



English

BA

Bachelor of Arts major

Deepen your understanding of human nature and behaviour. Discover the beautiful, the surprising, the impassioned.

Explore our world through the texts that have shaped history, moved ideas and influenced our contemporary culture. You will gain insight and challenge yourself with new perspectives, while learning the art of persuasion. A major in English sets you on a path to begin to navigate and explain our world and keep seeing it through new eyes. Start writing your story today.

Career possibilities

Do you want to be a journalist? Work in publishing or in education? Are you one of our next leaders? Will you shape ideas at local and national government? Or will you make waves in the business world? Are you going to be at the forefront of emerging technology and AI? Analysis, interpretation, communication and the ability to edit are all skills that set you on to any career path. With an ability to critically analyse, research and deliver a high standard of written communication, our graduates are sought after in a breadth of pathways.

“English was my favourite subject at school and I pursued a Bachelor of Arts because the subjects available truly engaged me.

“The critical thinking skills I cultivated at university are vital in my role, whether that’s determining the best method for cataloguing an object or ensuring its safe rehousing. Handling museum objects requires critical thinking to ensure each item is treated with the utmost care and respect.”



FREYA MARKULA
Image Orders Technician, Auckland War Memorial Museum

Graduate: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Art History
+ English
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Art History

**“Words are wor(l)ds.
One letter makes all the difference.**

“L. L for literature, letters, lit crit, logos, legends, lament, longing, and of course, lust. The discipline of English, one of our founding subjects, has it all. It’s why we teach it. English Literature includes all literatures published in English: from the depths of Oceania’s lettered oracles to Aotearoa’s bedrock bards, to American jazz writers, Modernist ways of “making it new” to Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton.”

SELINA TUSITALA MARSH
Professor



You will study texts from all over the English-speaking world, and literature from the medieval period up to the present. You'll examine the roles texts have played in different cultures and at different periods. And you will consider the different ways readers have approached texts, and how gender, race and other aspects of our identities have influenced writers and readers.

STAGE 1 COURSE*

ENGLISH 102 – Great Books: Seduction and Betrayal

Surveys a selection of literary masterpieces by major authors from different periods in the history of English literature. Selection of texts is organised around the theme of seduction and betrayal, understood more particularly as a story arc exploring attitudes to love and sex, to politics and ambition, to ethical conduct, and to the activity of reading itself.

STAGE 2 COURSE*

ENGLISH 221 – New Zealand Literature

Offers an historical survey of major writers and key issues in New Zealand literature. Students will not only read some of the best writing our country has to offer but will develop, through the literature studied, a richly detailed overview of New Zealand experience from the period of first contact until now.

STAGE 3 COURSE*

ENGLISH 324 – Creative Writing: Four Genres

This is a seminar/workshop course in technique for students interested in developing and experimenting with practical skills in four writing genres – poetry, multimedia, creative non-fiction and short fiction. We study a range of published models; write and workshop exercises; and develop close-reading skills. Two portfolios of creative work cover all four genres, based on work begun in seminars.



Get excited about your course options:



- Age of Shakespeare: Tragedy
- Journeys: Travel Narratives in Global Literatures
- The Modern Novel

**Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.*



Complementary majors include:

English
+
Art History
Drama
Media and Screen Studies
Psychology
Sociology

“One of my favourite courses was ENG219, covering 19th century literature. It embodied exactly what I expected from studying English at a university level: diving into texts and engaging with them every single week in exciting and creative ways.

“English is rarely just about the English language; not nearly as much as it is about the different languages that colour our world, and the ways in which these languages are used to depict reality.”

ADRIAN VARGAS

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English + Media and Screen Studies
/ Bachelor of Music conjoint

