

**American University of Beirut
Department of English**

The Masters Program in English Language and Literature (updated 29.06.2016)

The Program

The Department of English at AUB offers two graduate degree programs: MA in English Language and MA in English Literature. These graduate programs aim to ground students in language and literature studies. They provide students with opportunities to pursue advanced study in multiple linguistic, literary, and cultural traditions through engagement with texts in English, in translation, between languages, and across media. The programs provide a solid academic basis for those who wish to continue for a PhD in language or literature studies, as well as for those who wish to pursue a career in writing, publishing, editing, teaching, and related areas. Through an ongoing process of critical self-reflection, students will attain experience and abilities in linguistic and textual analysis, critical thought, writing, and aesthetic appreciation that will contribute to their personal, academic, and professional lives.

The requirements for an MA degree in English consist of 21 credit hours in courses numbered 300 or above, successful completion of a comprehensive examination, and a thesis along with any additional prerequisite courses determined by the department to make up for deficiencies in undergraduate preparation.

Students working for an MA degree in English Language must take English 301, 327, 341 or 342, and 345. Two additional elective English Language graduate courses from among those offered in the department must be taken. Students must take a further graduate course, which may be from outside the English language course offerings, subject to departmental approval.

Students working for the degree of MA in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) should refer to the Department of Education catalogue section. Students working for the degree of MA in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) should refer to the Department of Education catalogue section.

Students working for an MA degree in English Literature must complete English 301. In addition, they must take one course from each of the following three categories: Literary History, Comparative Literature, and Literary and Cultural Studies. Of the remaining three courses, two may be taken outside the Literature program, subject to departmental approval.

The Faculty

Chairperson: Dr. David Currell

Professors: Choueiri, Lina G.; Hout, Syrine C.; Myers, Robert E.; Shaaban, Kassim A.

Associate Professors: Gonsalves, Joshua D; Harb, Sirène H.; Mejcher-Atassi, Sonja ; Zenger, Amy A.

Assistant Professors: Avant, Doyle; Currell, David.; Issa, Rana; Maude, Kathryn Rebecca; Mehmood Ali, Tariq; Waterman, Adam J.

Admission

Admission to Master's Programs

Graduate study is offered on a selective basis only to students who have shown distinct academic ability. Applicants for graduate study may be considered for admission in one of the following three categories:

1-Graduate

An undergraduate average of at least 80 percent (or standardized equivalent from other institutions of higher learning) in the major field of study and a cumulative average of at least 75 percent (or standardized equivalent) for all work done at the undergraduate level leading to a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from AUB or other recognized institutions of higher learning.

2-Graduate on Probation

An undergraduate average of at least 77 percent (or standardized equivalent from other institutions of higher learning) in the major field of study and a cumulative average of at least 75 percent (or standardized equivalent) for all work done at the undergraduate level leading to a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from AUB or other recognized institutions of higher learning.

3-Prospective Graduate

Applicants who hold a Bachelor's degree in a major field of study other than the one to which they are applying, and who do not have sufficient academic preparation in the field, may be admitted as a prospective graduate student who must complete specified undergraduate course requirements.

To be considered for admission as a prospective graduate student, the applicant must have attained an undergraduate average of 75 percent (or standardized equivalent) in all work done at the undergraduate level leading to a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent from AUB or another recognized institution of higher learning.

If an average of 77-80 percent is attained, the student may have his/her status changed to graduate student on probation pending department recommendation and approval of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee. The supplementary courses must be completed within four consecutive semesters.

Further requirements for admission to graduate work are found in the general section on admission in the graduate catalogue. For more information on how to apply to the graduate program, please contact the Office of Admissions, Tel: (961)1 374374, Ext. 2585/2590/2596; Fax: (961)1 750775; E-mail: admissions@aub.edu.lb

Advising

Each graduate student has an academic adviser who approves the student's schedule each semester. Names of the advisers will be available through the Student Information System (SIS). It is

important to note that the academic adviser is different from the student's thesis supervisor. The latter is chosen by the student according to his/her research interest.

Course Requirements

- Students working for an MA degree in English Language must take English 301, 327, 341 or 342, and 345. Two additional elective English Language graduate courses from among those offered in the department must be taken. Students must take a further graduate course, which may be from outside the English language course offerings, subject to departmental approval.

ENGL 301 Introduction to Bibliography and Research Methods 3.0; 3 cr.

An introduction to bibliography and research methodologies in the study of language or in literary studies. *Annually.*

ENGL 327 Sociolinguistics 3.0; 3 cr.

A course intended to provide an in-depth analysis of the issues related to the study of the interaction between language and society. This course covers such topics as geographical and social dialects, multilingualism, language and gender, ethnography of speaking, discourse analysis, language planning, and language attitudes. *Annually.*

ENGL 341 Phonology 3.0; 3 cr.

A survey of theories of phonological description including phonemics, distinctive features, and generative phonology; an application of these theories to actual linguistic data from various languages with concentration by each student on one specific problem. *Annually.*

ENGL 342 Theoretical Linguistics 3.0; 3 cr.

A study of readings in advanced grammar that have contributed to the formulation of theories of language description; e.g. transformational grammar, stratificational grammar, generative semantics, pragmatics, government, and binding. *Annually.*

ENGL 345 Language Acquisition 3.0; 3 cr.

A survey of studies in first and second language acquisition. Emphasis is placed on stages of acquisition and the strategies used by children in acquiring their native language. Comparisons between first and second language acquisition are drawn with implication for language teaching. *Annually.*

ENGL 395A/B Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.

Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.

ENGL 399 MA Thesis 9 cr.

- Students working for an MA degree in English Literature must complete English 301. In addition, they must take one course from each of the following three categories: Literary History, Comparative Literature, and Literary and Cultural Studies. Of the remaining three courses, two may be taken outside the Literature program, subject to departmental approval.

ENGL 301 Introduction to Bibliography and Research Methods 3.0; 3 cr.

An introduction to bibliography and research methodologies in the study of language or in literary studies. *Annually.*

Literary History**ENGL 302 Literatures of the Middle Ages (former ENGL 302)**

A course that covers major works of medieval literature, with attention to both form and cultural context. Some attention to original languages of texts may be given. Readings may vary from term to term.

ENGL 303 Early Modern Literatures (former ENGL 302)

A course that covers major works of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century literature, including theater, with attention to both form and cultural context. Readings may vary from term to term.

ENGL 304 British Literatures (former ENGL 303)

A course that covers major works of British literature, including theater, from the eighteenth-century to the contemporary period. Themes and readings may vary from term to term. (Formerly ENGL 302/303)

ENGL 305 American Literatures (former ENGL 304)

A course that covers major literary works of American literature, including theater and film, with some emphasis given to relations among the wide array of American literary traditions. Themes and readings may vary from term to term. (Formerly ENGL 304)

Comparative Literature**ENGL 306 Transnational Literatures (former ENGL 306)**

A course exploring relationships among texts—including theater, film, and other narrative and visual forms—emerging from a range of different locales, with an emphasis on historical contexts of migration, diaspora, and crisis.

ENGL 307 Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures (former ENGL 306)

A course exploring relationships among texts circulating between the colonized and formerly colonized world, and sites of imperial and neo-imperial power.

ENGL 308 Literatures of the Global South (former ENGL 306)

A course exploring relationships among texts that circulate through networks that link different sites of the colonized and formerly colonized world.

ENGL 309 World Literature (former ENGL 325)

A course exploring relationships among significant texts from different origins, time periods, and genres, as well as their resonance in global contexts via translation, adaptation, and rewriting.

Literary and Cultural Studies**ENGL 310 Literature, Technology, and Media (former ENGL 306)**

A course exploring relationships between established—e.g., theater, print, film and visual media—and emergent media, and the changing conventions of genre, period, and form. Themes and readings may vary, but might include interrogations of the history of cinema, theatrical, and

literary culture, the representation of science in transnational modernisms, or alterations in reading and reception in relation to digital media.

ENGL 311 Literature and Material Culture (former ENGL 306)

A course exploring relationships between literary culture and the physical manifestations of culture in made objects. Themes and readings may vary, but might include examinations of capitalism and consumer culture as manifest in the representation of the domestic interior; relations between the visual arts and literary representation; theatrical or cinematic representation, or the representation of waste in literary modernism.

ENGL 312 Literature, Gender, and Sexuality (former ENGL 306)

A course exploring literary cultures from the perspective of gender and sexuality as interpretive frameworks and representational strategies. Themes and readings may vary, but might include considerations of third world feminisms, gender and performance theory, queer and post-queer theory, affect theory, rhetorics of the body, and new materialist approaches to the study of gender and sexuality.

ENGL 313 Literature and Translation (former ENGL 326)

A course exploring translation as a technology of literary production and meaning making. Works in translation will be considered through the lens of theories of translation and their practical applications.

Additional Course Options

ENGL 314 Special Topics in Literature (former ENGL 306)

A course that addresses aspects literature—including theater, cinema, and digital media—or literary and cultural theory that are not typically addressed in other courses offered by the department. Topics vary from semester to semester.

ENGL 315 Tutorial in Literature (former ENGL 305)

A course offered to students on an individual basis. The topic can include any aspect of literary study.

ENGL 395A/B Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.

Prerequisite: Consent of adviser.

ENGL 399 MA Thesis 9 cr.

Course Loads

Normally, the maximum number of credits that may be taken in a regular semester is 12 credits. The maximum number of credits that may be taken in the summer session is six credits. A student who wishes to enroll in more than the maximum number of credits must petition the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee to obtain permission.

Graduate Level Courses

- The minimum passing grade for a graduate course is 70 for a Master's student.
- The minimum grade for a graduate student enrolled in a graduate course is 55.
- Results of tutorial courses, projects, or theses are reported as Pass (P) or Fail (F).

Prerequisite Courses

Prerequisite courses are undergraduate courses taken to make up for deficiencies in the student's background.

- Prerequisite courses do not carry graduate credit.
- The minimum passing grade for a prerequisite course is 70; however, a department or program may set a higher minimum passing grade.

Incompletes

A student who receives an incomplete grade for a course must petition the appropriate faculty committee (Graduate Studies committee) within two weeks from the date of the scheduled final exam for permission to complete the course. Coursework must be completed within one month of the start of the next regular semester. In exceptional circumstances, the appropriate faculty committee may decide to give the student additional time to complete a course. Incomplete course work is reported as an "I". Normally, "I" is followed by a numerical grade reflecting the evaluation of the student available at the end of the semester. This evaluation is based on a grade of zero on all missed work and is reported in units of five. If the work is not completed within the period specified, the "I" is dropped and the numerical grade becomes the final grade.

Transfer of Credits

Transfer of Credits into a Master's Degree Program

Graduate courses taken beyond the Bachelor's degree requirements at AUB, or at other recognized institutions, are not transferable for credit toward Master's degree requirements, unless the applicant attained a cumulative average of at least 80 in the graduate courses taken in the major or related field of study. Only graduate courses in which the applicant earned an equivalent grade of 80 or above can be transferred. No more than nine credits are transferable provided they are not credits earned by internship, thesis, or practicum, and degree minimum residency requirement is maintained. Approval by the Faculty/School Graduate Studies Committee is required for all transfers.

Transfer of Credits from One Master's Degree to Another

Graduate courses taken at AUB (or at other recognized institutions), in which the applicant earned an equivalent grade of 80 or above, may be transferred to another Master's degree at AUB. No more than nine credits are transferable provided they are not credits earned by internship, thesis or practicum, and degree minimum residency requirement is maintained. Approval by the department or the academic unit concerned, and the Faculty/School Graduate Studies Committee is required for all transfers.

Calculation of the GPA

Credits earned at other institutions or at AUB beyond the requirements of the Bachelor degree and transferred into the Master's program are not included in the calculation of a student's grade

average while pursuing Master's degree. Such courses are reported as pass (P). Transfers of credit earned at the Master's level or while registered as graduate non-working for a degree from AUB are not subject to the above limitations but require the recommendation of the department chair and the approval of Faculty/School Graduate Studies Committee.

Academic Standing of Student Working for a Master's Degree

Good Standing

A graduate student is in good standing when his/her graduate grade cumulative average is 80 or above. A student must be in good standing in order to be awarded a degree.

Probation and Removal of Probation

The academic performance of the student is first evaluated by the department upon completion of nine credits of course work after initial enrollment towards the degree and then is evaluated every semester/term, thereafter.

Students Admitted on Probation

- A student admitted on probation has to complete at least nine credits of graduate level courses within the first two semesters of graduate studies, has to pass all courses, and has to attain a minimum cumulative average of 80 to achieve regular status.
- If the student fails to meet any of these conditions, s/he will be dropped from the program.

Students placed on probation during regular status residency

- A student is placed on probation if he/she attains a cumulative average of 70 or more, but less than 80 or fails any course taken for graduate credit.
- A student placed on probation due to average must remove the probation by the end of the following regular semester/term by attainment of a cumulative average of at least 80.
- A student placed on probation due to course failure should retake the course the next time it is offered and pass the course. In case this condition cannot be met, the student, in consultation with the adviser, must petition the Faculty/School Graduate Studies Committee. The department or program in which the student is enrolled may recommend probation to the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee even though the student has attained an adequate cumulative average.

The Registrar sends proposed change in probationary status of enrolled graduate students to their respective Faculties/Schools Dean Offices within one week of the start of the semester/term for consideration by the Faculty/School. The Faculty/School Graduate Studies Committee issues through the Dean's Office the statement of the change of probation status to the graduate student with copies to the department chair, student adviser, and Registrar.

Dismissal

The Faculty Graduate Studies Committee may dismiss a Master's student, in consultation with the department/program, from graduate study if any of the following conditions arise:

- Probation status due to average is not removed in the semester following the first probation excluding students admitted on probation (see previous section on probation and removal of probation).
- The student receives probation for a second time during the degree residency.

- The student attains a cumulative average of less than 70 after completion of 9 credits or fails two courses in one term.
- The student attains a cumulative average of 70 or above, but less than 80, in any term and fails one course in that term. (This rule does not apply to the first term of study.)
- The work of the student is considered to be unsatisfactory in the opinion of the department or program, and regardless of the grades obtained.
- The student fails the comprehensive examination twice or the thesis defense twice.

Residence Requirements

To meet the minimum residence requirements for the Master's degree, a student must register and be in residence as a graduate student for at least two semesters, one semester and two summers, or four summers.

All requirements for the Master's degree must be completed within a period of four years after admission to graduate study. Students attending only summer sessions must complete all requirements within a period of six summers after admission to graduate study. Extension beyond the maximum allowed period of study requires approval from the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee.

Critical Reflection

At the end of their second semester, students working for an MA degree in English Literature will submit a 500-750 word document that offers a critical reflection on the course of their intellectual development during their first year in the graduate program. This document should include a discussion of their expectations coming into the graduate program, a description of how those expectations have been challenged, and how their studies have contributed to their overall intellectual development. This document will be discussed by the faculty of the Department and its Graduate Committee. Based on these conversations, the Director of Graduate Studies will provide feedback to students and direct them to relevant faculty mentors and potential thesis advisers.

Comprehensive Examination

All Master's programs must require that the student register and pass a zero-credit comprehensive examination course. Comprehensive examinations often are written exams, sometimes oral, and sometimes both written and oral. They are usually taken after completing most of the course requirements for the degree. Timing of the examination is set by the department/program. The Pass (P) or Fail (F) is entered online or is reported to the Registrar immediately on the date the comprehensive examination is passed any time during the semester.

In general, a comprehensive examination is a test that covers a broad base of material. The purpose of the examination is to assess the student's knowledge and capacities to earn a given graduate degree in the field of specialization. Depending on the degree program, it may test course knowledge, knowledge of the student's proposed research area, and/or the general knowledge in the field. The student's Thesis Committee or the department administers the comprehensive exam.

A student who does not pass the comprehensive examination may take it a second time in the following semester. Students who are unable to pass a program's comprehensive exam twice are dropped from the graduate program. Students who pass the comprehensive exam after one failure will have their initial failure reported as "PR" for progress in the first semester the course was registered in and the grade of "P" for passing the comprehensive exam will show on their transcript in the second semester the course was registered in.

Supervision of Master's Thesis or Project

Thesis Proposal

When following a graduate program leading to the Master's degree with thesis option, the student is expected to meet with faculty members in the department to discuss with them possible thesis topics and arrange to have a thesis adviser. Normally, the thesis adviser is from among the full-time professorial faculty of the department/program or from another department/program in the University.

The student is expected to select a research topic in consultation with the thesis adviser and prepare a thesis proposal. The proposal must clearly state the problem addressed and the proposed contributions. The thesis proposal should also state the thesis objectives, scope of work with relevant literature, research methodology, and expected results.

A Thesis Committee is formed by the thesis adviser and the student in coordination with the chairperson/director of the unit according to the following conditions:

- Thesis Committee should normally consist of at least three members from the professorial ranks chaired by the thesis adviser.
- In case a co-adviser is also a member of the thesis committee then the thesis committee should consist of at least four members from the professorial rank chaired by the thesis adviser
- In departments/programs, normally at least two members of professorial rank of the Thesis Committee must be members of the student's department. The remaining member(s) can be from other departments at AUB or from an institution other than AUB.
- In case the thesis adviser is from another department at AUB, the chairperson will consult with the chairperson of the department to which the thesis adviser belongs.

The Thesis Committee must be approved by the chairperson/director of the student's department/program. The student must submit the thesis proposal to the committee and secure its approval. The committee members will evaluate the proposal in consultation with the thesis adviser.

The student will submit the thesis proposal with a completed Thesis Proposal form as required by Faculty or Program (Website) to the chairperson of the department, signed by the thesis adviser and all the members of the Thesis Committee, with the proposed dates of the comprehensive examination, and thesis defense, and courses taken so far. The student should indicate if the proposed research involves human subject research or animal related research and seek approval/confirmation or exemption of the Institutional Review Board and/or the Animal Care Committee.

Once approved, the chairperson forwards the thesis proposal with the names of the Thesis Committee members to the Faculty/School Graduate Studies Committee for its approval.

The Faculty/School Graduate Studies Committee will then inform the chairperson of the proposal approval or lack thereof, and the chairperson will communicate the decision to the thesis adviser.

It is the student's responsibility, in coordination with thesis adviser, to keep members of the Thesis Committee informed on the progress of his/her work and to seek their input.

Thesis format

An AUB-approved thesis manual is available on the University Libraries webpage at <http://www.aub.edu.lb/ulibraries/Documents/ThesisManual/thesis-manual.pdf>.

The manual provides the style guide for all theses prepared by AUB students, and application of its instructions is mandatory for all theses-dependent degrees. Theses not conforming to the publication style outlined in the thesis manual are not accepted by the University. Students are welcome to visit the Archives and Special Collections, Jafet Library, any time during the semester.

For all matters not discussed in the Thesis Manual, theses must follow the form and style specified by the department or program, provided the style conforms to the Thesis Manual.

Thesis Defense

A student is not allowed to defend his/her thesis unless he or she has passed the comprehensive examination. In order to defend the thesis, the student must be registered for the thesis in the session in which the student expects to graduate.

The thesis defense is open to the public and must be carried out no later than the dates specified in the graduate catalogue.

The final draft of the thesis shall be submitted to each member of the Thesis Committee at least two weeks before the date of the thesis defense. The thesis defense shall be announced at least two weeks in advance. The total time allocated for the thesis defense should allow for answering all questions and should not normally exceed 120 minutes.

The thesis defense session is normally chaired by the thesis adviser and the student will be notified of the final decision by Thesis Committee immediately after completion of the Thesis Committee deliberations.

Pass (P) or Fail (F) is reported for the combined thesis and thesis defense. If Fail (F) is reported, the student may resubmit the thesis and defend it after a period of at least three months. Failure on the second attempt results in discontinuation of the graduate work.

If the thesis work involves human subject research or animal related research, the Thesis Committee must forward to the department chair a copy of the approval/confirmation or exemption letter of the Institutional Review Board and/or Animal Care Committee.

Deposit of the Project/Thesis in the Library

After passing the project/thesis defense examination, the student is required to deposit copies of the thesis in the library: The Jafet Memorial Library requires one hard copy of the Master's project/thesis from students at all faculties. The student should also provide the relevant library with a soft copy of the thesis saved as PDF (Portable Document Format) file. A library receipt must be delivered to the Office of the Registrar before the student is awarded the degree. The Registrar shall ensure that all names of students recommended to the Senate for award of the Master's degree in the thesis option have submitted their thesis copy to the library. The student should sign a release form indicating whether or not the library is authorized to supply copies of the thesis/project to other libraries or to individuals. The non-authorization option is valid for a period of two years only, after which copies of the project/thesis are supplied upon request.

For graduation in:	Summer	Fall	Spring
Deadline for approval of thesis topic and committee	2 weeks before the end of the previous Spring semester	3 weeks after the start of the Fall semester	One week before the end of the previous Fall semester
Deadline for thesis defense	2 weeks after the start of the following Fall semester	2 weeks after the start of the following Spring semester	3 weeks before the end of Spring semester
Deadline for deposit of thesis at library	10 days after the thesis defense	10 days after the thesis defense	10 days after the thesis defense

Master's Degree Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for graduation with a Master's degree in English Language or in English Literature from the American University of Beirut, a graduate student:

- must have attained a cumulative course average of 80 or above.
- is not placed on probation by the time the course work is completed.
- must have completed the minimum credit hours of course work designated by the specific program.

- must have passed comprehensive exam.
- must have completed thesis requirements for thesis option degrees.
- must have met the residence requirements specified for the Master's degree.

Financing and Graduate Assistantship

Graduate Assistantships

Financial aid covering tuition and stipends in the form of graduate assistantship (GA) are available for students at the graduate level in return for assisting faculty members in teaching and/or research for a specified number of hours per week in an academic department. University Graduate Assistants receiving financial support will acquire part-time or full-time student status depending on the number of credits registered for and the percent of support during the period in which they are receiving such support. For more on the definitions for fulltime minimum enrollment status for a graduate assistant (GA) during fall or spring semester and during summer term, please see the table in the section entitled “Full-Time Status for University Graduate Assistants and Graduate Research Assistants” under “General University Academic Information” in the graduate catalogue. GAs whose load is less than 100 percent while registered for less than 9 credits are considered part-time students.

Graduate Assistantships are made on the dual basis of academic record and departmental needs. Application forms for new students are within the admissions application package. Continuing students must contact the department chair early in the semester preceding the semester for which they are applying.

Student Work-Study

As part of its financial aid program, the University provides full-time undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to participate in its student work-study program. Priority is given to students with financial need. Students contribute toward their educational expenses while also developing job skills in various campus offices and the Medical Center. Applications are available at the Office of Student Affairs and should be submitted online within certain deadlines announced for by the Office of Student Affairs. Placement is made on the basis of need, capability, and job availability. Students may work a maximum of 80 hours per month in the Fall/Spring Semesters and 60 hours per month in the Summer semester; the hourly rate is based on the type of work performed.

Contact Numbers

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