

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

The Shakespeare Institute



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Here let us breathe and haply
institute/A course of learning
and ingenious studies.

Shakespeare, The Taming of the Shrew

The Shakespeare Institute

The Shakespeare Institute of the University of Birmingham offers postgraduate students and scholars an academic experience unequalled by any other university. Students study Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon, within walking distance of his birthplace, school and grave, and the theatres of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The Institute provides an intense learning experience in which you will contribute to the advancement of the study of Shakespeare, from a range of perspectives, with the support and encouragement of the Institute's staff, all of whom are respected academics in their own field. You will have the opportunity to explore the work of Shakespeare and the drama of his time, broader aspects of early modern culture and literature, its subsequent cultural significance and performance on stage and screen.

Your learning resources are all around you. The Shakespeare Institute's own library is a renowned collection of international importance and you also have access to the outstanding picture collections, records and library holdings of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. The Trust curates the archives of the

RSC, and, with the theatres on our doorstep, sessions with actors and directors are a regular feature of Institute life.

The Institute is housed in fine seventeenth and eighteenth-century buildings which retain their domestic atmosphere, providing a working environment where learning spills over beyond formal tuition into play-readings in the Lounge, performances in the Lecture Hall, and discussion and debate in the Common Room, kitchen and extensive gardens and grounds. Every space gets filled during national and international Shakespeare conferences.

Learning and research experiences that offer such depth and breadth of stimulating study are rare. The experience offered by the Shakespeare Institute is unique.



Front cover picture: The Moorish Ambassador is Abd el-Ouahed ben Messaoud ben Mohammed Anoun, Moorish Ambassador to Queen Elizabeth I, 1600. Courtesy of the University of Birmingham Collections, © University of Birmingham.

Thursday seminars

All students take part in the 'Thursday seminars' where Institute fellows and an international range of visiting speakers present their research and respond to student discussion. Recent speakers have included Stanley Wells, Dennis Kennedy, the historian Richard Cust, Catherine Belsey, Michael Neill and Roger Mortlock from the RSC.

Britgrad

The highlight of students' academic year is the annual Britgrad conference (June 21-24, 2006), organised by students for students and now in its eighth consecutive year. You will be able to join post-graduate students from all over the world to give and hear short papers on all aspects of Shakespeare and early-modern drama. Britgrad provides a unique opportunity for graduate students to share their work with their peers and to hear what other graduates in similar and related fields are working on. We hope you will join in with organising this event (a real plus on your cv!). Contact one of last year's organisers Wendy Di Traglia (wed445@bham.ac.uk).

MA in Shakespeare Studies

The programme

This programme provides an unrivalled opportunity for study of Shakespeare at graduate level in Stratford-upon-Avon. It develops a critical but appreciative understanding of Shakespeare's contribution to literary and theatrical history, and the place of his works on today's cultural landscape.

The MA in Shakespeare Studies can be taken in one year of full-time study or spread over two or three years' part-time study.

Admission requirements

An honours degree in English or a relevant subject is required, normally at an upper second-class level or its equivalent for overseas applicants. Graduates without these qualifications (for example with a lower second class degree, or a degree in an unrelated subject) are very welcome to apply, and their application will be considered on its merits.

Pathways: Students take all the following modules, which are taught in seminars and assessed by submitted work.

Content of the programme

Plays and Poems of Shakespeare

This module forms the core of the MA programme, and is taught over two terms. It explores the whole canon of Shakespeare's plays and uses student presentation and group discussion to develop a dialogue between students' research and the latest critical approaches to Shakespeare.

History of Shakespeare in Performance

The module examines the relationship between Shakespeare's plays and the performances they have generated from his time to ours. It re-examines the performativity of the texts, explores their adaptation by directors and performers from the Restoration to the present and assesses the impact of different technologies of performance from Renaissance stages to contemporary

film. The archives of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Shakespeare Centre Library provide the essential materials for the research component of this work.

Textual Studies in Shakespeare

The module will develop a critical awareness of the textual foundations of Shakespeare's plays. Topics covered include: the relationship between a modern edition of a play and the earliest printed texts, the nature of the printing process that first made the plays available to readers of books, the characteristics of Shakespeare's dramatic composition, the treatment of the text in the theatre (including censorship, revision and adaptation), and Shakespeare as a collaborator. Plays studied include some or all of *Hamlet*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Sir Thomas More*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard II*, *King Lear*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Timon of Athens*.

History of Shakespeare Criticism

Shakespeare criticism from Ben Jonson to the plethora of approaches available today has constantly sought to redefine Shakespeare and his significance to the reader. The module traces the main developments in Shakespeare criticism, in the context of the wider development of intellectual culture from the sixteenth century to the present.

Research Skills in Shakespeare

Classes introduce the research techniques applicable in the fields associated with Shakespeare studies, and explore the rich resources available through the University and in Stratford-upon-Avon. This knowledge is applied in a Bibliographical Essay, which prepares towards the Dissertation.

Dissertation

The Dissertation of 12 000 words provides students with the opportunity to write at greater length on a topic of their choice. It is written with supervision over the summer. Suitable topics range over Shakespearian criticism, performance, or textual study, or a related area of early modern theatrical or literary study.



MA Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon and the Cultural History of Renaissance England

The programme

This unique programme offers the opportunity to study the most exciting areas of English history and literature in an interdisciplinary way. You will investigate Shakespeare and his drama in the context of the society he lived in and observed, and you will explore the ways in which early modern society adapted to the dramatic social and cultural changes of the period.

It is taught through an imaginative collaboration between the Shakespeare Institute and the Department of History at the University of Birmingham, in association with The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Students study three core modules and complete a dissertation on a topic of their choice.

Admission requirements

An honours degree in a relevant subject is required, such as History or English, normally at an upper second-class level or its equivalent for overseas applicants. Graduates without these qualifications (for example with a degree in an unrelated subject) are welcome to apply, and their application will be considered on its merits.

Pathways

The MA in Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon and the Cultural History of Renaissance England is available on a full and part time basis.

Full time students will take the two core modules, *The Social and Cultural History of Renaissance England* and *Shakespeare, the playwright and his drama*, in the first two terms, from October to March. You will also receive training in research skills during the first term, which will be put into practice with the dissertation over the summer.

Part time students will take the two core modules, *The Social and Cultural History of Renaissance England* and *Shakespeare, the playwright and his drama*, in their first year and complete the research components and dissertation in their second year.

Content of the programme

The Social and Cultural History of Renaissance England

This module gives an introduction to the social and cultural history of the period and focuses specifically on issues relevant to Shakespeare's own life and drama. The subjects you will study include women's reputation, notions of honour and gentility, popular religious belief and witchcraft. We give particular emphasis to contemporary life in the two places most familiar to Shakespeare, the small town of Stratford-upon-Avon and the growing metropolis of London.

Shakespeare, the Playwright and his Drama

Shakespeare's life and career are examined as a case study in the position of professional playwrights in early modern England. You will examine the mechanics of the theatre for which Shakespeare was writing - how plays were written, how Shakespeare's work was circulated and the impact censorship had upon it. The links between Shakespeare's plays and the issues affecting his society are investigated, and you will analyse the interventions the plays made in important social debates, for example about community and authority.

Materials and Critical Methods for Research

Students are given essential training in research skills relating to the study of Shakespeare and Stratford-upon-Avon, including instruction in palaeography (reading early modern handwriting) and the use of a wide variety of early modern documents. You will work on original archival documents, some of which relate to Shakespeare and his family.

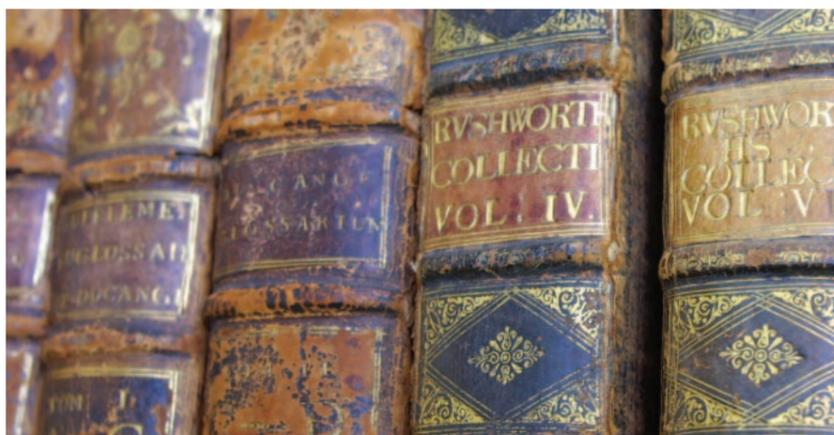
Dissertation

A dissertation of 12,000 words will give you the opportunity for deeper research into topics which have particularly interested you in the previous two terms. You will have access to the original documents held at the Birthplace Trust Archive as part of your research.

Learn more

For more information on the *MA in Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon and the Cultural History of Renaissance England* or on any of the programmes offered by the Shakespeare Institute contact:

The Shakespeare Institute
Mason Croft
Church Street
Stratford upon Avon
Tel: 01 789 293138
Email: Shakespeare@bham.ac.uk
www.shakespeare.bham.ac.uk



What our students say...

Jeff and Chrissy Steele moved to Stratford-upon-Avon from Chicago as Jeff was starting a PhD at the Shakespeare Institute. A year later, Chrissy enrolled on the MA in Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon and the Cultural History of Renaissance England. Chrissy has found the Cultural History course both varied and stimulating. Her favourite module was the palaeography course, providing the chance to read and translate hand-written manuscripts and documents from the period, through the facilities at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Chrissy has been impressed by the wide range of opportunities available to her at the Institute:

'The study facilities are spacious and tranquil and the library is well stocked. The Thursday afternoon lectures, open to all Institute members, have been particularly enjoyable. The variety of in-house and guest speakers covering a range of topics has been a weekly opportunity to open our horizons. And both Jeff and I have found that our individual dissertation/thesis supervisors have been incredibly helpful, offering fresh insights and constructive criticism on a regular basis'.

Gill Watson came from the USA to study the *MA in Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon and the Cultural History of Renaissance England*. Gill has been impressed by the level of support she has received from the Institute's academics:

'Although the Institute is a small place - small building, small classes and a small town - it has been the gateway to much larger things. The tutors here challenge your thinking and help you to stretch your academic horizons, but they are also on hand to listen to your problems whether they are personal or study-related. As well as the resources at the Institute, the University of Birmingham is just an hour's train ride away, and offers a wealth of facilities'.

Yoshika Miura came from Japan to take the interdisciplinary MA course:

'The attraction of the course was that I could take classes in Shakespeare and in the history of the period. I learned multiple viewpoints on historical events, and developed the skill of evaluating abundant evidence in order to present a persuasive argument'.



MA The Cultural Heritage of Shakespeare's England

The programme

This programme examines how we understand, market and present the cultural heritage of Shakespeare's England. What is the relationship between Shakespeare's fame, the way his plays are staged and the stories we tell about the rich legacy of buildings and objects that remain from this exceptional period of history?

This interdisciplinary programme is taught through an imaginative collaboration between the Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies, the Shakespeare Institute and the Ironbridge Institute at the University of Birmingham, in association with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Admission requirements

An honours degree in a relevant subject, such as History, Art History, English or Cultural Studies, is required, normally at an upper second class level or its equivalent for overseas applicants. Individuals without these qualifications (for example with a lower second class degree, a degree in an unrelated subject or career experience in museums or heritage work) are very welcome to apply and their application will be considered on its merits. Applicants may be asked to submit written work and/or attend an interview.

Pathways

The MA in The Cultural Heritage of Shakespeare's England is available on a full and part time basis.

Full-time students take four core courses taught through the year from October to Easter. They also receive training in research skills during the first term from October to December which will be put into practice later with a final research project.

Part-time students take three core courses and the research skills component in their first year, and complete one core course, the placement and research project in their second year.

Content of the programme

Visual and Material Culture of Shakespeare's England

This module examines the visual and material culture of Shakespeare's England, with particular emphasis on the buildings, interiors and collections in Stratford-upon-Avon. The module offers a broad introduction to the art, artefacts and buildings of early modern England and explores their practical and symbolic functions within the society that

produced them. It also assesses the significance of the physical remnants of the period for the critical understanding, interpretation and presentation of the history and culture of Shakespeare's England. The course includes study trips to buildings and collections in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The teaching for this course is provided by faculty in the Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies.

Visual and Material Culture: Theories and Methods

This module provides an introduction for postgraduate students to recent literature in the interdisciplinary fields of visual and material culture. It introduces a range of theories and research methodologies relating to the study of visual and material culture in all periods and across several disciplines, but with a particular focus on the early modern period. This provides a theoretical and methodological framework for further research and/or applied curatorial practice.

The teaching for this course is provided by members of faculty in the Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies.

Principles and Ethics of Heritage Management

The module provides a grounding in the core values of the professional heritage industry. The specific topics covered include Museum ethics, Heritage organizations (international, national, regional, local), fundraising and diversification of revenue sources, marketing, heritage education and special events, interpretation and education in the museums environment, using objects and collections, oral history and live interpretation.

The teaching for this course is provided by members of faculty in the Ironbridge Institute.



A view of the 'birthroom' at Shakespeare's Birthplace, as presented today. © Shakespeare Birthplace Trust



Coloured print of the 'birthroom' at Shakespeare's Birthplace, c.1847. © Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.



A Genteman's nightcap, c.1610. © Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Work Placement

This module is a one-term placement with a heritage organisation to work on a specific project within the subject area of the cultural heritage of Shakespeare's England. The placement provides opportunity for first-hand study of material culture, and/or the built environment allowing the development of applied research skills as well as practical training and experience for historical research and professional work in the museums and heritage sector.

The placement is supervised by academic tutors who maintain contact with the student and a designated liaison within the placement organisation throughout the period of the placement.

Shakespeare's Legacy

This module considers the interpretation and cultural appropriation of Shakespeare's plays from the seventeenth century to the present day. Attention is given to changes and developments in theatrical practice and shifts in cultural

attitudes towards Shakespeare and his work that informs an understanding of performance trends and the emergence of Shakespeare as cultural icon. Plays considered include some or all of King Lear, The Tempest, Macbeth, The Merchant of Venice, Othello, King John, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Measure for Measure.

The teaching for this course is provided by the Fellows of the Shakespeare Institute.

Research Skills

This module provides skills training for postgraduate students taking the programme The Cultural Heritage of Shakespeare's England. It introduces a range of research, library and generic skills that will be applicable to the students' research experience as well as subject-specific training towards their work placement and final research project, including palaeography, the use of early modern documents and skills in the study of art and architecture.

The course is taught by faculty in the Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies and staff of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office.

Research Project

The research project is an original inquiry into a closely defined aspect of the cultural heritage of Shakespeare's England. This gives students the chance to follow up topics of particular interest, with the opportunity to study original materials held in the Birthplace Trust Collections. A unique feature of the programme is that students are able to choose the format of the research project. You may complete a 12,000 word dissertation on an agreed topic which relates to the historical or literary culture of the period OR there are opportunities for presenting research in different media, such as an audio-visual presentation supported by a written defence.

Each student will be assigned an appropriate supervisor, and will have regular meetings to discuss the progress of their research and written drafts



MA or Postgraduate Diploma in Shakespeare and Theatre

The programme

Shakespeare and Theatre is an extremely popular and innovative modular course that enables students to focus on how Shakespeare's plays work in performance. It encourages an historical approach to interpretation and styles of presentation and it promotes the value of close reading as the basis for evaluating the plays on the page, stage and screen. The Stratford location is a real plus for this programme and in addition to the unique Shakespearian resources of the Shakespeare Institute Library, students have access to the Library of the Shakespeare Centre that curates the archives of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

A large range of services support part-time and distance learning students, including remote access to full text electronic journals, early printed books and works of literature.

The majority of students following the programme study part-time, fitting modules around their professional and private commitments. Others may elect to study a single module, perhaps to support their work in education or the theatre. An increasing number of students, particularly from overseas, studies full-time. Students can expect high quality teaching and support for their learning and the opportunity to join a community of students and scholars committed to study.

Students begin by studying the core access module *Shakespeare's Theatre* that includes research and study skills and key ideas that will underpin the rest of the programme. Subsequently students study three further modules chosen from *Shakespeare's*

Craftsmanship, Shakespeare's Legacy, Shakespeare's Text, Acting/Directing Shakespeare and Shakespeare and Women. All modules are assessed by two 3,000 word essays. Students who exit the programme upon completion of four modules will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Shakespeare and Theatre. Those who wish to progress to the MA will do so through the submission of a 12,000 word dissertation.

Admission requirements

There are two admission routes to the programme. Those who have a 2i degree in an appropriate subject or the University of Birmingham's Certificate of HE in Shakespeare Studies register for the MA. Those who do not meet these formal admission requirements register initially as 'Occasional' students and then change status on the successful completion of the first, core module.

Pathways

Students have the opportunity to pursue the programme through a range of pathways. Each module is available through three routes, the first four of which include 30 hours of face-to-face tuition:

- A two-week summer school at the Shakespeare Institute.
- Three long weekends at the Shakespeare Institute at approximately monthly intervals.
- One day a week throughout a semester at the Shakespeare Institute (ten days).
- Distance-learning option (but please note that students are strongly advised to study the access module at the Shakespeare Institute)

Please note that not all modules are available through all pathways every year.



Content of the programme

Shakespeare's Theatre

There are three components of the core module. The first is a close reading of text that will lead to a consideration of the theatrical function and distinctive qualities of Shakespeare's language. The second is a study of Elizabethan and early Jacobean stages and performance; and the third is an extension of the historical perspective, including Shakespeare's medieval inheritance, that will inform inquiry into the contemporary and continuing theatrical life of *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard II*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Henry V*, *Cymbeline* and *The Tempest*.

This module will also include study and research skills to underpin 'Shakespeare's Theatre' and subsequent modules, including the dissertation.

Shakespeare's Craftsmanship

This module focuses on the construction of Shakespeare's plays and considers the manipulation of source material and genre, the structuring of the dramatic narrative and the use of language for dramatic function and effect. Works studied will include some or all of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Measure for Measure*, *Othello*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*, and *The Winter's Tale*.

Shakespeare's Legacy

This module will consider the adaptation and appropriation of Shakespeare's plays from 1660 to the present day. Attention will be given to changes and developments in theatrical practice, and shifts in cultural attitudes towards Shakespeare and his work that will inform an understanding of performance trends. Plays studied will include some or all of *King Lear*, *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, *King John*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Measure for Measure*.

The Text of Shakespeare

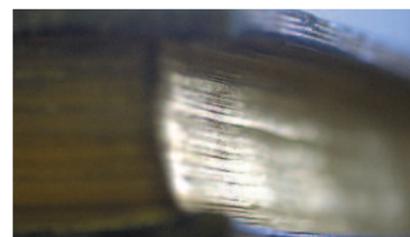
The module will develop a critical awareness of the textual foundations of Shakespeare's plays. Topics covered include: the relationship between a modern edition of a play and the earliest printed texts, the nature of the printing process that first made the plays available to readers of books, the characteristics of Shakespeare's dramatic composition, the treatment of the text in the theatre (including censorship, revision and adaptation), and Shakespeare as a collaborator. Plays studied include some or all of *Hamlet*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Sir Thomas More*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard II*, *King Lear*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Timon of Athens*.

Acting / Directing Shakespeare

This module will consider trends of acting and directing Shakespeare from the Restoration to the present day, and will exploit the Stratford archives to undertake studies of individual actors and directors from the eighteenth century onwards. Subjects of study might include Colley Cibber, David Garrick, Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, Laurence Olivier, Peter Brook, John Barton and Sam Mendes. There will be opportunities to analyse and interpret primary evidence and to consider the cultural context(s) of performance. Plays studied will include *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Shakespeare and Women

This module will focus on the presence and absence of women's roles in Shakespeare's plays considering text, performance, and context, which will lead to a consideration of the critical and theoretical responses the roles have generated. Roles and/or plays studied will include some or all of *Coriolanus*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Ophelia*, *Desdemona*, *Cordelia*, *Imogen* and *Cressida*.



MA or Postgraduate Diploma in Shakespeare and Education

The MA in Shakespeare and Education is a unique, innovative, modular course that is particularly appropriate for practicing teachers, offering the opportunity to enhance expertise in different aspects of Shakespeare's work, supported by a module with a specific focus on pedagogy.

The flexible structure of this course allows study in a wide variety of ways, on a full or part time basis. Students will also have the opportunity to do individual research using the extensive resources of the Shakespeare Institute Library, the Library of the Shakespeare Centre that curates the archives of the RSC, and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Students study two obligatory core modules, beginning with the core access 'Shakespeare and Theatre' that includes research and study skills, followed by the 'Shakespeare and Education' module. Students then study two further 30 credit modules chosen from Shakespeare's Craftsmanship, Shakespeare's Legacy, Shakespeare's Text, Acting/Directing Shakespeare and Shakespeare and Women. All modules are assessed by two 3,000 word essays or equivalent. Teachers may, for example, choose to submit an account of a classroom based project. Students who exit the programme upon completion of four modules will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Shakespeare and Education. Those who wish to progress to the MA will do so through the submission of a 12,000 word dissertation, which will have a pedagogical focus.

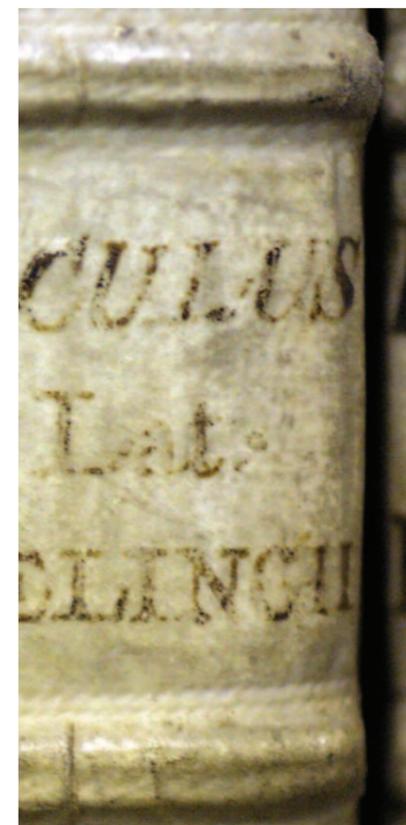
Pathways

Students will have the opportunity to pursue the Shakespeare and Education programme through a range of pathways. Modules are available through a variety of routes that may include:

- A two-week summer school
- Two separate weeks of study with an interval between them but in one half of the year
- Three long weekends at approximately monthly intervals
- One day a week throughout a semester (ten days)
- Distance-learning option (but please note that students are strongly advised to study the access module at The Shakespeare Institute)

Please note: Not all modules are available through all pathways every year. The schedule of delivery allows access to all modules through a range of pathways over any three-year period. Note too that the 'Education' and 'Acting/Directing' modules are not available as distance learning packages as it is impossible to replicate the resources to which students have access if they study on site.

There are two admission routes to the programme: Those who have a 2:1 degree in an appropriate subject or the Certificate of HE in Shakespeare Studies register for the MA. Those who do not meet these formal admission requirements register initially as 'Occasional' students and then change status on the successful completion of the first, core module.



Content of the programme

Core modules

Shakespeare's Theatre (30 credits)

There are three components of the core module. The first is a close reading of text that will lead to a consideration of the theatrical function and distinctive qualities of Shakespeare's language. The second is a study of Elizabethan and early Jacobean stages and performance; and the third is an extension of the historical perspective, including Shakespeare's medieval inheritance, that will inform inquiry into the contemporary and continuing theatrical life of *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard II*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Henry V*, *Cymbeline* and *The Tempest*.

Shakespeare and Education (30 credits)

This core compulsory module is an opportunity to explore the history, philosophy and pedagogy of 'teaching Shakespeare.' You will consider the different elements of Shakespeare's work that are taught and the methods and resources used to teach them. You will have the chance to prepare practical teaching activities and assess learning outcomes.

In an exciting new development, the 'Shakespeare and Education' module will be delivered through a collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Students will participate in three of the Day Schools offered by RSC Learning and this practical study will be supplemented by three days of academic work at The Institute.

Two optional modules from:

(Shakespeare's Craftsmanship, Shakespeare's Legacy, The Text of Shakespeare, Acting/Directing Shakespeare, or Shakespeare and Women – see details of modules under MA/Postgraduate Diploma in Shakespeare and Theatre)

Students who study the course on a full time (1 year) basis pay the standard full time postgraduate taught fee. Students who study the course part time pay per module.

Learn more

Everybody is different so if you have a question email, write or ring:
Dr Catherine Alexander
Email: c.m.s.alexander@bham.ac.uk
Tel: 0121 4149500.

Research Degrees in Shakespeare: Works, Times and Impact

Shakespeare Institute welcomes applications from prospective postgraduate research students, particularly those who wish to work in the following fields of study:

- Editing and Textual Criticism
- The Commercialization of Drama in the Early Seventeenth Century
- Drama and Material Culture in the Tudor and Early Stuart Periods
- Drama and Theatre in the British Isles, 1533-1642
- Neo-Latin Drama
- The Reception of Shakespeare in Post-Renaissance Culture
- Performance Research

Recent theses:

- James Purkis, PhD July 05: Recognising the author in early modern Literature.
- Ayse Nur Demiralp, PhD July 04: 'Unnatural Englishmen' Rebellion in English Renaissance drama
- Tom Band, MPhil, Dec 04: Avant-Garde Shakespeare
- Eleanor Lowe, PhD 05: A Critical Edition of George Chapman's *The Comedy of Humours* also known as *A Humorous Day's Mirth*
- Héloïse Sénéchal, MPhil July 05: 'Legacies of Dissent: A critical exposition of Stephen Gosson's antitheatrical polemic and its debts to Plato and Tertullian'.

Admissions requirements

All students registered for research degrees will have an honours degree in a relevant subject, such as English or history, normally at an upper second class level (or its equivalent for overseas students). Applicants for direct admission to Ph.D. study will also have completed a Masters degree in a relevant subject at a high level. Other qualifications and evidence of research experience may be considered as alternatives to the qualifications cited. Applicants are asked to submit a proposal and a sample of written work. Minimum English language requirement: IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

Research Culture at The Shakespeare Institute

The Institute is a small collegiate community based in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon. At its intellectual centre is the members' shared interest in English Renaissance drama. Diverse approaches to the subject are encouraged according to individual preference: theoretical and material, archival and practical. However, the Institute's ethos puts the practice of performance at the heart of Shakespeare and Renaissance drama studies. All areas of the field, including textually and historically based analyses, can be enhanced by a view of the plays as works for performance. Some research students have organized workshops to explore this dimension of their texts, and weekly play-readings during term give members the opportunity to participate in non-Shakespearean plays of the period, and also allow editors to 'road-test' their editions. There is also a thriving student drama society.

Research resources

The Institute has a world-class research library covering all aspects of Shakespeare and English Renaissance drama studies, including the history of the period and the subsequent reception, interpretation, and performance of Shakespeare's plays. The collections include:

- manuscripts of plays and dramatic records on microfilm, many of which are not accessible anywhere else in Europe
- a unique collection of Shakespeare-related press cuttings dating back to 1900
- modern theatrical records, including those of the Regent's Park Theatre and the Renaissance Theatre Company, and a number of unpublished screenplays
- papers of eminent Shakespearians, including E. K. Chambers, Mary Cowden Clarke, and John Gielgud

The Institute has close links with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, whose Library in Stratford houses the archives of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Malone Society, the leading organization for scholarly



research in English Renaissance drama. The Bodleian Library in Oxford and the remarkable Shakespeare collection of the Birmingham Central Reference Library are also within easy reach.

Pathways

MPhil

Research is undertaken on a chosen topic, leading to the preparation of a thesis of 40,000 words. Research training is provided. Period of registration: one year

MLitt

Research is undertaken on a chosen topic, leading to the preparation of a thesis of 60,000 words. Research training is provided. Period of registration: two years

PhD

The thesis for a PhD is 80,000 words in length, and the period of registration is normally three years. Research training is provided. Students who have not already completed a research Masters will normally register for an MPhil in the first instance, and apply to upgrade their registration to a PhD on the basis of progress made.

New Route PhD

Students take 120 credits of taught programmes (usually 4 modules) followed by research on a chosen topic, leading to the preparation of a thesis of 60,000 words.

Period of registration: three years

It is possible to upgrade from one research degree to another during the period of registration, on the basis of work submitted.

All research students receive an introductory research training course, and participate in the research seminar series, which allows them to develop their skills in the oral presentation of papers, and to discuss their work with their peers in a formal context. Research students also participate in the Thursday seminar series, which features current work by the staff and distinguished visiting speakers.

Part-time study is possible for all Research Degrees.

Funding your study

- MA and Research students from the UK should enter the Postgraduate competitions of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (www.ahrc.ac.uk). Successful candidates are awarded grants to cover both fees and maintenance.
- International Students are eligible to be entered into the Overseas Research Studentships (ORS) competition. This scheme provides grants that cover the difference between home and international fees. The International Office at The University of Birmingham also offers Scholarships to International students and further details are available through their website (www.international.bham.ac.uk/)
- Students may compete for the University of Birmingham Scholarships and Shakespeare Institute Scholarships. Check the 'Funding' section of the Institute's website (www.shakespeare@bham.ac.uk) for details of funds, deadlines and procedures.
- The Shakespeare Institute also runs an internship scheme where students work for up to 40 hours/year on learner support, publishing and research support projects. These are usually paid at the going rate for postgraduate student employment (£23.80/hour in 2005-6). There are also opportunities to undertake clerical work in support of conferences and to provide support for the Shakespeare Institute library.
- North American Students at the Institute are eligible to compete for funding from The Fulbright Commission (www.fulbright.co.uk), the Marshall Fund (www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/scholarships/scholarships.htm) and SSHRC (www.sshrc.ca)



Student views

Andrea Jackson followed the MA in Shakespeare Studies programme in 2001

After graduating from the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford UK I returned to Canada (the Toronto area more specifically). Shortly thereafter, I moved to Stratford, Ontario to take up the post of Education Co-ordinator for the Stratford Festival of Canada.

The best thing about working for such a large and dynamic repertory theatre company is the chance to see world-class theatre, to be constantly inspired by the artistic talent abounding in the company and in the community, and to be given the chance to pass my love of Shakespeare and of theatre on to others and, more specifically, to young people and to a new generation of theatre and Shakespeare enthusiasts.

As a student I enjoyed living in Stratford-upon-Avon and meeting a truly wonderful group of people with the same interests and passions and the town lived up to my expectations by providing me with a stimulating environment steeped in history, alive with the workings of the RSC, and peopled by Shakespeare scholars of note. I'd advise new students to soak up the learning, the fellowship and the environment as much as possible, for a year passes all too quickly! Also, take advantage of the opportunities and the contacts: it is amazing how small the world is once you get out there!

Jami Rogers followed the MA Shakespeare and Theatre programme, part-time, graduating in 2004. She's now studying full-time at the Institute for a PhD.

The Shakespeare Institute is the best place to study Shakespeare in performance. Nestled in Stratford-upon-Avon with access to the RSC and the archives it was very easy to become immersed in the subject. The Shakespeare Institute Library is also an amazing resource and with so much information available onsite, losing oneself in the library for hours on end was a very easy thing to do.

Each member of staff at the Shakespeare Institute is an acknowledged expert and it was truly a remarkable experience being exposed to all facets of their knowledge in Renaissance literature and the plays in performance. The Shakespeare Institute has a wonderful range of activities. There is a weekly football game which is my personal favourite and the Thursday lecture series, the play readings and the Shakespeare Institute players all round off the unique experience of the place, which make it a much more diverse experience than many universities. It is unique because everyone can get involved, as it's just large enough to support these diverse activities, but not so large as to swamp the activities with thousands of people.

'I moved from Raleigh, NC, to Stratford-upon-Avon last autumn. I chose the Shakespeare Institute because it's such a unique institution in an equally unique setting – nowhere else in the world will you find the resources of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Shakespeare Institute in such close proximity.'

'Coming from a large state university in the US, the sense of community at the Shakespeare Institute also appealed to me. Access to tutors is wonderful, and I feel that I've become part of an environment where I can get to know people both professionally and personally. Academia can be a very isolating profession, but at the Institute I really feel like we're all working together.'

'In addition to pursuing my own research this year, I've also been able to get involved in a number of projects in the Stratford community. I volunteer weekly with the Education department at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, I've taught classes on *Othello* to Birmingham high school students, and I've spent several months organizing 'BritGrad', a postgraduate conference in Shakespeare and Renaissance studies – this year nearly eighty postgraduate scholars from ten countries will travel to the Shakespeare Institute for the conference.'

*Erin Sullivan
MA Shakespeare Studies*

'I have been treated to the best of both worlds, as we've been able to partake of seminars with scholars at the Shakespeare Institute and at the Department of Medieval and Modern History at the University of Birmingham. The interdisciplinary programme is unique not only in its literary and historic content and structure, but in the analytical skills it helps to forward in students in terms of approaching and examining a literary text within its cultural context.

The scholars who have lead our seminars at the University of Birmingham and at the Shakespeare Institute provide a vibrant and intellectually stimulating academic environment within which students are enthusiastically encouraged to pursue their individual interests and where camaraderie replaces competitiveness in a challenging and rewarding post-graduate setting.

While Shakespeare is an integral part of our program, all students may gain exposure to the appealing work of other Renaissance dramatists through the lively and enjoyable Thursday evening play readings headed by Dr. Wiggins at the Shakespeare Institute.

And for those with an eye on furthering their presentation skills in preparation for success as future academics and scholars, each summer the postgraduate students at the Shakespeare Institute host the Brit Grad Conference, participating as delegates and organisers. It is an exciting event that brings postgraduate students from all over the globe together to share their research and discuss their interests in aspects of the early modern period, Shakespeare and other period dramatists.'

*Wendy DiTraglia
MA Stratford upon Avon, Shakespeare and the Cultural History of Renaissance England*

'The best thing for me was working in a Graduate School that had such an intense and shared focus – there was always a buzz about the place.'

Liisa Spink, who completed the MA Shakespeare Studies course in 2005, now works for Stage 2 Youth Theatre

