Master's in Literary Studies

Comparative Literature

uva.nl/ma-comparative-literature
Dr Daan Wesselman

'Our Masters' strength is that we do not simply study literature, but look from the literary outwards. Literary texts constitute socio-cultural and political questions that intervene in other modes of thinking.'

Would you like to gain a better understanding of the dynamics between the literary and the political? Grounded in literature and literary theory, this theoretical programme will train you to analyse cultural phenomena (both Western and non-Western) within an interdisciplinary theoretical framework and a globalised context. Methods such as textual analysis, deconstruction and close reading will be used in order to address a variety of issues including global literacy, post-coloniality/decoloniality, race and gender.
Career prospects

A degree in Comparative Literature can be an invaluable differentiator in a crowded and competitive job market. It prepares students for a career in any sector of cultural life, education, publishing, the arts, journalism, media, communications, and civil service. As a graduate, you can pursue a PhD (in the Netherlands) or a Research Master’s, such as Literary Studies or Cultural Analysis at the UvA. After completing the programme, you will also be well placed to apply for research grants or other academic degrees like Library Science, Law, or Management.

Politics of the Contemporary (6 EC)
You will study literature, the arts, and theory in relation to a specific issue that enjoys a particular relevance, urgency, or actuality for the present. You will look at it from a perspective that is political in its broadest sense, i.e. as having to do with power. Is it possible to reflect on arrangements of power in the very present that envelops and constitutes us, and if so, how? Or is the present always precisely what escapes us? Is it possible for theory, literature, and the arts to reflect on and even intervene in whatever is happening right now?
Entry requirements

The Master's in Comparative Literature is open to all students holding a university Bachelor’s degree in:
• a modern European Language;
• European Studies*;
• other Bachelor’s programme in the Humanities*.

* provided you have a demonstrable affinity with the theoretical study of literature and culture and be able to speak, read, write and understand English at advanced academic level. Please check:

uva.nl/ma-comparative-literature
> Application and admission