Central to the programme is the hands-on engagement with concrete objects — novels, films, poems, operas, television series, art installations, websites, performances, and so on. The detailed analysis of those objects is combined with wide-ranging philosophical, political, and social approaches of culture and the arts. In this way, the programme enables you to interpret and evaluate particular texts, images, and objects in relation to larger philosophical explorations and cultural developments.

Literary and Cultural Analysis highlights philosophical, political, and social perspectives on culture. It offers you the intellectual knowledge and skills to interpret and reflect on literature, art, and popular culture. If you have an active and broad interest in contemporary culture, literature, and the arts this is the right programme for you.

Reasons to study Literary and Cultural Analysis in Amsterdam

- Unique, interdisciplinary programme: the degree combines the best of two disciplines - Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature - offering philosophical and political insights into art, literature and popular culture;
- Springboard to an academic career: Literary and Cultural Analysis is the perfect springboard to our Master’s or Research Master’s degree in Cultural or Literary Studies;
• Vibrant community with an international outlook: you will be taught by leading intellectuals focused on contemporary global developments in a student community made up of more than 60 nationalities;
• Tailor-made programme: you will be able to combine our core courses with electives in Media Studies, Philosophy, Comparative Literature, Art History and History;
• Gateway to Europe: Amsterdam offers a uniquely liberal, cosmopolitan and intellectual environment, boasting an amazing number of museums, cinemas, theatres and concert halls. It has been a haven for free thinkers and creative minds for centuries, from 17th century philosopher Spinoza to contemporary artist/filmmaker Steve McQueen.

'Literary and Cultural Analysis allows me to bring my fascination with objects of all kinds and cultures together with my interest in theories from different disciplines in creative but always also detailed and accountable ways' — Esther Peeren, Professor of Cultural Analysis
Dr Boris Noordenbos

\'What I like about the Literary and Cultural Analysis programme is its commitment to the analysis of contemporary culture in all its forms and expressions. My students have written papers and theses about objects as far apart as the speeches of former US President George Bush, the novels of the South African writer J.M. Coetzee, recent Russian films and episodes of the Dr. Phil Show. We train students to closely read these various cultural texts but our inquiries never stop there. What is unique about this programme is that it combines an interest in form with attention for the social and political implications of cultural expressions.\'

Dr Boris Noordenbos, Assistant professor in Literary and Cultural Analysis

Study programme

The programme combines core courses with electives in a range of subjects, such as: ‘Evil in Thought and Literature,’ Islam Art Across the Mediterranean World’, ‘Media Activism’ or ‘Against culture’, which explores subversive culture from Adbusters to Banksy. Throughout the programme, you will have the opportunity to develop your own ideas and hone your skills through interactive case studies, focused on concrete cultural issues. You are also encouraged to pick an additional minor (in a subject of your choice), learn another language, study a semester abroad or do an internship.

• The first year consists of compulsory courses introducing the fields, various methods of analysis and interpretation, and key theoretical concepts. In the course ‘Literary Worlds’, for example, you will familiarise yourself with world literature and film in a time of globalisation.
• The second year will provide you with an overview of Cultural and Literary Theory. You will have the opportunity to choose your own minor and elective courses in a wide range of subjects, as well as having the option to study abroad or do an internship.
• The third and final year is partly dedicated to Philosophy of Science. In addition, you will participate in a research seminar, have the opportunity to work with fellow students on concrete case studies on diverse subjects ranging from installation art to theatre and write your thesis on a topic of your choice.
Career prospects

As a graduate of the Literary and Cultural Analysis Bachelor's programme, you will have the skills and knowledge required for a wide range of intellectual and creative careers. You will have broad knowledge of cultural phenomena and processes, and you will be able to write clear, informative, and well-structured texts. These are all vital skills for the cultural sector, education, journalism and the commercial field. Graduates have secured employment in the following sectors:

- Cultural institutions: curators or programmers for institutions like De Balie or the Van Gogh Museum;
- Journalism and media: editors, writers, and researchers;
- Commercial writing and editing: writers and copy editors for various businesses requiring textual and linguistic expertise;
- Publishing: published authors or editors at Boom Amsterdam, De Geus or Penguin. One graduate has even started his own publishing house;
- Education: teachers at all levels from primary school to university.

Master's programmes

Students seeking broader or more specialised academic knowledge and skills may enrol in one of the UvA Master's programmes, most of which are taught in English, including:

- Comparative Literature
- Comparative Cultural Analysis
- Literary Studies (Research Master's)
- Cultural Analysis (Research Master's)

Annelot Prins, alumna

‘After studying Political Sciences for a while I decided to switch to Literary and Cultural Analysis. My love for literature was a huge incentive. But LCA was especially interesting to me because it gives students the opportunity to analyse other cultural objects like film, photography, television and music as well. I enjoyed the freedom to almost limitlessly expand my theoretical knowledge and apply this knowledge to all objects I found interesting. During my studies, I researched feminist conspiracy theories in The Stepford Wives, loss of virginity-narratives in MTV’s Virgin Territory, gender images in Disney films, and the star text of Beyoncé. I have to warn you, though: thanks to Literary and Cultural Analysis I am no longer able to uncritically consume cultural objects. I see research papers everywhere.’
Visit us

Make sure you are well-prepared before the start of your studies at the University of Amsterdam. Visit an Open Day, schedule a Campus Visit, and make sure you are well-informed about the programme. Please see: uva.nl/international

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