



PADERBORN  
UNIVERSITY



MASTER

**ENGLISH AND  
AMERICAN LITERARY  
AND CULTURAL  
STUDIES**

## **COURSE PROGRAMME:**

The MA in English and American Literary and Cultural Studies combines advanced coursework with a semester abroad, for instance at one of our partner universities, and practical work experience, including an international internship. Students focus on a wide spectrum of English-language texts, ranging from medieval to contemporary literatures and cultures. A strong emphasis on cultural studies methodologies allows them to gain expertise in popular culture, gender studies or political rhetoric. The critical analysis of literary genres and visual media (photography, film, TV, and comics) plays a central role in the curriculum. Students can also choose from a variety of interdisciplinary courses as part of their electives (Studium Generale) and gain professional experience as teaching assistants or by contributing to research projects in the department.

To be eligible for the MA programme, students must have completed a BA in English or American Studies with a clear emphasis on literature and culture or another suitable degree in the humanities. Applicants from other disciplines may be asked to acquire relevant knowledge

in English and American Studies during their first semester in Paderborn. Excellent spoken and written English is required for admission, and practical language courses will then help students to reach C2 level. As all classes are conducted in English, no prior knowledge of German is required.

## **IS THIS THE RIGHT COURSE FOR ME?**

**You would like to learn more about English-language literatures and cultures?**

**You wish to arrive at a better understanding of their historical and contemporary contexts?**

**You're interested in exploring and applying theoretical concepts?**

**You enjoy academic discussions and want to improve your academic writing and presentation skills in English?**

**You're thinking about a career in research/academia?**

## STUDY PATH:

The MA programme consists of a total of eight thematic and practical modules and a final examination module. Students may choose to distribute modules over different semesters. Nonetheless, certain recommendations will help you to make the most of your studies:

Students are advised to complete the **language** module (1) with courses on academic writing, oral communication and language consolidation over three semesters to ensure the continuous development of their practical language skills. The three thematic modules – **English Literature**, including Anglophone literatures from the Commonwealth (2), **American Literature** (3) and **Cultural Studies** (4) – contain three seminars each and can be completed in any order and combination. Students are free to choose topics according to their own interests, while the cultural studies module contains one obligatory seminar with a historical orientation.

Module 5 allows you to gain valuable teaching experience through a **tutorial** for one of the department's Bachelor courses. In the '**Studium Generale**' module (6),

students take at least two courses from across the university's study programmes. Modules (7) and (8) introduce an international perspective and are recommended for the third semester. The **internship abroad** (7) consists of six weeks of work experience in an English-language environment of the students' choice. The **study abroad** (8) takes you to a university in an English-speaking country for one semester. You can either choose from our various exchange programmes or organise your own stay. At the host university, you will complete one seminar each from literary studies, cultural studies and the wider humanities. You may also start preparing for your MA thesis.

The final semester is then devoted to the **MA thesis**, written on a topic of the candidate's choice. In an **oral examination** (consisting of the thesis defence and two additional topics) and a four-hour **invigilated essay** students demonstrate their in-depth knowledge of further areas of study covered in the programme.

## AT A GLANCE:

- Degree: Master of Arts
- Duration: 4 semesters
- Credit Points (ECTS): 120
- Start dates: April (summer semester) and October (winter semester)
- Teaching language: English
- Requirements: for details, please see [go.upb.de/MAEALCS](https://go.upb.de/MAEALCS)

## CAREERS AND

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Graduates of the MA programme work across a variety of professions, both nationally and internationally. Our advanced courses give you the opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge of different literatures and cultures in the English-speaking world. As part of your degree, you will learn about cutting-edge theories and methodologies that enable you to express your own ideas confidently in spoken and written English. Studying at postgraduate level also allows you to develop qualities of time management and self-motivation that are essential to future employment. This expertise will serve you well whether you go on to work in the public sector or for an NGO,

in cultural institutions such as museums, theatres and archives, or in a job in adult education, advertising, journalism, publishing or event management.

**Alternatively, the MA programme may serve as a first step towards an academic career. For those who wish to become professional researchers, the department offers a doctorate in English and American Studies. For further information see: [go.upb.de/KWPromotion](https://go.upb.de/KWPromotion)**

## CAMPUS LIFE:

There's a lot more to studying at Paderborn than your course content. Learn a new language at the Centre for Language Studies (ZfS). Or brush up on your software skills with the training supplied by 'doIT'. The IMT Media Centre is the place for you if you want to get creative, and the university sports on offer range from aikido to zumba. You might also want to contribute to the campus radio station or newspaper, or join one of the many student initiatives.

When it comes to cultural activities on campus, you're spoilt for choice. The university's theatre programme includes contemporary plays, literary readings and slam poetry, and then there's the campus big band and symphonic orchestra.

If you have any questions about how to do academic research, applying for your dream job or financing your studies, you'll have numerous people to talk to. You'll find almost all of the university's buildings on the main campus, whose green spaces invite you to relax and



which offers several places to eat: the student canteens Mensa Academica and Mensa Forum, the Grill Café and cafeteria for a quick bite, and the campus kiosk – “das Lädchen”. Everything is within easy walking distance, including the library, whose central location makes it a convenient place to study.

### Extracurricular Activities:

- Student initiatives (book, film & conversation clubs, workshops)
- International conferences on current topics
- Regular events with international scholars and authors
- Exchange programmes with English-speaking universities
- Creative writing workshops
- Informal MA-meetings with students and staff



**ANY QUESTIONS?**

**WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP.**

Contacts and further information



can be found online at  
[go.upb.de/MAEALCS](https://go.upb.de/MAEALCS)



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Photos: Paderborn University #1