REDEFINE
WITH A
MASTERS
MLitt Scottish Literature
REDEFINE AT STIRLING
WHY STUDY AN MLITT SCOTTISH LITERATURE?

The MLitt Scottish Literature at the University of Stirling is the only course of its kind. Our course explores a full-range of writers, texts and debates from the early modern period to the present, including the works of Robert Burns, Walter Scott and James Hogg, right through to contemporary authors such as James Kelman, Janice Galloway and A.L. Kennedy.

The course has an emphasis on critical debate, and questions some of the assumptions that go along with studying a national literature.

There has never been a more exciting time to study these questions. Is Scotland a different country, with its own literary identity? What role did literature play in the making of Scottishness and Britishness? For anyone seeking enlightenment about the broader cultural context of the independence debate, this is the course for you. It’s also possible to study Scottish Literature jointly with the MLitt in Creative Writing. This pathway allows students who want to pursue their own writing, but who are particularly interested in Scottish literature, to explore both areas at the same time.

IS AN MLITT SCOTTISH LITERATURE FOR ME?

Around half of our students have recently completed an undergraduate degree and are ambitious about studying at a higher level. The other half come from an interesting mix of backgrounds. Many teachers apply for the course, partly through their own interest in the subject and partly out of a desire for professional advancement.

We also have students who study the MLitt in Scottish Literature purely for their own enjoyment and curiosity. Primarily, students come to us with English degrees. However, because of the nature of the course, which spends the first semester introducing the topic in various ways, we are open to people who have other relevant qualifications.
I chose this course as it was an area I’d always wanted to understand in more depth. The core modules provided an overview of how Scottish writing has developed since the 17th century and the option modules were directly relevant to the research questions in which I was particularly interested. As a part-time, mature student, I found the University environment very welcoming.

FIONA ROBERTSON
Graduate
We have an innovative and distinctive approach to the study of Scottish Literature which stems from our staff’s own research strengths.

It’s a rich and fascinating subject, and a very timely one as Scotland continues to debate its identity.

Stirling is a great place to study, especially if you’re coming from afar. Not only is the campus fantastic, you are very handy for both Glasgow and Edinburgh and any research or cultural activity you might want to do in either of those two cities.

The course is small which leads to more one-on-one attention from staff as they are less divided among students.

The MLitt in Scottish Literature is the only taught Masters course on this subject anywhere in the world – so this is the place to do it!
COURSE OVERVIEW

TIMETABLE

Full-time and part-time modes of study are available.

Full-time:
MLitt – 12 months,
PG Diploma – nine months,
PG Certificate – four months.

Part-time:
MLitt – 24 months,
PG Diploma – 24 months,
PG Certificate – nine months.

Modules
Semester 1: We begin with core modules on ‘Regal Union to Empire’ and ‘Renaissance to Present’, surveying four centuries of key texts and debates. Full-time students also choose an option module from a selection listed on our website.

Semester 2: A further core module examines links between Romantic and Modernist writing in Scotland, and explores a range of questions raised by the Semester 1 reading. Students choose a second option module, sharpening their focus on specific areas and themes.

Dissertation
The most significant piece of work on the course will be a dissertation of 15,000 words, written during the summer on a subject of your choosing in consultation with a member of teaching staff. Those who do not embark on the dissertation may be awarded a Diploma. The work of the best students completing the course may be deemed worthy of an MLitt with Distinction. If you are studying the joint course with Creative Writing, you either write a dissertation on Creative Writing or Scottish Literature.

KEY TEACHING STAFF

The course is taught by Dr Scott Hames and Dr Kelsey Jackson Williams. Dr Hames works primarily in the area of 20th century and contemporary Scottish literature, while Dr Jackson Williams is an expert on the cultural history of early-modern Scotland. Among them, staff have a deep knowledge of relevant debates and figures from the 17th century through to the present; there are also teaching cameos from our celebrated literary colleagues (Kathleen Jamie, Kevin MacNeil). This course is closely and passionately linked to the research interests of the staff involved in teaching it.

University courses, services and procedures are continually reviewed, enhanced and revised, and this may result in some changes between the time of publication and the date when the student enters the University. Where any changes will affect an applicant, the University will keep the applicant fully informed.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a second class Honours degree (2.1 preferred) or equivalent. Applicants without these formal qualifications but with significant appropriate/relevant work/life experience are encouraged to apply.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

If English is not your first language, you must provide evidence of proficiency such as a minimum IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in any individual test.

If you don’t meet the required score you may be able to register for one of our pre-sessional English courses. To register you must hold a conditional offer for your course and have an IELTS score 0.5 or 1.0 below the required standard. View our range of pre-sessional courses.

TUITION FEES AND FUNDING

Details of tuition fees can be found at: stir.ac.uk/110

For Scottish students and EU domiciled students, this course is currently approved for PTFL (Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan) funding from SAAS. For more information, please visit: saas.gov.uk

You can find up to date financial information and funding opportunities here: stir.ac.uk/scholarships

CONTACT INFORMATION

Course Director: Dr Scott Hames
Telephone: UK +44 (0) 1786 466205
Email: scott.hames@stir.ac.uk

stir.ac.uk/ir

Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, contact: marketingtools@stir.ac.uk

This publication can be made available in different formats. Please contact Student Recruitment and Admissions for further information: recruitment@stir.ac.uk

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