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 is a strong characteristic of the teaching ethos of the School.

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.

At present, there are currently 63 staff in the research and teaching job family. 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, 95 undertaking on-site Masters programmes and 200 on distance learning Masters. There are approximately 70 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 figures relate to our Nottingham campus. We also have Schools of English at the University of Nottingham campus in Ningbo, China and at the University of Nottingham in Malaysia.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the School of English

The school endeavours to create an environment that allows staff and students to thrive and excel in their education and career alike. We support equality, diversity and inclusivity in the school and are working hard to ensure a better representation of staff and students across all of our activities.

The School is engaged in a number of EDI initiatives including declonising the curriculum in English studies:

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 - onsite

The School offers a number of specialist on-campus taught Masters programmes including Applied Linguistics, Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching; Literary Linguistics; 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 and have an MRes in Medieval Languages and Literatures.
Masters Programmes - web-based distance-learning

Over the last few years, the School has invested in the development of web-based learning materials, a pioneering move led by staff in the English Language and Applied Linguistics section and now involving all areas of the School. Within the new Applied English scheme we are able to offer ‘pods’ of study that can be configured into one of 10 possible Masters programmes, including MA English Literature, MA Modern and Contemporary Literature, MA Applied Linguistics and MA Medieval Englishes and many others. We currently have over 200 distance students based in over 40 countries.

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 DH 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 Society* (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’s Director of Employability oversees our work to develop placements, volunteering and employability opportunities for all students. The School’s volunteering programme
includes community and dementia reading groups, and 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, that attracts people from all over the UK. Culturally, it was awarded UNESCO City of Literature status 5 years ago; 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 DH 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 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:
Nottingham County Council – Tourism http://www.experienccnottinghamshire.com/
University of Nottingham http://www.nottingham.ac.uk
My Nottingham (information on schools, term dates, school transport etc.):
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 99th in the world (2021 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.

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

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

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