

# **Tailor Made, Not Off the Rack: Employability and English Studies**

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# What works?



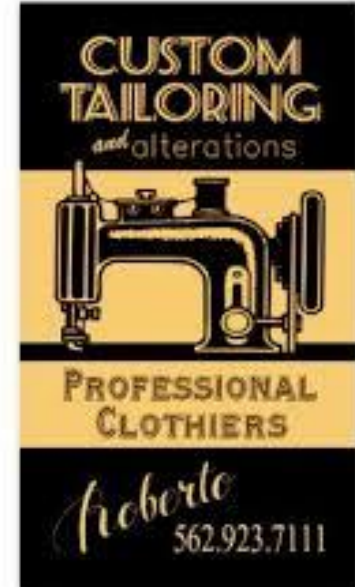
# What works?

- Committed staff
- Connection to a department's understanding of what English is
- A recognised place, stature in the curriculum



# Custom Fit

- The department
- Staff interest(s)
- The university and its surrounding area



# The English Benchmark

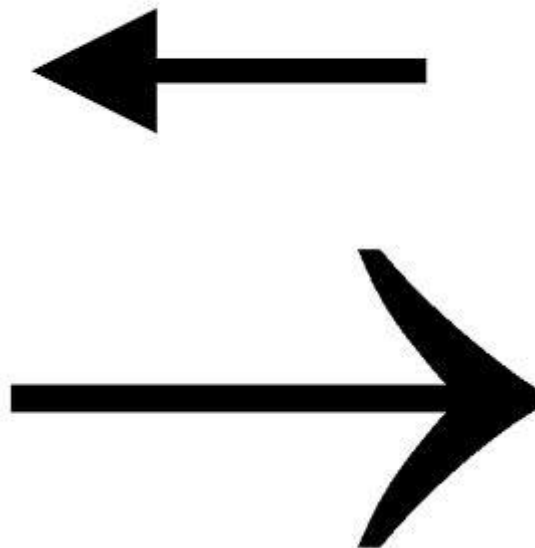
- Advanced literacy and communication skills and the ability to apply these skills in appropriate contexts.
- The capacity to analyse and critically examine diverse forms of discourse.
- The capacity for independent thought and judgement, and skills in critical reasoning.
- The ability to comprehend and develop intricate concepts in an open ended way which involves an understanding of aims and consequences.

# The Creative Writing Benchmark Statement

- skills in communication and presentation
- articulate complex ideas and information
- present ideas and work to audiences in a range of situations
- use the views of others in the development or enhancement of their work
- study independently, set goals, manage their own workloads and meet deadlines

# Career Services

- Two-way communication between English and Career Services



# The Write Stuff

***Improving Applications  
through Employer  
Engagement- Learning to  
Summarise Structure and  
Sell***

**Gill Harvey  
Roehampton University,  
Student Employability &  
Careers Service  
February 2009**



# Helping our students avoid the 'undersell'

- Make the connections between curriculum, graduate attributes and skills
- Connect assessment, employability and the distinctiveness of English and Creative Writing



# After English

thinking about your future as an English graduate



Realise  
your  
dreams and  
hopes

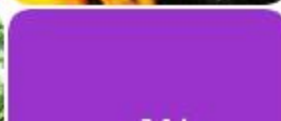


can you  
show  
others  
what you  
can do?

what  
matters  
to you  
about  
work?

what  
can you do  
now?

activities  
&  
other  
resources



# After English

thinking about your future as an English graduate

## Welcome

home

Welcome

what  
matters

show  
others

what  
Now?

why  
not  
try?

*'There are many things deriving from an English degree on which graduates should have the confidence to build'*  
Professor Ben Knights, Director,

## Introduction

This website is for students of English who may be unsure of their future career direction. Unlike students studying , the choices you are faced with can seem unclear and bewilderingly varied. *After English* will give you some ideas to thinking about future possibilities and reflect on your own hopes and dreams. Obviously we can't do all the hard thing there are a lot of exercises to try and links to follow up.

As an English graduate you are likely to have the ability to:

- Digest large quantities of text, discerning larger patterns of significance.
- Winnow large quantities of written material for relevant items.
- Edit and revise texts.
- Be attentive to the needs of different audiences.
- Understand complex conceptual environments.
- Weigh opposing arguments.
- Be fluent in different communicative registers.
- Attend to different levels of formality.
- Move fluently between written and oral forms.
- Reframe problems by imaginatively occupying different perspectives.
- Think outside the box.

Insights into your own capabilities such as these can be translated into terms that employers can relate to and allow make the most of your passion for studying English after graduation.



# The humanities

- History
- Languages
- Art and Design
- Dance Drama and Music

# Other Resources

- [The English Subject Centre's Employability and Enterprise case studies](http://www.english.heacademy.ac.uk/explore/publications/casestudies/careers/index.php)
  - <http://www.english.heacademy.ac.uk/explore/publications/casestudies/careers/index.php>
- [The English Subject Centre's Employability and Enterprise projects](http://www.english.heacademy.ac.uk/explore/projects/archive/careers/index.php)
  - <http://www.english.heacademy.ac.uk/explore/projects/archive/careers/index.php>
- [After English website](http://www.afterenglish.ac.uk/)
  - <http://www.afterenglish.ac.uk/>



# Tailor made... embedding employability in English



Thank you.

[www.heacademy.ac.uk](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk)