Research Master's in Literary Studies

Literary Studies (Research)

uva.nl/ma-literary-studies
In this programme, literature is studied as a transnational phenomenon that offers in-depth insight into a wide range of cultural practices. The programme explores the socio-cultural relevance of metaphors, symbols, aesthetic experiences, narratives and the framing of ideas. It also offers the opportunity to specialise in specific literatures, such as Dutch, English, or German.

The degree distinguishes itself through its thorough grounding in the research practice and the analytical toolkit of Literary Studies, which can be applied to literary and other text-based media in an interdisciplinary perspective. This master offers you the freedom to focus on a topic that fascinates you and encourages you to set out your own research path. We offer a broad selection of electives and our tutorial set-up allows you to explore topics in-depth.

‘The study of literature helps us to orient ourselves, to be better informed, and to prevent us from taking for granted what is given to us as "natural" or "eternal".'
Career prospects

You will be trained and prepared for a future in the academic and cultural sectors. Graduates from this programme regularly gain entry to funded PhD programmes, which has recently included positions at the University of Amsterdam, the University of Giessen and the University of Warwick. The programme also addresses the more practical side of academia: you will learn how to write a PhD proposal and are encouraged to participate in conferences and write articles as part of your research trajectory. At the same time, you will also gain vital skills for a variety of professions in the cultural sector – for example in publishing, literary and cultural institutions, museums and journalism. You will be qualified for positions with strong analytical and investigative components, and will be highly-trained in writing and public speaking.

Spotlight on a course

Key debates in Literary and Cultural Studies (12 ECTS)
Why do we approach research topics the way we do? This core course provides you with fundamental insights into a series of key concepts, debates and methodologies and assesses how they shape the field of Literary Studies. Through specific case studies, we explore how concepts like metaphoricity or genre can be deployed. We aim to research how texts, concepts and methods inform each other and how literary concepts and approaches can be applied productively and critically.
Entry requirements

The Research Master’s in Literary Studies is open to all students with a university Bachelor’s degree in:

• Literary Studies
• Comparative Literature
• Liberal Arts
• Language and Culture (language programmes, including Dutch language)
• European Studies

For more information, please check: uva.nl/ma-literary-studies
> Application and admission