Combine rigorous disciplinary training and scholarship with exciting new avenues of creative and public writing.

Explore. The Department of English offers programs in English studies leading to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Our faculty are experts in established and emerging fields of English studies, acclaimed creative writers, and prolific public authors with recent writing in The Atlantic, Harper’s, The New York Review of Books, The New Yorker, and elsewhere. With our distinctive emphasis on multiple forms of writing, we encourage students to pursue literary and scholarly work that combines intellectual rigor with creativity and to develop projects that reach new audiences inside and outside the academy.

Experiment. Our coursework for the MA and the PhD provides advanced disciplinary training in English studies, from the early modern to the contemporary, as well as areas like medical humanities, global poetry and ecocriticism, and also offers students extensive teacher training. Students with an existing creative practice and an interest in scholarly work may opt to complete a creative dissertation with a rigorous critical apparatus. Interested students should be aware that they will still fulfill all standard scholarly requirements, including coursework and exams. Our vibrant community offers mentorship and encouragement to pursue writing across a variety of genres and audiences.

Engage. Through our weekly departmental colloquium and affiliated Writers House (home of the New Gutenberg Annex letterpress), we host an extensive series of talks and workshops. Students interact with and learn from scholars, poets, fiction and nonfiction writers, journalists, editors, and publishers. Both our PhD and our MA are fully funded programs. Cleveland is uniquely affordable as a place to live, and our students enjoy our location in the cultural hub of University Circle, home to the Cleveland Art Museum, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and more.

Our programs prepare students for academic careers at colleges and universities and for work in closely related fields, offering:

- Full funding packages for full-time MA and PhD students
- Student-faculty ratios of 1:1 for PhD and MA
- Support for conference and research travel
- Professional development workshops and seminars
- Access to Cleveland Art Museum, Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Cinematheque
- Extensive teacher training and 1-1 teaching load
- Active English Graduate Student Association, Friday afternoon research colloquia
- Collaborations with Cleveland non-profits and arts organizations, including Literary Cleveland, Waterloo Arts, Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards
- Excellent placement rates
- Strong record of preparing MA students for doctoral programs and non-academic jobs
Resources and Facilities

The department is located in the heart of University Circle, Cleveland’s richest concentration of cultural institutions. Faculty and graduate student research interests intersect at many points with Cleveland institutions, including the Dittrick Medical History Center, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Western Reserve Historical Society, the Cleveland Psychoanalytic Association, the Cleveland MetroParks Zoo and the Cleveland Play House. Relationships also exist with Case Western Reserve’s theater and art history departments, and the School of Law.

Kelvin Smith Library is the primary research library for humanities at Case Western Reserve. Its holdings include more than 2 million volumes, 70,000 serial subscriptions, 2 million microform items, 137,000 audiovisual materials, and 13,500 linear feet of manuscripts and archives. KSL’s Special Collections comprise, among other holdings, the History of the Book collection and the Haskell Collection of Illustrated Victorian Literature. KSL’s holdings are augmented by OhioLink, a consortium of 89 institutions that offer 12 million unique items for loan, along with 14,000 electronic journals and 62,000 electronic books.

Living in Cleveland

CWRU’s 155-acre campus borders the Little Italy neighborhood, and is adjacent to the world-renowned University Hospitals and Cleveland Clinic. Extensive public transportation connects the university to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and to downtown Cleveland. Cleveland’s cost of living is low relative to national averages, and high-quality, attractive housing in close proximity to the university is abundant.

For More Information

More information about the program and application process can be found at english.cwru.edu/graduate-study-in-english.

The department accepts applications for fall semester only. The deadline to be considered for teaching assistantships is December 15.

CONTACT

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