

Each criterion listed below will account for one-third of the admission grade:

1. graduation exam grade
2. undergraduate grade average
3. grade for entrance exam (written project + oral interview).

The **entrance exam** consists in two parts:

1. A written project (essay) (50% of the entrance exam grade)
2. An oral interview (online) (50% of the entrance exam grade)

Candidates must pass both in order to be admitted to the programme.

1. The written project (essay)

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/endnotes); 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.

Previous works written by the candidates (such as for class presentations or BA papers) cannot be used in place of the essay. However, the essay may incorporate the results of the candidate's earlier research, if this is credited adequately, in line with the agreed academic practices.

Any degree of plagiarism, whether voluntary or involuntary, including failure to cite each and every source consulted, as well as use of AI technology to generate content or to revise the written text will lead to rejection of the essay.

Assessment criteria for the essay:

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 for the essay:

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. Nationhood and nationality in Britain.
4. Language and linguistic identity in Britain.
5. The ‘centre’ and the ‘periphery’ in British culture and literature.
6. ‘Old’ and ‘New’ English literatures.
7. Literary reflections of “Britishness” / “Englishness” / “Scottishness” / “Welshness”.
8. The power of the British media (written press, television and the internet).
9. Landmarks of British Television and Cinema.
10. British creative industries and cultural policies.
11. Britain in the age of globalisation.

2. The interview

During the interview, candidates will have to present their essay, motivate the choice of subject and its relevance for British Cultural Studies, as well as discuss how it can serve as the basis for more extensive research (including, but not limited to, a possible master’s thesis). Candidates should also be prepared to answer questions that check their familiarity with the broader sphere of British Studies and their motivation in choosing this particular master’s programme.

Assessment criteria for the interview:

1. Quality of oral argumentation and adequacy of spoken discourse.
2. Relevance of the candidate’s answers to the committee’s questions.