Literary Studies
Literatures in English, Creative Writing and International Literatures

ABOUT LITERARY STUDIES

Literary Studies brings together students and researchers who share a passion for literature and creative writing. The program is split into three streams in which you will choose a major sequence based on your interest and career goals. These are Literatures in English, Creative Writing and International Literatures.

Why study Literary Studies?
Literary Studies enables you to pursue your interest in literature and creative writing. You will study some of the best-known and interesting contemporary and historical literature including novels, poems, short stories and non-fiction. In this program, you develop an advanced understanding of literature in cultural, historical and professional contexts. You learn to discuss literature informed by an understanding of literary movements, themes, genres, and literary theory. You also gain skills in research, analysis, and in producing high-level critical and/or creative writing. With these skills and knowledge, you will be able to explain how and why literature continues to shape society.

Complementary study areas
If you undertake Literary Studies you may also consider:
» Linguistics
» Other languages (e.g. Indonesian, Chinese, Korean, French)
» Sociology
» Communications and Media studies
» Education

What are some of the topics
Literary Studies explores?
Your first year will consist of foundation units that introduce you to the three streams in literary studies and a variety of approaches to studying literature. You will also begin to develop research skills. Your first year units are:
» Introducing literature: Ways of reading
» Reading the city: Literary genres

As you progress in the program, a larger range of units becomes available at second and third levels. Some of the elective units are:
» The writing self: Creative nonfiction
» The “Great” American Novel
» Short fiction: classic and contemporary
» Fairy-tale traditions

How Literary Studies fits into your Arts degree
Literary studies is offered as a major, an extended major, a minor or simply as elective units within your degree.

Career prospects
You might be surprised at just how many different fields our graduates go into. Here are some examples:
» Creative industries and businesses
» Literary and commercial publishing
» Professional/creative writing
» Literary research
» Teaching literature and English
» Academic research and teaching positions
» Government and cultural policy
» Arts administration and marketing

From our students
“Literature is my favourite thing in the world. I read to learn the history of what we have desired, thought and dreamed. I read for the pleasure and power of language. Reading is richer every time: what changes is what I bring with me to the text.”

Jessica Durham
PhD candidate

“I hadn’t anticipated majoring in literary studies, but upon discovering the breadth of the field and the enormous potential of literature to change the way we think about the world, I ended up doing so and pursuing my passion in postgraduate research.”

Zachary Kendal
PhD candidate

For more information:
future.arts.monash.edu/ug-literary-studies