

3.5.2 MA (English Studies)

Programme Codes

53880 – 879(180)

53880 – 889(180)

Specific Admission Requirements

- An Honours degree in English, or an Honours degree in a suitable cognate discipline such as Comparative Literature, African Literature, Literary-Cultural Studies, Cultural/ Media Studies, Media and Communication Studies, Gender Studies, Film Studies, or another appropriate qualification approved by Senate. Preference will be given to students with a final Honours' mark of 65% and higher.
- For admission to the thesis option you must submit a written research proposal. This proposal must show your potential ability to conduct independent research and to write a thesis.

Closing Date for Applications

- South African students:
 - Apply by 30 November of the preceding year.
- International students:
 - Apply by 31 August of the preceding year.

Programme Structure

You choose between a full thesis and **one** of two structured coursework options:

- **Option 1** – Literature, conflict and transition;
- **Option 2** – Creative writing.

You have to write a thesis of limited scope in both of the abovementioned options.

Option 1 comprises coursework and a thesis, each contributing 90 credits to the total of 180 credits. In the case of option 2 the thesis contributes 120 credits and the coursework the remaining 60 credits. The thesis for option 2 must include a work of original creative writing and a critical commentary.

Please note: The MA by thesis is on offer every year while the MA by coursework options may not necessarily be taught in a particular year.

Duration of Programme

The programme extends over a minimum of one academic year.

Programme Content

879:

Compulsory Module

12879 : Thesis (English)	871(180)
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889:

Compulsory Modules

12879 : Thesis (English)	873(90)
10127 : Literature, Conflict and Transition	872(90)

OR

Compulsory Modules

12184 : Thesis (Creative Writing)	874(120)
11427 : Course Component Creative Writing	872(60)

Assessment and Examination

The thesis, whether 180, 120 or 90 credits, is to be assessed according to the regulations of Stellenbosch University as stipulated by the Rules for Postgraduate Qualifications in Part 1 (General Rules) of the Yearbook.

The structured coursework is assessed by means of essays and additional seminar presentations, projects or examination work. The thesis is pursued under close and regular supervision. You must pass each module with 50%.

Enquiries

Programme Leader: Dr R Oppelt

Tel: 021 808 2049 E-mail: roppelt@sun.ac.za

Website: www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/arts/english

Postgraduate Programmes

For more information on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' postgraduate programmes, consult the University's Postgraduate Prospectus or the various departmental websites.

1. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Special admission to the postgraduate programmes in the Faculty is available to you if you:

- were denied opportunities to formal learning environments earlier because of systemic or other limitations, but you can demonstrate that you can now participate at a particular level in such learning opportunities; or
- can receive retrospective recognition for them.

If you do not have a Bachelor's degree, you must follow the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) procedure for admission to a postgraduate diploma, Honours, MPhil or MA programme. Not all departments have the possibility of admission by means of the RPL procedure. A Bachelor's degree awarded by a university of technology or a private provider of higher education will be recognised only if your degree is registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the same level as the required university qualification.

Please note: It remains the responsibility of a Department to establish if your existing qualification is up to standard.

More details of the Faculty's RPL procedure are available from the Faculty Administrator, Arts and Social Sciences, in the Admin A building.

2. General provisions for postgraduate programmes

2.1 Postgraduate diploma

- a) You follow a prescribed course for at least one year after obtaining an appropriate Bachelor's degree.
- b) The following postgraduate diplomas are only offered on a part-time basis over a residential period of two years:
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Knowledge and Information Systems Management
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Public Mental Health
- c) Admission requirements are determined according to your specific programme.
- d) Consult the rest of this chapter for more information on the admission requirements and programme contents of the specific postgraduate diploma you wish to follow.
- e) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.2 Honours degree programme

- a) You follow a prescribed course for at least one year after obtaining an appropriate Bachelor's degree.
- b) You must follow the Honours degree programme in one of the major subjects of your Bachelor's degree.
- c) You will be admitted to the Honours degree programme if you –
 - have a Bachelor's degree that has been approved by Senate for this purpose;
 - have passed the subject at third-year/fourth-year level in which you want to take the Honours discipline; and
 - have achieved a final mark of at least 60% or more in the major.
- d) Consult the rest of this chapter for more information on the admission requirements and programme contents of the specific Honours degree programme you wish to follow.
- e) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.3 MA degree programme

- a) You can be considered for admission to the MA degree if you –
 - have an appropriate Honours degree approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have an appropriate postgraduate diploma approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have achieved a standard of proficiency in your specific field of study in another manner that Senate considers as adequate for this purpose and, upon written application, were admitted by the Executive Committee to the Master's programme concerned.
- b) As a MA student you follow an approved curriculum of research and/or advanced study of at least one year (after obtaining an appropriate Honours degree or postgraduate diploma) at this University or another institution approved by Senate.
- c) You must follow the MA degree programme in the same field as the postgraduate diploma or Honours degree.
- d) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.4 MPhil degree programme

- a) You can be considered for admission to the MPhil degree if you –
 - have an appropriate postgraduate diploma or Honours degree approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have achieved a standard of proficiency in your specific field of study in another manner that Senate considers as adequate for this purpose and, upon written application, were admitted by the Executive Committee to the MPhil programme concerned.
- b) As MPhil student you follow an approved curriculum of research and/or advanced study of at least one year (after obtaining an appropriate Honours degree or postgraduate diploma) at this University or another institution approved by Senate.
- c) Admission requirements for the MPhil degree are determined according to the specific programme.
- d) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.5 PhD degree programme

- a) You must, after consulting the departmental chairperson concerned, apply in writing for admission to doctoral study. In your written application you must mention the proposed title of the dissertation and the supervisor.
- b) You can obtain the guidelines for a doctoral research proposal or registration without an approved research proposal from the Faculty Administrator.
- c) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.6 DPhil degree programme

- a) The DPhil degree (an advanced doctorate) can be awarded to you if –
 - you have been registered at the University for at least one year, after obtaining the PhD degree in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University, or some other degree or qualification that Senate considers of adequate standard; and
 - a period of at least five years has elapsed since obtaining the PhD degree, or comparable qualification and the conferment of the DPhil degree.
- b) Enquiries regarding the DPhil degree can be addressed to the Faculty Administrator.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Arts and Social Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Arts and Social Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **2. General provisions for postgraduate programmes.**