

British Cultural Studies MA Programme

Entrance exam — July / September

Candidates will produce a written essay on a topic connected with one of the proposed research areas (see below).

The essays will be at least 2000 words long (excluding bibliography and footnotes); text will be formatted using Times New Roman size 12 or an equivalent font and 1.5 lines paragraph spacing.

References will be in accordance with the MLA or Chicago style guidelines. For details see:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html (*MLA*)

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html (*Chicago*)

The essays should demonstrate an original, well-informed perspective on the chosen topic and will have to include convincing arguments for the relevance of the research. Candidates are free to select the bibliography they consider useful for the chosen topic. Each essay will have to include at least 5 bibliographical entries—books, scholarly articles, authoritative online sources.

Any degree of plagiarism (whether voluntary or involuntary, including failure to cite each and every source consulted) will lead to rejection of the essay.

Assessment criteria:

1. Relevance of the chosen topic for the field of British Cultural Studies.
2. Originality of the proposal.
3. Degree of comprehension of the chosen topic.
4. Depth of argumentation.
5. Quality of written discourse (candidates should be able to demonstrate writing skills corresponding to the C1 level of the CEFR).

RESEARCH AREAS

1. Major moments in British history and their social, political and cultural relevance for the idea of “Britishness”.
2. Britain and the rise and fall of empire.
3. British politics and the British party system: diachronic and synchronic perspectives.
4. The British monarchy: past, present and future.
5. Nationhood and nationality in Britain.
6. British customs and British values.
7. The power of the British media (written press, television and the internet).
8. Language and linguistic identity in Britain.
9. Leisure activities in contemporary Britain.
10. British youth: past and present challenges.
11. The ‘centre’ and the ‘periphery’ in British culture and literature.
12. ‘Old’ and ‘New’ English literatures.
13. Literary reflections of “Britishness” / “Englishness” / “Scottishness” / “Welshness”.
14. Landmarks of British Television and Cinema.
15. Britain in the age of globalisation.