

Why Study English?

English and Film Studies offers one of the most dynamic learning environments at the University of Alberta, with great resources and opportunities for students:

- small classes that afford regular direct contact between instructors and students;
- a superb university library, with physical holdings, electronic resources, and digital databases to rival the very best in North America;
- opportunities for community engaged learning;
- longest-running Writer-in-Residence Program in Canada, sponsoring annual residencies for acclaimed authors;
- first university home for digital humanities in Canada;
- numerous awards to support undergraduate study and recognize outstanding students;
- the English and Film Studies Undergraduate Network (EFSUN), a vibrant students' group that plans exciting events annually.

Study in EFS provides students with rich experience engaging collectively and critically with culture; a broad education rather than rote learning; and enduring skills, applicable to any workplace, that outlast the latest technology:

- effective communication and argument;
- ability to analyze diverse forms of linguistic and cultural expression;
- critical thinking, analysis, judgment;
- ability to understand and develop intricate ideas, to apply diverse theoretical positions, and to weigh the importance of alternative perspectives;
- ability to grasp the nuances and ambiguities of words and symbols;
- research skills, including ability to gather, sift, and organize quantities of diverse material and evaluate its significance.

Employers love hiring English majors – and English majors pursue diverse careers! Some notable alumni from EFS include **Paula Simons** (award-winning journalist and producer), **Jason Kapalka** (co-founder of PopCap Games), **Mark Haroun** (writer and producer on TV's *Heartland*), and **Shar Levine** (bestselling children's author).

Our programs prepare students for many careers:

Teacher
Lawyer
Librarian / Digital Archivist
Publisher / Editor
Professional Writer
Journalist
Web Developer
Communications Strategist
Media Relations / Public Relations

Non Profit Administrator
Film or TV Editor / Producer
Digital Content Editor
Multimedia Developer
Politician
Public Policy Advisor
Government Relations Consultant
Software Developer
Community Relations / HR

Want additional insight and perspective on the question? See what other people say about the value of humanities degrees such as English.

- “What Can You Do With an English Literature Degree?”:
<http://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/careers-advice/what-can-you-do-english-literature-degree>
- English “help[s] us enjoy life more and endure it better”:
<http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/why-teach-english>
- “Reading expands our social imaginations”:
http://stanfordpress.typepad.com/blog/2016/01/why-study-literature.html?utm_content=buffer7fe97&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer
- Humanities as a pathway to executive success:
<http://time.com/3964415/ceo-degree-liberal-arts/>
- The value of “soft skills” of the sort learned in English:
http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/employers-value-soft-skills-but-don-t-see-them-out-expert-says-1.3230939?cmp=rss&utm_content=buffer6d4a8&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer
- The value of engagement in learning:
<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/01/money-is-a-terrible-way-to-measure-the-value-of-a-college-major/283290/>
- The benefit of “problem-solving skills”:
http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2014/01/23/carlyle-co-founders-formula-for-success-study-the-humanities/?_r=0