

Programme Specification

MA Jane Austen (2020-21)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Arts (MA)
Name of award	MA Jane Austen
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8203
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Kim Simpson

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme can be studied Part Time (8207).

In the 200 years since Jane Austen's death, she has gone from being a moderately successful, anonymous writer to a global literary celebrity. Her novels have been read and re-read, and are frequently adapted for stage and for screen. They have provided inspiration for sequels, prequels, mash ups, blogs and video games. Jane Austen's letters have been pored over for details that may have inspired her characters, and her lively juvenilia has been edited and published by distinguished scholars and presses around the world. There are countless biographies, and a seemingly endless appetite for collections of essays, articles and book length studies of the six novels that are now known across the world.

The MA in Jane Austen is an exciting and innovative programme that will enable you to study Jane Austen's work, her culture, and her reception. In workshops, seminars, guest lectures, and individual meetings with your tutors, you will learn about the historical and literary contexts that made Jane Austen, and chart the way that her popularity has increased in the modern day, impacting the tourist and heritage industries.

The programme combines academic and practical approaches, marrying the study of eighteenth-century culture and a range of modern scholarly approaches to Austen with insights into the heritage industry and literary tourism, and providing you with a broad set of skills. You will be taught by a team of specialists from the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Southampton who have published broadly on Austen, and who have experience of working in heritage positions. In addition, you will enjoy a lively programme of relevant events put on by the Southampton Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies, and have unique access to the archives at Chawton House, former home of Austen's brother, and now an internationally-recognised research centre for the study of early women's writing.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

The MA in Jane Austen allows you to specialise in the literary culture and history that gave rise to one of the world's most recognised writers. Comprising two core modules and a 15,000 word dissertation, you will also have a choice of up to four option modules. The programme can be taken full-time, over one year, or part-time, over two years. Your personal tutor will help you devise a course of options, subject to availability, to suit your needs and interests. As a student on the Jane Austen MA, you will also have the opportunity to audit a selection of relevant undergraduate modules to augment your own knowledge. You will be taught by leading experts in the field, and you will have access to a number of important heritage sites throughout your degree, including Chawton House. The programme will enable you to explore complex questions about gender and feminism, class politics, nationhood, economy, publishing and book history, translation and adaptation opened up by Austen's work and its interpretations, but it will also teach you about aspects of the heritage industry. You will experience a variety of teaching methods, designed to challenge you intellectually, expose you to new ideas, and develop the transferable skills that will help with career development in the future. You can expect to learn in small seminar groups typical to study at Masters level, but also to enjoy practical workshops and lectures. You will be encouraged to engage in student-led learning, taking control of the direction of discussions. Group work and oral presentations with your peers and one-to-one consultations with staff will also develop your interpersonal skills and individual research skills. Your dissertation will test your skills in academic writing, whilst other assessments will allow you to exercise your creativity.

Assessment

You will be assessed by traditional means such as essays and critical commentaries for many of the modules you will take. However, on the core module 'Jane Austen and the Heritage Industry', you will curate your own mini exhibition, putting into practice practical skills learned during the module. You will also be assessed on individual and group presentations, depending on your choice of modules. Your dissertation will allow you to manage an independent research project, supervised by a supportive member of staff, who will provide you with advice, guidance and feedback.

Special Features of the programme

Access to the collections at Chawton House: a unique collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature by women, and the Knight family collection – a library belonging to Jane Austen's brother that Jane Austen herself had access to during her lifetime.

Taught by Austen specialists and heritage experts.

Mix of academic and practical tuition provides unique career development opportunities and skill sets.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to: The programme is designed to equip you with both intellectual and practical skills, broadening your knowledge of a single author, by exploring her historical contexts, style, and modern afterlives. The aims of the programme are to:

- Give you an advanced understanding of Jane Austen's works and her legacy.
- Train you in the use of research methods for the study of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature and history.
- Develop your intellectual skills in cultural analysis, textual interpretation, and theoretical method.
- Develop your practical skills and understanding of the heritage and tourist industries around literary figures.
- Encourage and empower you to work independently with unique archival resources.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The works of Jane Austen in relation to the developments in the literary culture of her time.
- A2. The key issues and conceptual debates generated by Austen's six completed novels.
- A3. The major critical treatments of Jane Austen, and the development of Austen criticism in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries
- A4. Specific theoretical and cultural issues around the adaptation and translation of Jane Austen's work
- A5. Aspects of the media and heritage industries around literary figures
- A6. Issues around curation and conversation in the heritage sector

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your knowledge and understanding are developed largely through seminars and student-centred learning experiences, supported by a programme of lectures and workshops. You will be strongly encouraged to make use of Library and Web resources throughout the course and to extend your independent learning skills.

Assessment Methods

Your knowledge and understanding (for all exit awards and pathways) are tested through assessed coursework involving essays, library and data retrieval exercises, annotated bibliographies, oral presentations, and take-away examinations. To gain the full MA award, you will also need to complete a dissertation. The dissertation constitutes the full expression of the skills that you have acquired: it requires breadth and complexity of knowledge and understanding, analytic ability and the fluent presentation of that in an appropriate academic style.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Deal with complex creative and literary issues in a systematic and analytic manner
- B2. Research the data necessary for making literary and cultural judgements
- B3. Evaluate and apply independent research methods
- B4. Demonstrate originality in dealing with literary and cultural issues
- B5. Successfully conduct an advanced independent research project
- B6. Demonstrate linguistic skills that will enable you to study designated areas of literary culture at an advanced level
- B7. Formulate and test interpretations
- B8. Explicate literary languages
- B9. Distil and critically evaluate theoretical arguments and approaches

Teaching and Learning Methods

For all exit awards, these subject specific intellectual and research skills are acquired largely through seminars and student centred learning experiences, such as oral presentations, group work, and individual consultation. Library and Web resources will be used throughout the course.

Assessment Methods

Your cognitive skills are tested through assessed coursework involving extended essays, oral presentations, and practical tests such as the analysis of primary texts. The Jane Austen MA adds a dissertation to this portfolio of assessment methods and a mini-exhibition put together as part of one of the core modules. Both assessments will test your final acquisition of cognitive skills, taking you from the articulation of concepts to their synthesis, and from identification of problems through their evaluation to problem solving and the formulation of an independent argument.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Write in an advanced academic manner by following scholarly protocols of organization, citation, and rhetorical presentation (proper diction and style)
- C2. Write coherently and persuasively.
- C3. Communicate research findings appropriately in terms of written and oral presentation
- C4. Revise and edit texts according to a professional standard
- C5. Demonstrate interpersonal skills and be able to recognise and work with contested responses to a piece of writing to arrive at a considered judgement.
- C6. Collect and evaluate data and other critics' judgements
- C7. Identify, select and utilise a wide range of printed and internet sources
- C8. Manage deadlines and make effective use of your time
- C9. Demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness both in collaborative activities and independent study

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills are developed through the programme's emphasis on active participation, independent learning, creativity, and personal initiative. You are expected to read widely beyond the parameters of individual modules. Your ability to take responsibility for your work and to exercise initiative is aided by activities such as seminar presentations, group work and other student-centred learning experiences, as well as by essays.

The MA is distinguished from the Postgraduate Diploma by the supervisory methods used and the assessed outcome. Your 15,000-word dissertation will enable you to demonstrate your ability to use your initiative in developing an individual vision, working independently, realising it in textual form, and managing any problems that emerge along the way, with supervisory assistance.

Assessment Methods

Your key skills are tested through assessed coursework involving essays, oral presentations, practical tests, and where appropriate, take-away examinations. The dissertation constitutes the means by which the acquisition of Key Skills appropriate to the MA is distinguished from that of the Diploma.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- D1. Research and present material drawn from individual research in an engaging way
- D2. Distill and rework primary and secondary materials in a way that is accessible to a wide range of audiences
- D3. Display, promote and disseminate your research using a number of digital tools

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

The programme may be studied either full-time or part-time. It consists of two compulsory core modules and the 15,000-word dissertation, as well as a choice of up to four option modules.

You must successfully complete modules worth 90 ECTS (180 CATS) - to be awarded an MA Jane Austen. This is broken down into 30 ECTS (60 CATS) for core modules, 30 ECTS (60 CATS) for optional modules, and 30 ECTS (60 CATS) for the dissertation.

There are, however, two other exit points. If you successfully take and pass core modules worth 30 ECTS (60 CATS), you will be awarded a PG Certificate.

If you successfully take and pass all modules except the dissertation 60 ECTS (120 CATS), you will receive a PG Diploma.

(CATS = Credit Transfer and Accumulation Scheme).

The programme structure table is below. Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Availability of Modules:

The information contained in programme specification is correct at the time it was published. If we do have insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module, this may not be offered. If an optional module will not be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative module.

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ENGL6138	Approaches to Jane Austen	15	Core
ENGL6135	English Dissertation	30	Core
ENGL6139	Jane Austen and the Heritage Industry	15	Core

Part I Optional

As a student on the Jane Austen MA, in addition to a choice of credited options, you will also have the opportunity to audit a selection of relevant undergraduate modules to augment your own knowledge. These might include:

Jane Austen's Playlist (Music)

Women, Writing, Modernity in Britain, 1790-1865 (English)

The Enlightenment Body (English)

Jane Austen and the Regency World (English)

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ENGL6132	Adventures in Literary Research	15	Optional
ENGL6134	Approaches to the Long Eighteenth Century	15	Optional
ENGL6130	Approaches to the Long Nineteenth Century (1789-1914)	15	Optional
ENGL6141	Fiction Before Austen	7.5	Optional
ENGL6113	Jane Austen's Style	7.5	Optional
ENGL6115	Scriptwriting	7.5	Optional
ENGL6146	Special Project (Text, Context, Intertext)	15	Optional
ENGL6126	Special Project (Text, Context, Intertext)	7.5	Optional
ENGL6128	Special Project (Text, Culture, Theory)	7.5	Optional
ENGL6147	Special Project (Text, Culture, Theory)	15	Optional

Part II

Part II Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ENGL6135	English Dissertation	30	Compulsory

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#) Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [*section VI of the University Calendar*](#).

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [*Quality Handbook*](#).

Career Opportunities

The MA Jane Austen programme is excellent preparation for a career in the heritage sector, in teaching, publishing or arts administration. Graduates of our current English Literary Studies programme, including those on the Eighteenth-Century Pathway, go onto professional careers in writing (from journalism to fiction), education, international PhD programmes, teaching, broadcasting, and varied work in the creative industries. Former graduates and alumni return to give talks throughout the year, and - along with the busy lecture programmes offered at the university and at Chawton House - will help you make the most of the opportunities here.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Professor Dale T Townshend - Manchester Metropolitan University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Computer discs or USB drives	Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device.
Hardware	It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	<p>Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.</p> <p>A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/</p>
Software Licenses	All software is provided.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Details will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source and will not usually come to more than £40 per module. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module. Details are provided under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.