The Department of English at Fordham offers M.A. and Ph.D. degree programs. In addition to offering small, seminar-style courses led by our widely published and recognized faculty, we provide individualized, personal mentorship to all members of the graduate program. Ph.D. students take our distinctive, two-semester teaching practicum, which prepares them to become effective instructors. M.A. students complete capstone writing projects while working closely with faculty mentors in their chosen fields of interest. We also run numerous workshops on dissertation writing, publishing, and other topics related to professionalization, and we have a dedicated faculty member who serves as our job placement officer.

Ph.D. students with a prior master’s degree are eligible to receive five years of funding, while those without prior master’s are eligible for six years of funding. M.A. students may apply for competitive funding for the two-year program.

Admissions
Completed applications include:

Statement of Intent
Your Statement of Intent should characterize your identity as a literary scholar and your aspirations as a graduate student of literature at Fordham. It should detail your intellectual preparation for such study in an undergraduate and/or Master’s degree program, and describe in specific terms your current research interests—the questions, texts, authors, genres, periods, and/or traditions in which you are most engaged. (Maximum 500 words).

Writing Sample
Your writing sample should be an original scholarly essay of 15-25 pages, preferably written for an upper-level literature course. This essay should reflect your scholarly interests and intellectual potential. It may be submitted either in a word processing program file or as a PDF file.

Recommendations
Three letters of recommendation submitted via the online application

Transcript
International transcripts should be translated.

CV or resume
Include your full legal name, permanent and local/current addresses and contact numbers, and any relevant professional and scholarly experience (max 5 pages).

GRE General Test
Institution Code 2259. The GRE Subject Test in Literature is NOT required for M.A. or Ph.D. applications.

English Proficiency
TOEFL test results must be submitted by International Applicants: International applicants whose native language is not English are required to complete and submit to GSAS prior to matriculation their official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

GSAS will also consider a student’s International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Cambridge English Proficiency Level language testing results.

Official TOEFL or IELTS scores should be sent directly by the testing service to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences – Code # 2259.

NOTE: Students who have completed a degree (undergraduate or graduate) at an English-language university are exempt from the TOEFL requirement.

Ph.D. Applicants
Ph.D. applicants are not required to hold an M.A., and all admitted Ph.D.’s are funded.

Ph.D. candidates must select an Area of Interest from:

- Old English
- Medieval
- Early Modern/Renaissance
- Eighteenth-Century British
- Nineteenth-Century British
- Twentieth and Twenty-First Century British
- Early American
- Nineteenth Century American
- Twentieth and Twenty-First Century American

For more information about admissions to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, please visit this page on the Fordham website.

Programs

- English (M.A.)
- English (Ph.D.)