

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



APPENDIX TO THE MASTERS BY RESEARCH STUDENT HANDBOOK 2024/25

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the [core Masters by Research student handbook](#)

The Department of English sits within the School of Humanities, which covers the following disciplines: Classics, English, History and Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Welcome to your department

The Department of English at Royal Holloway, University of London is innovative, energetic, creative and friendly, with a commitment to excellence and inclusion across our award-winning teaching, writing and research.

The Department of English is in the [International Building](#).

Key contacts

Role	Name	Email	Phone	Room
Executive Dean	Professor Giuliana Pieri	G.Pieri@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443234	INTER124
Head of Department	Professor Adam Roberts	A.C.Roberts@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443511	INTER202
School Director of PGR Education	Professor Andrew Jotischky	Andrew.Jotischky@rhul.ac.uk	01784 443305	INTER 01A
Department PGR Lead	Dr Deana Rankin	deana.rankin@rhul.ac.uk	01784 276494	INTER253
School helpdesk*		Humanities-school@rhul.ac.uk	01784 276882	INTER 149

* For the majority of your non-academic related issues, please contact the Doctoral School. However, for queries about teaching contracts, expenses and study space within the school, please contact the School of Humanities helpdesk.

Staff

[List of staff in the Department of English](#)

Student committees

The School of Humanities' PGR Staff-Student Action Meeting meets once a term and contributes to the organization of the PG Colloquium. Please get in touch with the School Director of PGR Education if you would like to join. If you would like to raise an issue to be discussed there, please contact the [Doctoral School](#).

Research Skills Training

The School of Humanities runs a research skills training programme aimed at equipping PGRs across the School with the skills they need to successfully complete their studies. Students in their First Year are strongly encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible.

Masters by Research in the Department of English

The word count for a non-practice-based MA in English by Research should be around 30,000-35,000 words in length.

Word count for a practice-based MA in English by Research:

- In the fields of practice-based research where the student has undertaken research in creative writing or poetic practice the dissertation will be completed according to [Appendix 1 of the Research Degree regulations, paragraph 5\(2\)](#) with the dissertation comprising a minimum of 15,000 words and a maximum of 20,000 words to be submitted alongside a body of creative work devised specifically for the degree. Both elements will show coherence, originality and intellectual rigour, illustrating knowledge and understanding of relevant practice and critical debates in the field. The relationship between the creative and critical/theoretical components will vary depending on the specific project. The exact balance between the creative work and dissertation of the thesis will be decided between the student and supervisor and discussed at the outset of the project; though in all cases the dissertation must be a minimum of 15,000 words and a maximum of 20,000 words.
- Fiction / Literary Non-Fiction: 15,000–20,000 words of fiction to be completed alongside the dissertation
- Poetry and Poetic Practice: 15-20 pages of poetry or equivalent practice-based output to be completed alongside the dissertation