



# MA American Studies

**The MA American Studies enables you to study the literature, history, politics and cultures of the United States and Canada in one of Europe's leading centres for American and Canadian studies. The course is designed to enhance both your knowledge of the complexity of North America and the research skills required for further study.**

In line with the most recent research in this subject area, our postgraduate courses are informed, to varying degrees, by a transnational and global perspective, the change of influence between North America cultures and those of Britain, the rest of Europe and the rest of the Americas. In addition to the MA American Studies, the school offers a number of pathways through the MA for students who wish to specialise in literature, history, Canadian studies or visual culture.

The Department of American and Canadian Studies is committed to postgraduate education and has a thriving postgraduate community supported by an active programme of guest lectures and symposia organised by staff and students. School studentships and fee waiver schemes are available to exceptional MA candidates.







# MA American Studies

## Course structure and assessment

The MA can be taken full-time over one year or part-time over two years and consists of taught modules totalling 120 credits, which are taken during the autumn and spring semesters, and a 60-credit dissertation, which is undertaken over the summer period. The course structure depends on your degree programme: American Studies; American Studies with Canadian Literature; American Studies with Canadian Studies; American Studies with European Modules; American Studies (History); American Studies (Literature); American Studies (Visual Culture); English and American Studies.

All students take the following taught core modules (except English and American Studies students):

- Approaches to American Studies (30 credits)
- Researching Contemporary America (20 credits)
- Research Management and Personal Development Skills (10 credits)

English and American Studies students take the following taught modules:

- Approaches to American Studies (30 credits)
- Research Management (15 credits)
- What is a Text? (15 credits)

In addition to the core modules, you choose 60 credits of optional modules, allowing you to further develop specialist knowledge of fields or issues of interest. Sample 30-credit optional modules include:

- American Labour History
- Darwinism and Creationism in America
- Fictions of America
- In the Midst of War: The United States and South East Asia, 1940 – 1968
- Policing the City and the Frontier
- Recent Queer Writing
- Representing the South: Literature, Film and History

Please note: all modules are subject to annual change. For further information on modules available please visit [winster.nottingham.ac.uk/modulecatalogue](http://winster.nottingham.ac.uk/modulecatalogue)

## Assessment

The core modules are assessed by written work of 4,000 words and through exercises in research and presentation skills. Optional modules may be assessed in a variety of ways, including essays and examinations. You will submit a dissertation of 15,000-20,000 words by the end of the summer period. The dissertation is a key component of the degree, giving you the opportunity to conduct independent research on topics of your choice. You will receive dedicated supervision from staff in the department who are nationally and internationally known for their expertise in American literature, history and culture.

## Entry requirements

To apply for this course, you would normally be expected to hold a single or joint honours degree in a humanities or social science subject at 2:1 level or above, or its international equivalent, in a humanities or social science subject. Students with other relevant qualifications or employment experience will be considered on an individual basis.

If your first language is not English, you must also achieve an overall score on the British Council IELTS test of at least 7 with no less than 6.5 in each element; or a TOEFL score of 600 on the paper-based test, or 250 on the computer test, with at least 5 in the Test of Written English (TWE); or a TOEFL iBT score of 100, with no less than 21 in any element. Test results should be no more than two years old.

## Funding

There are a number of potential funding sources for well-qualified applicants. The School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies offers a range of studentships and smaller bursaries for postgraduate study. These are funded either by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) or by the school. Part-time students may be eligible to apply for a WH Revis Grant. Further information about funding opportunities can be found at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/clas/pgfunding](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/clas/pgfunding)

If you are an international student, you can find out about a range of funding opportunities at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalfunding](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalfunding)

## How to apply

You can apply online at [pgapps.nottingham.ac.uk](http://pgapps.nottingham.ac.uk)

## Find out more

For further information, please contact:

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