



The University of
Nottingham

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School of English Newsletter 2013-14



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Welcome to the School of English



We are delighted that you are considering studying with us at The University of Nottingham. This newsletter aims to give an insight into the day-to-day life of the school. Whether you are an undergraduate, MA or PhD student, there are a wealth of opportunities available to help you make the most of your university experience.

Nottingham is a vibrant city of creative and professional talent and we hope that you have the opportunity to benefit from the Nottingham experience at one of our beautiful UK or international campuses.

Professor Josephine Guy
Head of the School of English

Staff news

The school welcomes several new academic members of staff who join us for the start of the 2013-14 academic year. Their research and teaching interests are listed below:

Dr Joe Anderton

Modern and contemporary drama, literary modernism, trauma and testimony in literature, and the ethics of humour

Dr Michael Lee

19th-century literature and culture, Victorian studies, 20th-century literature, narrative theory and creative writing

Dr Michael Rodgers

Vocabulary acquisition, language learning through television and movies and language teaching pedagogy

Dr Adam Rounce

Restoration and 18th-century poetry and literature, particularly Dryden, Swift, Samuel Johnson and mid-century poetry

Dr Jenny Sager

Shakespeare, early modern drama, adaptation, performance and film studies

Dr Rebekah Scott

English and American literature from the Victorian and Modernist periods, transatlantic literary and philosophical relations, music and literature

Celebrating student and staff success

Last year was very successful for staff and students in the School of English, and we are very pleased to highlight the following awards and nominations:

2013 School of English award winners!

Best overall final year single honours student

Lucy Dollman
BA English with Creative Writing

Best overall final year joint honours student

Giselle Kennedy
BA American Studies and English

Best dissertation

Matthew Purchase
BA English

Lucy Edwards Prize for outstanding work in DH Lawrence Studies

Florence Haddon-Cave
BA English

Head of School's Special Commendation Prize

Sarah Clayton
BA English and History

Best second year single honours student

Andrew Routledge
BA English with Creative Writing

Best second year joint honours student

Lucy Barry
BA English and Hispanic Studies

High Performance prize

Georgina Pearce, BA English, won the Nottingham Advantage Award's High Performance prize, supported by Accenture.

Lord Dearing Award for Excellence in Teaching

Dr Andrew Harrison, Director of undergraduate studies, 2011-13, was awarded the Lord Dearing Award for Excellence in Teaching for his fantastic work with our Undergraduate Learning Community Forum.

The University of Nottingham award scheme recognises the outstanding achievements of staff in enhancing the student learning experience.

Staff Oscars

Three staff members were runners-up at the 2012-13 University Staff Oscars. Congratulations to Dr Andrew Harrison (best feedback), Dr Daniel Hunt (best postgraduate teacher) and Dr Abigail Ward (most inspiring teacher).

Katy Roe, undergraduate student in the School of English.



A peek at my week

A week in the life of Katy Roe, final year BA English student and President of the English Society

Monday

I hosted my first advertising meeting as Advertising Manager for *Impact*, the University's official student magazine. This is a brand new role, so I introduced my team of volunteers to the process behind putting adverts in the magazine.

Following this I went to my favourite module, Exploring Health Communications, where we discussed doctor-patient relationships. Then I headed over to the English common room to host a book-swap event. As President of the English Society this was one of my new ideas to involve students from all year groups and help people make some money from their old course books.

Tuesday

I woke up feeling pretty nervous as I had an interview for a placement in the Marketing, Communications and Recruitment team. After the interview I was relieved to go to my creative writing seminar.

One perk of my advertising role within *Impact* is to attend meetings in new venues around Nottingham. In the afternoon, I was given a tour of the city's new adventure golf indoor jungle course! Then I headed back on to campus to the Students' Union bar, Mooch, to meet with the English Society freshers.

Wednesday

Wednesday afternoons are free from lectures or seminars, so I spent the time updating the English Facebook pages and Twitter. In the afternoon I popped back onto campus to attend the new Marketing, Advertising and Design (MAD) society meeting. In the evening I met the Latin, Ballroom and Salsa Society (LBSS) at the infamous 'Itchy feet' night, held at Bodega, to have a catch up and dance to some swing music.

Thursday

In the morning I had training to be a school rep so that I can attend the School's Learning Community Forum. I will be acting on behalf of English students to put forward ideas and give feedback on teaching and learning within the school. Thursday for me also means attending the film screening for my Screen Shakespeares module. This week we watched Orson Welles' amazing black and white adaptation of *Othello*.

Friday

From 12- 4pm it was the *Impact* sign-up day where the editors sign up new members to their sections. I also caught up on some introductory reading for my dissertation topic on the use of language in food advertising. In the evening I attended my weekly Latin and Ballroom class. I really want to improve this year so that I can compete at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool against other universities.

The weekend

On Saturday I got up early to show people around campus as a Student Ambassador, which I love.

I play in the netball team for the English Society and on Sunday we had a match against Neuroscience. Later on I went to the pub to meet the new English Society Committee and chatted about our plans for socials, sports and careers events for the coming year.

If you want to get more involved with English Soc, like our Facebook page:

 [uonenglishsociety](https://www.facebook.com/uonenglishsociety)



Peer mentoring scheme for new students

September saw the launch of our peer mentoring scheme for new incoming first year students and students from our Ningbo Campus in China. Current second and final year students signed up as volunteer mentors to help students settle in to the University and to the School of English.

Peer mentors are given regular training and support both before and during their time as mentors. Mentors also have the opportunity of taking an accompanying Advantage Award module if they wish.

A fresher's perspective

If you're feeling excited but nervous about starting university, don't worry. Most other new students will be too, so you'll have something in common with them immediately.

Hayley Sanghera, BA English Language and Literature (third year), remembers her first week:

"My first week was, quite simply, fantastic. I moved into Cavendish Hall on the beautiful University Park Campus, which my family and I had fallen in love with after visiting on an open day. As I moved my belongings, I looked around curiously at the other people in my hall. We were all in the same boat; excited but also nervous!

"Instead of sitting alone in my room, I went out and knocked on the door opposite mine, and was surprised to find a girl who was doing the exact same course as me! Over the next week I chatted to so many friendly people and had a great time meeting students from all over the world including America, Hong Kong, Japan and South Africa.

"My first week was very well organised and I enjoyed gathering round at mealtimes with new friends. My best advice to new UoN students would be: Don't be shy, say hi!"

You can hear more from our students about life at Nottingham at:
blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/studentlife

Literacy volunteering project

The School of English runs a literacy volunteering project to offer students the opportunity to gain experience in primary and secondary schools across the Nottinghamshire area. Students are involved in a number of activities, including mentoring and reading with children.

In April 2014, they will be working with 'First Story' on a creative writing workshop for young people, hosted by the School of English.

A university student in the classroom is an inspiration for many of the pupils; providing a positive role model and encouraging students to strive towards gaining a degree.

The project continues to be rewarding for both schools and

students and our volunteers tell us that the experience gained working with the children is invaluable, especially for those considering a career in teaching or speech and language therapy.

Most importantly our volunteers can witness the positive influence their work has had as they see the progression in children's abilities throughout the year.

But don't just take our word for it, here's what some of our volunteers had to say:

"I worked within a reception class running literacy games with groups of children or having children read to me individually.

I saw a great improvement in these children who went from having almost no English at the beginning of the year to being able to communicate well and read some basic English.

I gained an awareness of language and literacy development, and grew in confidence in my ability to manage a group of children."

Rebecca Moorhouse

Student Ambassador for the Literacy Project in 2013/14

"Volunteering as part of the Literacy Project Advantage Award was a great experience for me and the Advantage Award module I took in volunteering allowed me to gain recognition for my work whilst expanding my knowledge at the same time. I gained confidence, skills in active listening, and the ability to motivate, encourage and inspire. The rewards definitely outweighed the early mornings!"

Charlotte Moore

Student Ambassador for the Literacy Project in 2013/14

Find out more at www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/outreach/literacysupportproject

News



Students working on a production set in the New Theatre.

Drama on campus: The Nottingham New Theatre

Many students in the School of English are actively involved with the Nottingham New Theatre, based on University Park Campus.

As the first completely student-run theatre in England, it stages a play roughly every two weeks, providing the University's thrifty culture vultures with a chance to see top-class theatre at student prices.

Recent plays include Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *Charley's Aunt* and the stage version of *The 39 Steps*, plus several plays written

by Nottingham students. The theatre also provides a voice for works that are not so well-known, and prides itself on giving audiences something they haven't seen before.

Students can gain experience in performance and directing, light and sound, prop design, set building, poster design, hair and makeup, and front-of-house.

Find out more and get involved: www.newtheatre.org.uk

News



Dr Gillian Brigg, PhD 2013.

Spotlight on links to local theatre

The School of English at Nottingham has strong ties with local theatres, and has recently been successful in securing Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded collaborative studentships with New Perspectives Theatre Company, and the Nottingham Playhouse.

Our most recent graduate from one of these collaborative doctoral awards is Dr Gillian Brigg.

Gillian's project looked at multi-sensory theatre for young audiences labelled as having profound and multiple disabilities, and resulted in the creation of her beautiful play *'White Peacock'*, which had its debut at Nottingham Playhouse before touring the country.

New work placement opportunities

Through a Higher Education Academy funded project, the School of English has begun to develop work-related learning placements to enable students to gain real-world experience, and to use their English skills in the workplace.

Placement students are provided with support and training, and an e-portfolio enabling them to reflect on their workplace learning and to capture skills and experiences which can be shared with future employers.

Current partners include:

- DH Lawrence Heritage Centre
- Lakeside Arts Centre
- New Perspectives theatre company
- Nottingham Playhouse
- The University's Marketing, Communications and Recruitment department
- Writing East Midlands

The Careers and Employability Service has awarded us nearly £23,000 to expand this work to look at the particular challenges facing international and postgraduate students and to develop further placement opportunities appropriate to these groups of students.

Two students who have recently completed placements are Beth O'Loan and Hannah Whitt:

Beth worked with the Marketing, Communications and Recruitment team at the University.

"I had a chat with my supervisor to determine exactly what I hoped to gain from this experience so that he could tailor the placement to be useful for me in my later career. We discussed my future plans and why I wanted to undertake a communications placement. We agreed to focus on the writing aspect, letting me work on blog posts and press releases so I could build up a portfolio of my work as evidence to show future employers. We also discussed my interest in the use of social media and the possibility of allowing me to shadow the Digital Communications Officers for a day, as well as attending some events to give me a more varied perspective of communications."

Hannah gained experience at the DH Lawrence Heritage Centre.

"As a born and bred 'Nottinghamian' I have a particular interest in DH Lawrence, his work and his passion for the city and its surrounding countryside. My placement at the DH Lawrence Heritage Centre was incredibly beneficial. From giving input in planning the event, and setting up an exhibition, to organising a promotional event and dressing up as a suffragette, the experience was both varied and challenging.

"The placement aided my professional and academic career as well as being valuable on a personal level. During the placement I was able to use many of the skills developed at university. Being organised, diligent and having confidence meant I was able to approach the placement with full fervour. It was a fantastic opportunity and I would be sure to recommend placements to any of my peers."

News

New careers team in the Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts careers team.



The Faculty of Arts now has its own careers team dedicated to helping arts students with all aspects of career planning and employability development.

The team has specialised knowledge of careers popular among arts students, and the expertise to guide you through choosing a career and recruitment practices.

You can get in touch with them at www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/arts

[@UoNCareers](https://twitter.com/UoNCareers)

#UoNArtsCareers

The Letters Page is a brand new literary journal with a difference: all the submissions will be written in the form of letters.

Letter-writing is the oldest literary tradition, and the most accessible, and is proving surprisingly enduring in the age of instant-messaging and video-conferences. We are interested in exploring what letter writing means to people in their literary cultures and their personal lives. The journal will publish essays, memoirs, fiction, travelogue, poetry, criticism, interviews... any creative form of writing, as long as it can be framed as a letter.

Based in the School of English, the journal is seeking to develop links with writers and publishing professionals across the world, and offers opportunities for students to learn key writing and publishing skills through hands-on experience. This is an exciting new development for creative writing which will help students to think about writing as a real-world practice.

Professor Jon McGregor, the school's writer in residence, edits the journal and directs its activities, under the guiding eyes of an editorial board.

Meet the editorial team

The student editorial team work alongside Jon on the commissioning, assessing, editing, design, publication and promotion of the journal. The current team comprises of final year BA English with Creative Writing students:

Editorial Assistant – Paige Richardson

Responsible for reading submissions, making recommendations, corresponding with contributors, transcribing, researching additional material, copy-editing and proofreading.

"What I'm most excited about when working on The Letters Page is reading all of the submissions, before dismantling them to discover all of the different things each writer is doing."

Online Editor – Hannah Jackson

Responsible for updating the website, e-newsletter, Facebook and Twitter pages, and our general online presence. Essentially, all the correspondence that doesn't fold into three and slip into an envelope.

"The journal gives me the opportunity to work with like-minded people who have the same passion and appreciation for writing, both in the office and through submissions to The Letters Page.

March 12, 2013
 Canal -
 There's a kid I talk to on my daily walk through the Diamond Tower, who stands in front of Ali's Exchange calling us buy! We buy! He tells me he comes from a long line of Veracruz musicians. His father ~~was~~ marched out to the fields carrying a tiny guitar packed with a machine, calling out verses across the stalks of corn: Heart of melon for the women of St. Simo Heart of melon for the mujer Chichimeca. Now ~~between~~ the kid uses those skills on this block stuffed with smuggled tusks & gold nuggets melted into screws & bolts, plastic hats covered in plastic to keep the rain from striking up the fine wool, among Turks & Russians & Dominicans - Gold & diamonds! Gold & diamonds! - becoming the gem stalks of 47th st. I can hear him all the way up on the 6th floor of the percentile library. Maybe this AT pup, sucking in his voice with the rain, can transform it back into a distant greening - Heart of almond! Heart of salt! - folded in birds & fired into postal space. *Sarah*

15-3-13
 London
 Dear J,
 Sorry I didn't reply sooner. Thanks for asking and I'm really very flattered, but I don't think I'll be able to supply a hand-written letter for the collection. This is because I'm working on a book at the moment and I am unable to multi-task. I'm aware that some writers can drop in and out of their current projects while they do extracurricular work (usually to earn a steady income), but once I get involved with a book I can think of nothing else. Luckily I have a day job to cover the expenses, but even when I'm working to and for work I'm usually going over sentences and pieces of dialogue for the right feel. Actually, I've discovered that I do my best writing away from my desk - also, I can conjure up a mental picture of a page and sometimes I realise I've made a mistake. e.g. it occurred to me the other day that one of my characters had contradicted herself. - I had the character when I got home. It's the ~~idea~~ when I go swimming or up to the pub - I'm only thinking about my book. Therefore, I'm sorry but there'll be no letter -
 Kind regards,
 Magnus

Letters from the first edition of The Letters Page, by Brad Fox (left) and Magnus Mills (right).

I am excited to be working alongside such an experienced writer as Jon and cannot wait to begin encouraging others to take an interest in literary journals."

Production Manager – Olivia French

Responsible for the physical production of each issue, maintenance of the subscription database, contributor relations, financial management and rubber stamps.

"Having spent the last two years pursuing an undergraduate English with creative writing degree, I've really valued having an involvement with a community of writers at the University. What excites me most about working on The Letters Page is the opportunity to participate in an even wider community, and to talk to writers from all over the world. I am also keen to gain a greater understanding of editing and publishing, and to experience the process in which a letter arrives in the office and ultimately ends up in the pages of the journal."

Publicity Officer – Elexa Rose

Responsible for all the publicity, all the time - press releases, launch parties, carefully placed complimentary copies of the latest issue, idle conversation - anything which will get what we feel to be most excellent selections of writing into the hands of more readers.

"I am looking forward to getting first-hand experience working within the literary field, meeting contemporary writers at the forefront of the scene."

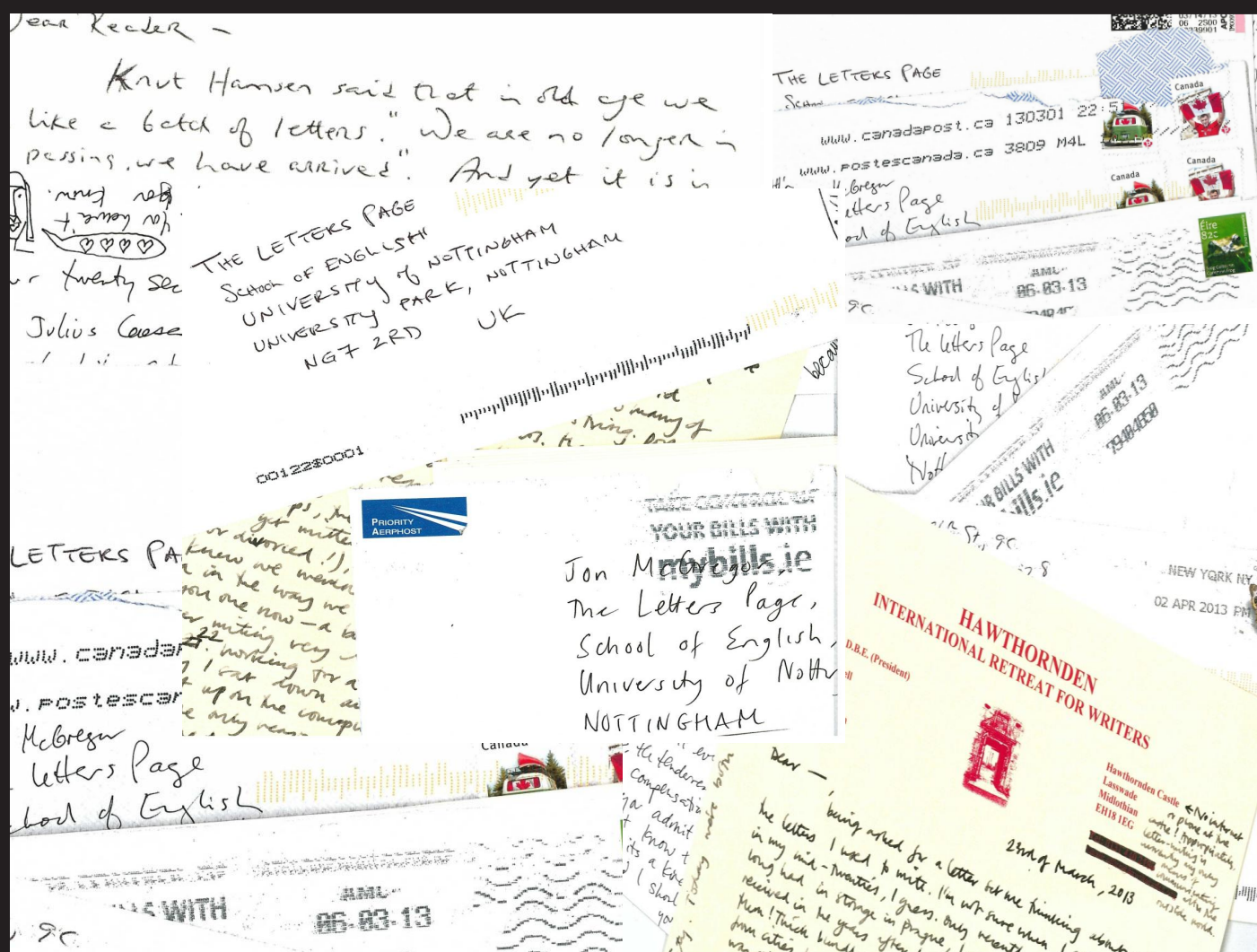
Editorial board

The editorial board provides advice and guidance from a distance, often by letter, and can make recommendations about future themes and potential contributors. The board comprises over 20 internationally recognised authors, poets, journalists and academics, including; British author and novelist Naomi Alderman, Malaysian writer Tash Aw, Irish novelist, dramatist and screen writer, Roddy Doyle and Jamaican poet Kei Miller.

The first two issues focus on the theme of letter writing, and pen-pal writing, and are available to download from The Letters Page website: www.theletterspage.ac.uk

You can also keep up to date with the latest news from The Letters Page on twitter:

[@TheLettersPage](https://twitter.com/TheLettersPage)



Professor Jon McGregor.



Launching The Letters Page

News from our masters students

Many of our undergraduates decide to stay on and study towards a masters degree in the School of English. We currently have over 60 masters students taught in small groups led by specialists in their field. There are plenty of opportunities for discussion of ideas and development of our students as researchers.

We help our students to develop skills that are essential for employment, including how to present the results of their research in an articulate and effective way. Masters courses are also excellent preparation for PhD study.

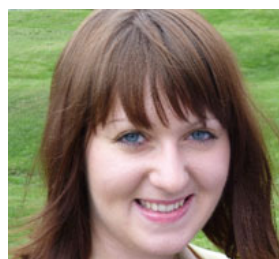
Our masters students participate in lively postgraduate research seminars, attend lectures by visiting academics and become part of the supportive research culture that defines the school. You can find out more about our masters courses at www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

Our 2013-14 cohort of masters students.



News

Hear from some of our masters students



Annalise Grice, completing an MA English Literature and staying on for PhD study:

"I studied at Nottingham at undergraduate level and wanted

to stay at Nottingham as I know the quality of teaching and student support is excellent. The range of MA courses creates a very lively community and is a daily reminder of the wide scope of English as a discipline.

"Students are encouraged to follow their own research interests in formulating their assessment questions. This meant that as a prospective PhD student I was able to build up a good knowledge of my thesis area before making my research proposal to the school, which helped me to develop a far better informed and therefore stronger application.

"At MA level I was awarded a research scholarship to work on projects within the DH Lawrence Research Centre, which is part of the Centre for Regional Literature and Culture. My involvement with the research centre will continue throughout my PhD, and I am currently working on producing information packs on Lawrence's short stories which are targeted at sixth form students.

"I have been awarded Arts and Humanities Research Council funding for my three year PhD project, which has enabled me to further my aim of achieving an academic career. Attaining PhD funding is a competitive process, so the award is in part a testament to the support I've been given by staff in the school who guided me through my application."

Rachel Kemp, MA English Studies:

"I've been able to combine modern literature with literature and applied linguistics which is exactly what I wanted to do. Everyone on the course is equally passionate and class discussions are always lively and enlightening. I believe the course will give me an advantage when I apply for jobs in academic publishing or teaching."

Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership

The School of English is delighted to be part of a successful bid to the Arts and Humanities Research Council of £14.6m to support doctoral research training in the arts and humanities.

The Midlands3Cities doctoral training partnership will be offering 410 studentships over a five-year period from 2014-15 at the six universities in Nottingham, Birmingham and Leicester.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/midlands-3-cities

There are currently over 90 PhD students studying in the School of English at The University of Nottingham, covering a highly diverse range of subjects from 'The field-names of Nottinghamshire', to 'The Early Writings of D H Lawrence and the Literary Marketplace' and 'Representation and processing of idioms in native and non-native speakers'.

PhD news

PhD students in the school can expect supervision from some of the leading experts in their field, and become part of a vibrant and thriving postgraduate community.

Our PhD graduates are hugely successful in securing academic positions, and in order to help them on that path, we provide opportunities to apply to teach on our undergraduate programmes, co-publish with academic staff, network with key contacts and peers, and attend national and international conferences. As such, a doctorate in English from Nottingham really is the best way to start your academic career. For more information about PhD study in English at Nottingham visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

Freya Waninge, a current PhD student in the school.



New course: PhD Creative Writing

New to Nottingham, our PhD in Creative Writing is the latest development by the school's thriving creative writing team.

We are delighted to offer PhD supervision by staff with stellar publication histories - Matthew Welton, Gordon Ramsay, Thomas Legendre, and Michael Lee. You can find out about our academics at www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/people

We also have links to eminent writers through a number of Honorary Professorships (such as Jon McGregor and The Letters Page), Honorary Lectureships (such as Alison Moore and Ruth Fainlight), and local writing networks such as Writing East Midlands (WEM).

WEM and the School of English creative writing team will be holding a conference in March for new writers

looking to build their careers, which is hugely timely given the number of new writers which the school is currently nurturing. Keep up to date with the latest news at:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/news

For further information about our PhD in Creative Writing, along with details on how to apply visit:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

Viking Minds

Nottingham PhD student, John Quanrud, has taken his passion for Viking and Anglo-Saxon studies one step further by setting up a company selling products inspired by Viking design. VikingMinds uses Viking-age designs in t-shirts, jewellery and postcards. All the designs found on VikingMinds products come from Viking-age art, text and images that have survived (often in the wild) for over a millennium.

You can find out more about John at www.vikingminds.co.uk or on Twitter:

[@VikingMinds](https://twitter.com/VikingMinds)



Dr Gordon Ramsay, lecturer in Drama and Performance.

Postcard from our overseas campuses

The School of English has degree courses at both of The University of Nottingham overseas campuses in China and Malaysia. With a School of English on every campus, this offers exciting possibilities for inter-campus teaching of modules and study abroad opportunities. Undergraduate students on any of the campuses have the opportunity to study abroad for a semester, and each year we encourage students at Nottingham to go overseas.

University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC)

The School of English in Malaysia opened in 2013, launching its undergraduate BA English and BA English with Creative Writing programmes in September.

From January 2015, students at Nottingham will be able to study in Malaysia for a semester, and benefit from the same excellent teaching and research of School of English staff in an international setting.

The school also offers opportunity for PhD study and will shortly be developing courses for masters students.

For more details of the courses available at the University's Malaysia Campus, visit www.nottingham.edu.my/english

 UNMCEnglish

Our campus in Malaysia.



University of Nottingham Ningbo Campus (UNNC)

According to recent feedback, The School of English in China is one of the strongest schools at the University for teaching. It offers a range of undergraduate, postgraduate taught and PhD programmes, which aim to develop students' understanding of the ways in which English operates on a global level. They attract both Chinese and international students who want to develop advanced communication together with China-related expertise.

Amy Brown, who studied for an MA Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching in China, explains her reasons for choosing Ningbo Campus:

"UNNC offers both the chance to get an internationally recognised degree and the opportunity to live, study, and learn in a place as interesting as China.

I think the strongest aspect for me was the fact that this was all achieved in the unique environment of a truly international university. With staff and students from many different countries, who all bring with them different teaching and learning experiences, there are lots of opportunities for meaningful class discussions about language and how it is taught."

For more details of the courses available at the University's China Campus, visit www.nottingham.edu.cn/en/english



Our campus in Ningbo, China.

News

Study abroad

As well as a semester abroad at one of our international campuses, students can spend a semester at one of our other U21 or Erasmus institutions in Canada, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Sweden or the USA.

Emma Graham, BA English and History (joint honours), studied at the University of Connecticut, USA:

"Studying abroad as part of my degree offered the best of both worlds: I had the opportunity to experience both the British and American college experiences.

As long as I did my work in the week I was free to travel with other international students at the weekends. We definitely made the most of our time away; spring break was spent in Jamaica (incredible!) and when term was over we rented a camper van and spent a month road-tripping around California.

I cannot recommend studying abroad enough – it will be so much more than you ever expected and is a chance to make new friends and memories which will stay with you forever."

Research round-up

Centre for Research in Applied Linguistics

A new Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project, CLiC Dickens, has started under the direction of Professor Michaela Mahlberg. It aims to demonstrate through corpus stylistics how computer-assisted methods can be used to study literary texts and lead to new insights into how readers perceive fictional characters in the novels of Charles Dickens. Research outcomes will include web-based information, workshops and events for students and teachers.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/cral

Centre for the Study of the Viking Age

An exciting new skills development and training opportunity funded by the AHRC is now available for research students. It will enable them to put their learning into practise to engage with non-academic partners in selected localities with an interest in Norse and Viking heritage. The programme provides skills training, an opportunity to network, funded research trips and access to a private showing of the British Museum Vikings exhibition in March 2014.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/csua

Institute for Name-Studies (INS)

The AHRC-funded project, The place-names of Shropshire, is a collaborative venture between the INS and the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (Wales). It is examining Shropshire's historical name-forms within a digital mapping environment, interrogating them as a source for landscape, land-ownership, land-use, and language history. Shropshire, an Anglo-Welsh border county, is interesting for those studying language contact, political history, and 'border' identities.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/ins/projects/shropshire

Centre for Regional Literature and Culture

In late autumn 1813 Robert Southey accepted the Poet Laureateship. The new AHRC-funded project, The Collected Letters of Robert Southey, shows how his high hopes for the Laureateship foundered on the rocks of reality. It provides new insights into relationships between poets and the public sphere.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/crlc/research-projects/robertsouthey

Institute for Medieval Research

Emeritus Professor Thorlac Turville-Petre.



Academics from the School of English are involved in the study of an antiphonal service book used in a local church in the 1400s. Now in the care of Manuscripts and Special Collections at The University of Nottingham, AHRC funding was secured for research work by Emeritus

Professor Thorlac Turville-Petre, Nottingham, and Professor Ralph Hanna, Oxford, to ensure the antiphonal can be enjoyed by generations to come. It is available to view using Turning the Pages™ software at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/aboutus/projects

DH Lawrence Research Centre

A number of events were held in 2013 to mark the centenary of the publication of *Sons and Lovers* including a writing competition with DH Lawrence Heritage on the theme 'My Background' to encourage writing inspired by Lawrence's backdrop of the Nottinghamshire coal fields. Over 300 entries were judged by one of our MA Creative Writing students, Sally Price. Congratulations to our winners, Michael Longden (over 18s) and Olivia Zhang (under 18s).

www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/dhlheritagecomp



Michael Longden, prize winner in the over 18s category.



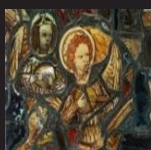
Olivia Zhang, prize winner in the under 18s category.

Take a look at our blogs



Landscape, Space, Place

A collaborative showcase of the department's research strengths in literary and cultural geography, the blog presents a place where space and writing inform each other. Previous posts have included Neal Alexander's dissection of the 'literary Norths', Jim Moran on the evocative power of football, and Louise Chamberlain on site-specific poetry and a 'reverse' walking tour.



Medieval @ Nottingham

Medieval @ Nottingham brings the medieval period to life through the latest research and methodologies, with commentaries on related news and events. Produced by the Institute for Medieval Research, the blog has a wide scope - recent posts have explored themes as diverse as stroke and paralysis in the Anglo-Saxon era, March as the cruellest month, the saga of Guðrīð, and Archbishop Wulfstan and end-of-the-world narratives.



On Learning to Read

Booker long-listed novelist and writer-in-residence Jon McGregor shares his thoughts, links, and, of course, the occasional letter on reading and writing. Recent posts have featured reflections on the shortness of the short story, the point of producing fiction, and whether or not we should carry on reading as we begin to write.



Quite Irregular

Playwright, academic and critic Jem Bloomfield blogs quite regularly on culture, theatre and gender. A writer for California Literary Review and Strand Magazine, Jem's previous work has been included in The New Statesman's 'Best of the Blogs' list. Recent posts in Quite Irregular have included extracts from his award-winning play 'Bewick Gaudy', thoughts on the nature of online debates, and gender and academic life.



Studentcraft

Dr Nathan Waddell inspects the craft of university study with tips, hints and strategies for tackling common student problems. Previous posts have explored ways of writing essays, balancing your book-reading under pressure, and why a lecturer answering a question with 'what do you think?' may not be as glib as it sounds.



The Bardathon

Dr Peter Kirwan's The Bardathon has been chronicling and critiquing the productions of early modern plays across the UK since 2006, alongside related media and events. Providing a mixture of theatre reviews, discussion, and news on the works of Shakespeare and his (near-) contemporaries, the blog aims to present the analysis of academic criticism in a journalistic format.



Words for Words

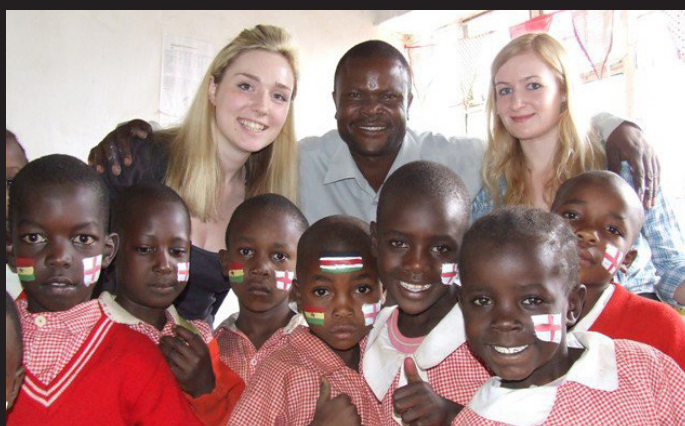
Words for Words presents the news, events and collaborations taking place in the School of English and the wider community. With previous posts ranging from Thomas Legendre on David Foster Wallace, to Peter Kirwan on the shadow of Shakespeare, and Alison Moore on being shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the blog is an affirmation of the school's position at the heart of a thriving community of writers, artists and academics.

Our blogs can be found at:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/about/blogs.aspx

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Cake sale for Kenya

Staff and students in the School of English held an annual charity cake sale in the autumn term to raise funds to support Upendo Junior School, in Kenya. Upendo Junior School was set up by Dr Masibo Lumala, an English studies alumnus, for orphaned and poor children in his home village in Kenya.

Our students have been to visit Upendo school and Masibo has made several return visits to Nottingham, most recently to receive an Alumni Laureate Award from the University in recognition of his outstanding work in Kenya. We are proud to fundraise on behalf of Upendo each year and this year we raised over £400 to pay for play and sports equipment for the children.

Get involved

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