Information about Medieval Language and Literature teaching and research in the School of English

The Interdisciplinary Ethos of Nottingham

English is defined broadly at Nottingham, and staff in the Medieval section of the School have a wide range of specialisms, from Old English and Old Norse to early modern Scottish literature. Staff also collaborate in teaching and research with colleagues in the Literature, Language, and Drama and Creative Writing sections. Research clusters based within the Medieval section are the Institute for Name-Studies (www.nottingham.ac.uk/ins) and the Centre for the Study of the Viking Age (www.nottingham.ac.uk/csva/). All staff in the section are active members of the University's interdisciplinary Institute for Medieval Research (www.nottingham.ac.uk/medieval). There are current research collaborations with colleagues in Archaeology and Life Sciences, and the international refereed journal Nottingham Medieval Studies (published by Brepols) is co-edited by colleagues in English and History. Colleagues are also active in national and international collaborations with the Universities of Birmingham, and Leicester.

Existing Research Strengths

Current and recent funded research projects in the Medieval section include:

- Bringing Vikings Back to the East Midlands (AHRC)
- The place-names of Shropshire (AHRC)
- The Impact of Diasporas on the Making of Britain (Leverhulme Trust)
- Landscapes of Governance: Assembly sites in England, 5th-11th centuries (Leverhulme Trust)
- The Wollaton Medieval Manuscripts: Texts, owners and readers (AHRC)
- Genes of Gallgoídil: Cross-disciplinary studies of migration of Irish, Hiberno-Norse and other Gaelic-speaking populations in the Viking Age (AHRC/IRCHSS)
- Languages, Myths and Finds: Translating Norse and Viking Cultures for the 21st Century (AHRC)
- Perceptions of Place: English place-name study and regional variety (AHRC)
- Viking Identities Network (AHRC)
- Fellowship (Professor Judith Jesch) - the Viking Diaspora (AHRC)
- Early Career Fellowship (Joanna Martin) – the Maitland Quarto: an Edition (AHRC)

For further details see www.nottingham.ac.uk/English/Research/Projects.aspx

Text editing is a particular strength of the School, with staff in the Medieval section contributing to the publications of the Early English Text Society, the Scottish Text Society, the English Place-Name Society and the Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages project. Prominent research themes in the work of Medieval staff are Place-Names, Disease and Disability, and Genetics, Migration and Diaspora.

Teaching in the Section

All Single Honours and some Joint Honours undergraduate students currently take The Beginnings of English (Year 1) which covers the full range of medieval language and literature, including Old English, Old Norse and Middle English. Optional modules in medieval studies are available in both Year 2 and Year 3 of the undergraduate programme.

The MA programme offered by the section is the MA in Viking and Anglo-Saxon Studies; the section also offers modules for the MA in English Studies and Distance Learning MA modules in Middle English Romance and Book History.

The Library has good holdings in the medieval fields, including the Eiríkur Benedikz Icelandic collection. There is also a small but important collection of medieval literary manuscripts, see: www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/aboutus/projects/wollaton/aboutthewollatonlibrarycollection.aspx. The Institute for Name-Studies has its own working library, located in the School.

Staff in the Section

Members of staff in the section are:

Dr John Baker (Name-Studies)
Dr Jayne Carroll (Name-Studies, History of English, early medieval poetry)
Dr Paul Cavill (Name-Studies, Early English Studies – Old English)
Dr Roderick Dale (Cultural Engagement Fellow)
Dr Martin Findell (History of the English Language)
**Professor Judith Jesch** (Old Norse and Viking Studies)
**Dr Mike Rodman Jones** (Early English Studies - Middle English)
**Dr Christina Lee** (Viking and Anglo-Saxon Studies)
**Dr Joanna Martin** (Middle English and Older Scots literature)
**Dr Eleni Ponirakis** (Teaching Associate)
**Professor Nicola Royan** (Medieval, early modern, and Scottish literature)
**Dr Keith Ruiter** (Viking and Anglo-Saxon Studies)

Emeritus members of the section are:
**Professor Richard Marsden** (Old English language and literature, history of English)
**Professor Thorlac Turville-Petre** (Middle English language and literature)

**Information about Literature, 1500 to the Present teaching and research in the School of English**

The section has research strengths in early modern literature (including Shakespeare), the eighteenth century, Romanticism, nineteenth-century literary and cultural studies, and in twentieth-century and contemporary literature, and film. Several colleagues have research interests in textual editing and many are involved in major editing projects (on early modern drama and poetry, the writings of Jonathan Swift and Oscar Wilde, and on the letters of Robert Southey, several of which are supported by major research council funding). The University has particularly rich resources – manuscripts and special collections – relating to the Cavendish family in the seventeenth century and eighteenth centuries (the Portland Papers) and to the study of DH Lawrence.

**Staff with Specialisms in Literature 1500 to the Present**

In the early modern period, **Dr Jem Bloomfield**, **Dr Peter Kirwan**, **Dr Alison Bumke** and **Professor Nicola Royan** all have research interests encompassing prose, poetry, drama, and historiography. Nicola Royan has particular interests in late medieval and Scottish literature and history. The research interests of **Dr Matt Green**, **Professor Lynda Pratt**, and **Dr Adam Rounce** cover the long eighteenth century and Romanticism. Adam Rounce specialises in Restoration and 18th-century poetry and literature, particularly Dryden, Swift, Samuel Johnson and mid-century poetry. He is an editor on the Cambridge University Press edition of Swift. Lynda Pratt specialises in Robert Southey and directs a major, externally funded edition of his letters. She also has interests in ‘recovery’ research and in Romantic period manuscript and print cultures. Matt Green is an authority on Blake and works extensively in the field of adaptation studies, researching a range of genres under that heading including film, graphic novel, and music. Matt also has research interests in literary theory and the permeable boundaries between politics, philosophy and literature as disciplines.

The research interests of **Professor Josephine Guy** and **Professor Máire ní Fhlathúin** centre on nineteenth-century literature. Josephine Guy studies the interconnections between Victorian literary and intellectual culture and is a specialist on Oscar Wilde. She also has an interest in the history of English as a discipline of knowledge. Máire ní Fhlathúin works on the literature of British India from the late eighteenth century to 1947, and also has research interests in the areas of Romanticism, travel-writing and crime fiction. **Dr Rebekah Scott** has research interests that bridge the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and her research focuses on English and American literature from the Victorian and Modernist periods; transatlantic literary and philosophical relations; music and literature.

In the field of twentieth-century and contemporary literature, we have several staff actively researching a range of areas, topics, and writers. Several focus on literary modernisms, both in regional and international contexts. **Dr Sarah Davison**’s research is in the field of James Joyce and genetic criticism, with a special interest in modernist forms of parody. **Dr Andrew Harrison** (who directs the D.H. Lawrence Research Centre) works on D.H. Lawrence, twentieth-century literature and biography. **Professor Dominic Head** works on twentieth-century literature, and is currently researching the English rural novel. **Dr Joe Jackson**’s research focuses on postcolonial theory, and race, nationhood and citizenship in contemporary British fiction. **Dr Ben Masters**’ research encompasses prose writing (especially the novel form) from the nineteenth century to the present day, with a particular focus on the long post-war to present period. **Dr Steven Morrison** has research interests in James Joyce; Modernism; Irish Modernism, fiction of the Cold War and nuclear fiction; modern Irish poetry; modern and contemporary British fiction; postmodern fiction; prize culture.

**Dr Bridget Vincent**’s research lies in the field of twentieth-century British and Irish literature, with particular emphases on poetics, modernism and the civic role of writing.

Several of the teaching and research team contribute to the multidisciplinary Landscape, Space, Place research group at the University. Research in Literature 1500 to the Present has generated successful grant applications to the AHRC, Leverhulme Trust and the British Academy in recent years.
The taught Masters related to this area of our work comprise one generalist MA in English Studies (which has both a live and distance identity), and the highly successful MA in English Literature.

We also have one Honorary Professor working with the D. H. Lawrence Research Centre, Professor Neil Roberts.

**General Information**

The School of English
The School is organised internally across four sections, covering Modern Literature, Medieval Language and Literature, Drama and Creative Writing, and English Language and Linguistics. Our undergraduate degrees are taught across these areas, ensuring that all Nottingham students have the opportunity for the widest possible education in English language, linguistics, literature and culture. This broad, rich coverage has been a hallmark of the School over the post-war period, and is a strong characteristic of the teaching ethos today.

The School of English was one of the first departments to be established when the University was formally opened in 1881 and is located on the ground floor of the Trent Building, University Park Campus. The Schools of English in Ningbo and in Malaysia are an integral part of the University's English provision, with many specific courses in common and a 2+2 degree between Nottingham and China.

We have a first-rate, international reputation for outstanding teaching and research, as demonstrated by our School's current UK and world rankings:

- 11th for English and 6th for Creative Writing in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019
- 7th for English Literature in The Telegraph's top 10 UK universities
- 13th for English and 8th for Creative Writing in The Complete University Guide 2020
- 9th in the UK for 'research power' (REF 2014)
- 49th for English Language and Literature in the QS World University Rankings 2019

At present, there are currently 57 academic staff in the School, 8 Teaching Associates and 7 members of research staff. We offer both Single and Joint Honours courses at BA level, a range of taught postgraduate Masters courses (many through web-based Distance Learning) and research supervision in all areas. We have approximately 950 undergraduate students, 70 undertaking on-site Masters programmes and 200 on distance learning Masters. There are approximately 90 full- and part-time research students working towards the higher degrees of PhD within a range of topics, with most full-time members of staff engaged in postgraduate supervision. These are students on our Nottingham campus. The School also has Schools of English at The University of Nottingham campus in Ningbo, China (UNNC) and at the University of Nottingham campus in Malaysia (UNMC).

**Teaching in the School**

**Undergraduate Teaching**

English Language and Applied Linguistics
Medieval Studies (including the history of the language)
Literature from 1500 to the present day (including literary theory)
Drama and Performance
Creative Writing

The curriculum emphasises a wide range of disciplines within the general areas of English, in which Year 1 operates as a foundation year introducing the students to these disciplines, while in Years 2 and 3 students progressively select a range of specialist modules.

**Masters Programmes**

The School offers a number of specialist taught Masters programmes including Applied Linguistics, Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching; Literary Linguistics; Viking and Anglo-Saxon Studies; English Literature; and Creative Writing. In addition, the MA in English Studies allows students to combine modules from different areas, particularly language, literature and medieval studies. We also have a joint Masters programmes with the Nottingham University Business School, the MA in Communication and Entrepreneurship.

**Web-based distance-learning**

Over the last few years, the School has invested in the development of web-based e-learning materials, a pioneering move led by staff in the English Language and Applied Linguistics section and now involving all
areas of the School. We currently offer several of our Masters courses as web materials (MAs in Applied Linguistics, Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching, English Studies, Health Communication, Modern English Language, Literary Linguistics and Professional Communication), and we currently have over 200 distance students based in over 40 countries across the globe.

The School has recently received a significant investment by the University to re-imagine university teaching for the mid-21st century through an innovative distance-learning project to draw on the latest learning technologies and design courses that put the student’s individual experience and requirements at the core of the programme, with material and guidance customised around them. This Applied English project will initially run alongside our current distance learning courses, but the aim is to integrate the two as the project develops.

Research in the School
The following research groupings in the School form a focus for lectures, conferences, seminars, grant applications and other collaborative activities:

**Centre for Research in Applied Linguistics (CRAL)** is an interdepartmental research unit comprised of scholars from the School of English, Computer Science, Mathematics, Psychology, and Education. The School also houses two of the largest corpora of spoken English and spoken business English in the world, both funded in co-operation with Cambridge University. Academic and research staff from the School form part of a recently established professional communication research cluster and business unit, *Linguistic Profiling for Professionals* (LiPP), based in CRAL to provide bespoke consultancy and training.

**Centre for Regional Literature and Culture (CRLC)** involves a series of fresh initiatives relating to regional cultures at both local (i.e. East Midlands) and national levels. The Centre encompasses work on Byron, Southey, the interdisciplinary Landscape, Space, Place Research Group, and the D. H. Lawrence Research Centre.

**Centre for the Study of the Viking Age (CSVA)** fosters, develops and coordinates research into all aspects of the Viking Age, with special emphasis on Scandinavian contacts with the British Isles, and on literary and linguistic sources for the period.

**Institute for Name-Studies (INS)** was established in September 2002 as an umbrella for the various research activities of the *English Place-Name Survey* (founded 1923) and the *Centre for English Name-Studies* (established 1992). The Institute for Name-Studies houses the library and research resources of the *English Place-Name Society*.

The School has been successful in attracting substantial funding from The Leverhulme Trust, the AHRC, the British Academy, ESRC, EPSRC, the Wellcome Institute, JISC and other external bodies. The University has a number of internal research funding schemes and support for both internal and external funding applications is provided by the University’s Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS).

**Careers and Employability**
The School of English was awarded a prestigious Teaching Development Grant by the Higher Education Academy for our project, ‘Embedding Employability in English: work related learning in the creative industries’, to address two key challenges:

- How we can create opportunities for our students to develop vocational skills and experience work-related learning in the context of the particular skills and knowledges being developed through their subject-based study of English
- How we can ensure that such work-related activity is appropriately framed and supported to ensure ‘learning’ takes place, particularly as the numbers of students involved increases.

The School now had a dedicated Placements and Employability Administrator to support our work to develop placements, volunteering and employability opportunities for all students. The School’s volunteering programme includes the Literacy Support Project and the Viking and Anglo Saxons for Schools projects working with local secondary and primary schools.

**The City of Nottingham**
Nottingham is an attractive, vibrant and prosperous city, one of the UK’s leading retail centres and has a huge variety of restaurants, bars and nightclubs which attract people from all over the UK. Culturally, it has good theatres, an arena which attracts both national and international performers and a range of historical interests relating to subjects such as the lace industry, Lord Byron and D.H. Lawrence. Nottingham is also known for sport, being the home of Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham Forest and Notts County
Football Clubs, the National Water Sports Centre and the Nottingham Tennis Centre. There is excellent public transport with buses and a new tram service, a good network of roads with easy access to the M1 and the A1, a fast frequent rail service to London and other major cities. Nottingham East Midlands Airport is eighteen miles away.

The city is set within a county of outstanding natural beauty which includes Sherwood Forest, Wollaton Park, lively market towns and wonderful historic buildings, and is close to the southern Peak District. Housing is relatively inexpensive by UK standards and, in addition to the two Universities, there are excellent local schools and colleges.

To find out more about Nottingham, please use the following links:
University of Nottingham [http://www.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk)
Zoopla (Guide to local properties) [http://www.zoopla.co.uk/](http://www.zoopla.co.uk/)
My Nottingham (information on schools, term dates, school transport etc.): [http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

**The University and the Faculty**
The University of Nottingham has award-winning campuses in the United Kingdom, China and Malaysia and hosts a truly global academic community in all three countries. The University was placed 82nd in the world (2019 QS World University Rankings) and placed 8th in the UK for research power (REF2014). The University has also been recognised as delivering Gold standard in the Teaching and Excellence Framework (TEF).

The Faculty of Arts is a large and diverse Faculty encompassing the School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies (CLAS), School of English, and School of Humanities. The Faculty is home to associated Centres and Institutes, and the lead member of the Midlands4Cities AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership. We are spread across both the University of Nottingham Ningbo China and the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

The research carried out through the Faculty is of the highest standard: in REF2014 more than 97% of research was of international quality, with 72% graded as ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ and five of the 11 units submitted were in the top 10 by research power.

We place a high value on research-led teaching and are committed to excellence in education and student experience.

For further information about the University, see: [http://www.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk)

For campus maps and other information, see: [http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/campuses/maps.php](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/campuses/maps.php)

June 2019