Stratford-upon-Avon, and working closely with the Royal Shakespeare Company. You can also [take part in our popular Stratford Residential](/schools/edacs/departments/english/undergraduate/stratford-residential.aspx).

If you are keen to spend more time studying Creative Writing, Film, English Language or Drama, you can opt to specialise in these areas, supported by experts from across the School of English, Drama and American & Canadian Studies.

You can replace two of your 'Histories of Literature' options with specialist modules in these subjects. These include 'Writing Poetry' and 'Writing Screenplays' (Creative Writing), 'Film-making Practices' and 'Fantasy Cinema' (Film), 'Voice and Actor' and 'Shakespeare on Screen' (Drama) and 'The Language Poets Use' and 'Voices in Fiction' (Language).

- [Detailed description of English second year modules](/undergraduate/courses/english/english-year-two-modules.aspx)

Final year

In your final year, you will write a 12,000-word dissertation on a topic of your choice, guided and supported by a supervisor who is an expert in your area of interest.

You will also be able to choose from a very wide range of Special Subjects, working closely with specialists in each field.

If you have chosen to specialise in a 'Creative Practice' subject, you will take two of your Special Subject Modules in this area e.g. 'Scripting a Short Film' (Creative Writing), 'Cold War Film' (Film), 'English Language Teaching' (Language) or 'Classic Comedy' (Drama).

- [Detailed description of English final year modules](/undergraduate/courses/english/english-year-final-modules.aspx)

Year abroad

You will have the option to take a [year abroad](/undergraduate/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/index.aspx) between your second and final year at one of a wide range of carefully selected partner institutions from around the world.

Why study this course

“ I chose the University of Birmingham for its amazing blend of social, creative and academic life. ”

Ashley Kirk
BA English, 2nd Year

[\(/undergraduate/courses/english/english-quote.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/english/english-quote.aspx)

Consistently rated highly in the UK teaching and research rankings and **ranked 39th in the world in the QS World Rankings** [\(/schools/edacs/news/2014/world-university-rankings-2014.aspx\)](/schools/edacs/news/2014/world-university-rankings-2014.aspx), **The Department of English Literature** [\(/schools/edacs/departments/english/about/index.aspx\)](/schools/edacs/departments/english/about/index.aspx) at Birmingham is widely respected and attracts a high calibre of undergraduate talent. We offer exciting opportunities, first-class facilities and a commitment to excellence in teaching.

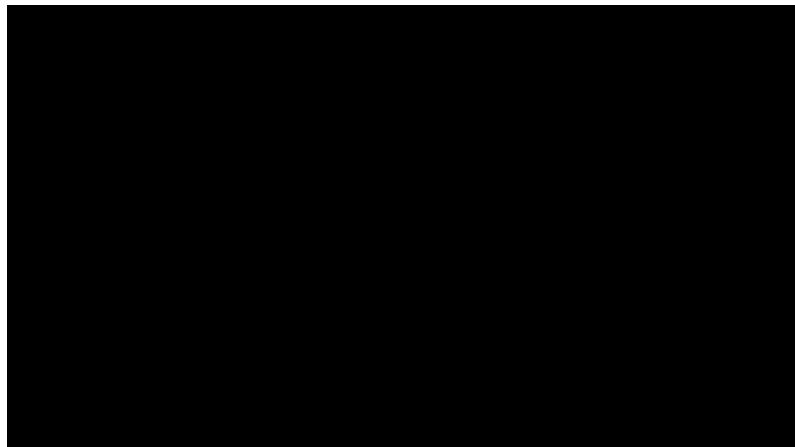
Study here and you will have the privilege of learning from [academics at the forefront of exciting research](/schools/edacs/departments/english/staff/index.aspx). We also boast enviable research resources available to students, including the substantial holdings of the [University library](http://www.is.bham.ac.uk/), as well as the collections in the new [Library of Birmingham](http://www.libraryofbirmingham.com), including its world-ranking Shakespeare collection. We are currently in discussions with the Royal Shakespeare Company about an exciting new collaboration that will bring a range of benefits to students starting in 2015.

Our affiliation with the [Shakespeare Institute](/schools/edacs/departments/shakespeare/index.aspx) in nearby Stratford, which contributes to your your core second-year Shakespeare modules, means that you will have access to unparalleled resources for the study of Shakespeare and his times. The Institute is an internationally renowned research institution established in 1951 to push the boundaries of knowledge about Shakespeare studies and Renaissance drama.

Students at Birmingham will also benefit from frequent lectures and readings from award-winning writers and industry professionals. Speakers in recent years have included novelist David Lodge, poet and writer Jackie Kay, poet Simon Armitage, playwright Simon Stephens and theatre director Greg Doran.

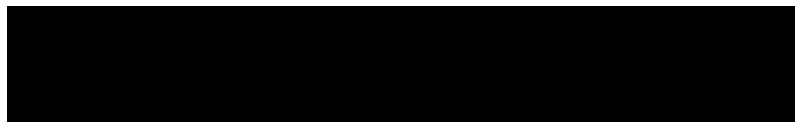
At Birmingham, you will benefit from an intellectually challenging and stimulating environment for your undergraduate studies. The [Department of English Literature](/schools/edacs/departments/english/index.aspx) works hard to ensure that you are a fully supported and active learner. The courses are also very flexible, allowing you to specialise more and more as you progress, culminating in a final-year dissertation that allows you to carry out in-depth, individually supervised research into topics of your choice.

English Literature open day talk



Dr Daniel Moore delivers the 2014 undergraduate open day talk on studying English Literature at the University of Birmingham.

Do our 2013 graduates recommend the course?





Fees and funding

Standard fees (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/fees/standard>) apply

Learn more about **fees and funding** (</undergraduate/fees/loans.aspx>)

Scholarships

Learn more about our **scholarships and awards** (</undergraduate/fees/funding/index.aspx>)

Entry requirements

Number of A levels required: 3

Typical offer: AAB

Required subjects and grades: A level English Literature or A level English Language and Literature grade A

General Studies: not accepted

Additional information:

International Baccalaureate Diploma: 35 points to include English at higher level with a minimum of 6 points

Other qualifications are considered – learn more about **entry requirements** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements>).

International students:

We welcome applications from international students and invite you to join our vibrant community of over 4500 international students who represent 150 different countries. We accept a range of qualifications, our **country pages** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx>) show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the **foundation academy web pages** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/Pathways/index.aspx>).

How to apply

Apply through UCAS at www.ucas.com (<http://www.ucas.com/>)

Learn more about **applying** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply>)



Joint Honours combinations

You can also combine the study of English Literature with other disciplines on other Single Honours programmes we offer, or on the English Literature pathway of our Joint Honours programmes:

- **English Language and Literature BA** (</undergraduate/courses/english/english-language-and-literature.aspx>)
- **English with Creative Writing BA** (</undergraduate/courses/english/english-creative.aspx>)
- **American and Canadian Studies and English Literature BA** (</undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/american-and-canadian-and-english-lit.aspx>)
- **Drama and English Literature BA** (</undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/drama-and-english-literature.aspx>)
- **English Literature and Classical Literature & Civilisation BA** (</undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/english-and-classical-literature-and-civilisation.aspx>)

- [English Literature and History BA \(/undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/english-literature-and-history.aspx\)](#)
- [English Literature and History of Art BA \(/undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/english-literature-and-history-of-art.aspx\)](#)
- [English Literature and Philosophy BA \(/undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/english-literature-and-philosophy.aspx\)](#)
- [Modern Languages and English Literature BA \(/undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/modern-languages-and-english-literature.aspx\)](#)

Key Information Set (KIS)

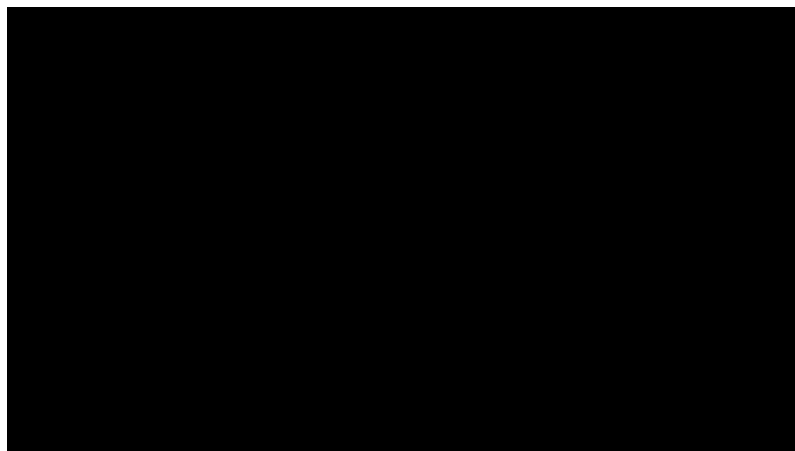
Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the [Unistats website \(http://unistats.direct.gov.uk\)](#) you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

Learning and teaching



As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. At Birmingham we advocate an enquiry based learning approach, from the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner, qualities that are highly sought after by employers. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

Your learning will take place in a range of different settings, from scheduled teaching in lectures and small group tutorials, to self-study and peer group learning (for example preparing and delivering presentations with your classmates).

Support

To begin with you may find this way of working challenging, but rest assured that we will enable you to make this transition. You will have access to a comprehensive support system that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who can help with both academic and welfare issues, and a formal transition review during your first year to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support.

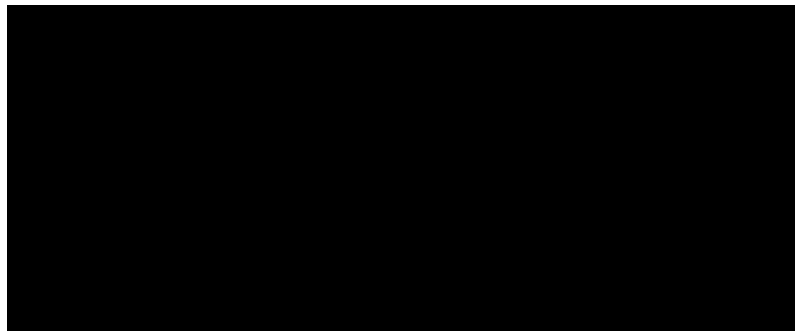
Our **Academic Skills Centre** also offers you support with your learning. The centre is a place where you can develop your mathematical, academic writing and general academic skills. It is the centre's aim to help you to become a more effective and independent learner through the use of a range of high-quality and appropriate learning support services. These range from drop-in sessions to workshops on a range of topics including note taking, reading, writing and presentation skills.

From the outset, you will be assigned your own **Personal Tutor** who will get to know you as you progress through your studies, providing academic and welfare advice, encouraging you and offering assistance in any areas you may feel you need extra support to make the most of your potential and your time here at Birmingham.

The **Academic Writing Advisory Service (AWAS)** will provide you with individual support from an academic writing advisor and postgraduate subject-specialist writing tutors. You will receive guidance on writing essays and dissertations at University-level which can be quite different from your previous experiences of writing. Support is given in a variety of ways, such as small-group workshops, online activities, feedback through email and tutorials.

Student experience

Supporting you throughout your transition to University, offering research opportunities and study skills support and helping you develop and prepare for your post-University careers - our **Arts and Law Student Experience Team (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/student-experience/index.aspx)** strive to help you get the most out of your academic experience.



Assessment methods

Studying at degree-level is likely to be very different from your previous experience of learning and teaching. You will be expected to think, discuss and engage critically with the subject and find things out for yourself. We will enable you to make this transition to a new style of learning, and the way that you are assessed during your studies will help you develop the essential skills you need to make a success of your time at Birmingham.

You will be assessed in a variety of ways, and these may be different with each module that you take. You will be assessed through coursework which may take the form of essays, group and individual presentations and formal exams (depending on your chosen degree).

During your first year you will undergo a formal 'transition' review to see how you are getting on and if there are particular areas where you need support. This is in addition to the personal tutor who is based in your school or department and can help with any academic issues you encounter.

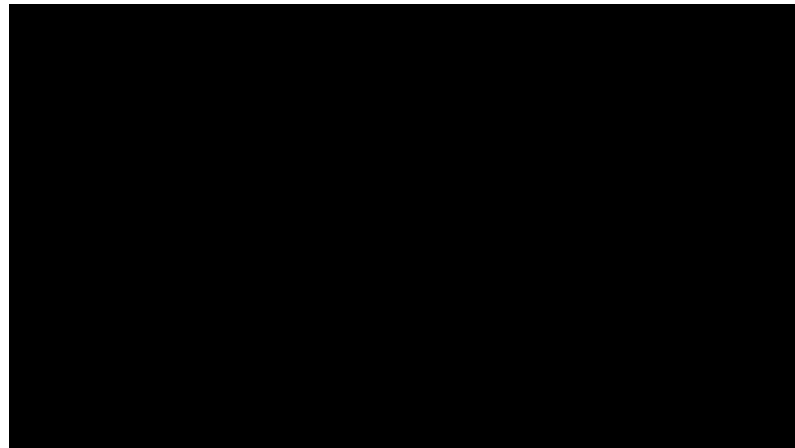
At the beginning of each module, you will be given information on how and when you will be assessed for that particular programme of study. You will receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from and build on what you have done. You will be given feedback on any exams that you take; if you should fail an exam we will ensure that particularly detailed feedback is made available to enable you to learn for the future.

The principal means of assessment for English are coursework essays and written exams.

Related staff

[Dr Gillian Wright \(/staff/profiles/english/wright-gillian.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/english/wright-gillian.aspx)

Employability



[Video above - Dr Daniel Moore discusses careers and employability during the English Literature open day presentation]

Studying for an English BA at Birmingham is an unparalleled opportunity, not only to engage with a diverse cultural, textual and linguistic discipline, but also to develop skills in intellectual analysis, critical thinking and articulate expression – skills that last a lifetime and qualify you for many possible careers. You will also be encouraged to acquire practical skills that you will find just as useful in your future career, including oral presentation, professional documentation, group work and the uses of information technology.

50% of vacancies advertised for new and recent graduates don't specify a degree subject, and English graduates enter a wide range of careers including advertising, journalism and media, government, law, publishing and teaching at every level. About 25% of English graduates pursue postgraduate study to specialise in an academic area or prepare for careers such as law and teaching.

English graduates from Birmingham have a high rate for employability for the subject, and we are ranked in the top ten universities nationally for graduate employability. 93% of our English graduates go into work or study within six months of graduation. Our graduates have started careers with employers including the BBC, Headline Publishing Group, Mirror Group Newspapers and Oxford University Press, in roles such as account executive, editorial assistant, marketing assistant and sales and events coordinator.

Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, [our Careers Network \(https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/index.aspx\)](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/index.aspx) can help you achieve your goal. This is a unique careers guidance service tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team who can give you expert advice. This includes individual careers advice and events to give you insight into the professions and employers of interest to arts graduates. Our 'Creative careers' series is always popular with our students, and features events with employers and professionals from areas such as advertising, PR and communications, careers in journalism, publishing and writing, and careers in the theatre.

English alumni profiles



I loved the fun, inclusive and creative English course at Birmingham.





<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/edacs/departments/english/undergraduate/alumni-profiles.aspx>

Careers events

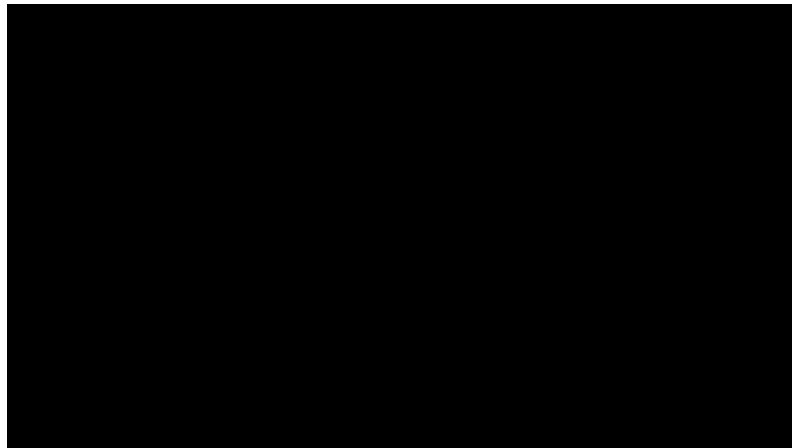
We also hold events covering careers in teaching, event management, marketing and working with charities; we're developing links with local arts organisations to create some amazing opportunities for students; and you can even apply for our 'Global Challenge' to work overseas on an expenses paid placement during your summer vacation. We also encourage all our students to apply their skills in the workplace by undertaking internships in the summer; the work experience bursary scheme enables students to apply for funding for placements in those career fields where they are often unpaid.

Extra-curricular activities

To enhance your career prospects even further, you will need to think about engaging in some extra-curricular activities while you're at university to broaden your skills and your network of contacts. This can include the many societies at the Guild of Students and also the many voluntary opportunities offered with local arts organisations. Our employer-endorsed award-winning **Personal Skills Award** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/psa.aspx>) (PSA) recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

Our College of Arts and Law **undergraduate research scholarship scheme**

(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/studentexperience/urs/index.aspx>) enables interested students to work on a current academic research project being run by one of the College's academic researchers. Undergraduate research scholars gain work experience over the summer after their first or second year and have the chance to develop skills in both collaborative and independent research.



Cultural Internships

Our innovative **Cultural Internships** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/culture/volunteering/regionally.aspx>) offer graduates the opportunity for a six month paid internship at a leading cultural institution in the West Midlands. These internships are a unique opportunity to learn fundamental, transferable business and interpersonal skills, through experience of real work in an established cultural institution. Our current partners include Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Birmingham REP, Birmingham Royal Ballet, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust and the Library of Birmingham. We have plans to expand the scheme to include our own major cultural assets, such as Winterbourne House, the Lapworth Museum, and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. This scheme will give you professional experience to set you apart in a competitive graduate market.

We also offer voluntary work which complements your studies by helping you gain practical experiences in occupational settings while contributing back to society. This can bring new skills that will be useful throughout your future and can make a positive impact on your learning whilst at university. Volunteering enables you to develop skills such as communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork, self-confidence and self-discipline all of which can be transferred into your studies.

Your Birmingham degree is evidence of your ability to succeed in a demanding academic environment. Employers target Birmingham students for their drive, diversity, communication and problem-solving skills, their team-working abilities and cultural awareness, and our graduate employment statistics have continued to climb at a rate well above national trends. If you make the most of the wide range of services you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

92% Students agreed staff are good at explaining things



To see more details and compare with other courses

Visit

UNISTATS ▶

Official data collected by HEFCE

BA (Hons) English
Full time