



*Studying English
at the University of Basel*

Welcome to the Department of English

Dear prospective student,

With this brochure, we would like to give you a glimpse into what studying English at Basel looks like. Though we are fortunate to work in one of the city's oldest (and most beautiful) buildings, the work we do here is anything but traditional. The courses we teach are informed by our current research, which takes place in national and international networks. We also take great care to offer you a supportive environment in which to work towards a BA, MA or PhD degree in English.

Our Department consists of about 20 full-time and part-time instructors and around 450 students. Our teaching and research covers four major areas in linguistics and

literary and cultural studies. In linguistics, we focus on the Linguistics of English, which explores the structures and uses of the world's major lingua franca, and Cognitive Linguistics and Language Acquisition, which study how human beings acquire language and process it in their minds. In literary studies, we explore Anglophone Literatures, both fictional and non-fictional, with reference to cultural history and theory, and in relation to other media such as film and theatre. The focus is on English Literature since the Renaissance, American and General Literature, and Postcolonial Literature. We also have offerings in Academic Communication in English that will help you express yourself academically in speech and writing.

While we are committed to giving you an excellent education, we know that studying at a university encompasses more than reading books, writing papers, and discussing research issues in class. Our Department has a rich social life that is kept going by our excellent amateur theatre group The Gay Beggars, our long-standing English Seminar Choir, and the many events organized by our very active Students' Committee.

We hope that the following pages whet your appetite and prompt you to join our fold.

Heike Behrens
Ina Habermann
Miriam Locher
Philipp Schweighauser

*... we are committed
to giving you an
excellent education ...*





Studying English at Basel

As the lingua franca of business and science, English is today's most important global language. Apart from their world-wide spread, the English language and its cultures have also shaped various domains in our local everyday lives, including media, advertising, and tourism. These developments are of great significance for Switzerland – a multilingual country that is deeply involved in global economic activities. English languages and cultures thus

... English is today's most important global language...

create novel social and political challenges (early English at school, language policy making, intercultural communication, business English etc.) that must be addressed, understood and tackled by experts in English language,

literature and culture. Studies at the Department of English are designed to train and develop this expertise.

BA level students become familiar with the complex field of English language(s), literatures and cultures and are introduced to linguistic and literary theories and methods that enable them to understand English and its literary and cultural manifestations from social, cultural, historical, and cognitive perspectives. We also teach academic language skills in English (writing and presentation).

At the beginning of their studies, BA students attend various introductory courses in Anglophone literatures, in literary theory and criticism, and in linguistic methodol-



ogy and theory. We also offer survey lectures as an introduction to current research in linguistics and in British and American literary history. Later, the studies become more specialized, the courses offered for advanced BA students range from “Bring the Noise: Modern American Literature & Sound Studies” to “Time and Space in Language and Cognition.” This teaching is crucially informed by the research we do – which means that you will become part of a vibrant research community.

MA students can choose whether they want to focus on Anglophone literatures or linguistics, or on both. Their knowledge is extended and deepened by a training in academic research practice in more specialized fields

of English linguistics and/or literature; students do not only tackle specific research questions and approaches in a given field but also learn to apply and critique them in a sophisticated manner. Students develop their own research projects in conversation with their fellow students and instructors.

MA courses in linguistics focus on cognitive linguistics and psycholinguistics, examining the cognitive and social bases of language and communication as well as language acquisition. Our second field of linguistic expertise focuses on variation of language usage in given contexts

... understand English and its literary and cultural manifestations from social, cultural, historical and cognitive perspectives ...





(sociolinguistics, pragmatics and discourse analysis).

Literary studies are interdisciplinary, approaching literary texts from a theoretical angle and in their historical, social, and cultural contexts. We consider literary texts as manifestations of broader cultural processes that shape how we make sense of the world. Our thematic foci range from aesthetics and the materiality of communication to middlebrow fiction

and the spatial imagination of literature.

Excellent MA graduates can

extend their research competence by conducting a PhD research project and writing a doctoral dissertation within the framework of the Herman

Paul School of Linguistics or the Doctoral Programme in Literary Studies. PhD theses can be written individually or as part of a larger research project; in most cases, they are thematically connected to the area of expertise of the PhD supervisor.

The Department of English also provides the academic basis for future teachers. We offer courses and modules for secondary-school teachers (BA/MA, Studiengang Sekundarstufe I); the MA in English provides the academic ground for working as a Gymnasium teacher.

English is studied in combination with another Bachelor or Master Degree subject. The second field of study can be any other subject either within the Faculty of Humani-

ties (e.g. German Philology or Media Studies), or outside the Humanities, (Geography, Computer Sciences, Law, or Theology).

For more information on studying in general, please see the study FAQs published on the website of the [Department of Languages and Literatures](#).

... become part of a vibrant research community ...

Alexandra Guski, School Principal at Fachmaturitätsschule Basel

I had always liked the idea of becoming a teacher. I decided to complete the teaching certificate after working in various schools and because I realized I was interested in the pedagogical and didactical issues raised in the teacher courses at university. My advice to students is: find out if you want to become a teacher by getting as many teaching opportunities as possible. You should really like most aspects of the job. Most importantly, you should be interested in students and their learning. English is a great subject to teach as students usually like it.

I found it helpful to have alternatives to my teaching job after fifteen years of working in the same field. That means that you have to do extra stud-

ies and training after having finished your teacher formation and keep your eyes open for opportunities of job enrichment. For a long time, additionally to my teaching job, I worked as a facilitator and course instructor for school development and leadership and even quit my teaching job to solely work in this field for some years. Today, I am the principal of the Fachmaturitätsschule. It's good to have teaching experience as well as organizational and management knowledge for this job.

I took English as a main subject ("Leistungskurs") at the Gymnasium in Berlin and wanted to intensify my knowledge of English and American literature, language and culture at university. I came to

Basel after a year abroad, and liked the small size of the university (compared to Berlin) and the quality of the teaching. I also have fond memories of studying in beautiful facilities in the Old Town and of lots of networking amongst students - also students from other faculties. In my job, I still profit from contacts I made at university twenty years ago.

Generally, if you are interested in studying at university, look into as many subjects as possible. Choose the ones you are really interested in. Interest and passion are at least as important as job opportunities.

... I still profit from contacts I made at university twenty years ago ...





Andrés Luther, Partner at Hirzel Neef Schmid Counselors

I had an interest in theatre and poetry and thought that literature and language are a useful key to understanding culture and people. And I still do believe that. I came to Basel because it was further away from home than Zurich.

Towards the end of my studies I realized that I wanted to know more about how the business world worked, especially

global financial markets. Markets seemed to have a huge impact on life and society,

and I expected that working in business would teach me a lot that I could not learn at university.

From the skills learnt at university, I now benefit most from doing thorough research on a wide range of subjects, presenting and defending my ideas, debating my findings and opinions and learning to deal with other people's points of view.

Writing is the key to communications, even in the age of online media and video. While at university, try to

find jobs, even unpaid jobs, that give you experience in non-academic writing and editing. Try to spend most of your time with things that you really are interested in. Study humanities only out of

genuine interest and passion for the subject matter. Humanities can be the basis for a career, but they are much

more insightful and gratifying if you view them as a way of life.

Be prepared for the fact that you will not really understand most of the texts that you read for your studies. Some of them you will only understand several years after you graduate. In other words, there are a lot of things you just cannot understand the first time, so be patient.

I like to remember the long nights and weekends spent as a "gay beggar" at the cellar theatre and all the barbecues in the courtyard of the Schönes Haus.

Premises and People

Most departments of the University of Basel are located in the heart of the old city. The Department of English is housed in two adjacent buildings on Nadelberg, two minutes from the Market Square. The older of these, at the back of a cobbled courtyard, is also the oldest surviving private residence in Basel. It was already called "Schönes Haus" ("Beautiful House") when it was first mentioned in a document in 1294, because of its wealth and decorative splendour. For centuries it continued to be the home of rich citizens, among them Rudolph Wettstein, who represented the Swiss at the Westphalia Peace negotiations in 1648; the coat-of-arms over one of the portals is that of the Karger family, who owned the building in the 17th and

18th centuries. During the Council of Basel (1431-49) church dignitaries were entertained in the great hall on the ground floor, notable for its painted ceiling (the oldest non-ecclesiastical one in Switzerland); it serves as a lecture theatre today. Guests who lodged in the building included Duke Philip of Burgundy, Duke Albrecht of Bavaria, and Prince John of Orange.

In the 1960s the buildings were carefully restored, and given to the university in 1968. In one of the rooms, which now serves the Department of English as a library, a Gothic wooden ceiling saved from the ruins of another building was added. The cellar of the "Schönes Haus" was converted into a studio theatre, run by the De-

partment of English – it seats about 100 people.

Today, the building hosts the departmental library and offers space for research, administration, and teaching, while most of the lectures take place in the University's pleasant and modern Kollegienhaus at Petersplatz.

The Department of English has four chairs, one in English Literature since the Renaissance, held by Ina Habermann, one in North American and General Literatures held by Philipp Schweighauser, one in the Linguistics of English, held by Miriam Locher, and one in Cognitive Linguistics and Language Acquisition, held by Heike Behrens.

... while at university, try to find jobs, even unpaid jobs, that give you relevant experience ...

... experience a college atmosphere ...





Research

Research is crucial to academic life. Through it, our staff makes significant contributions to their fields of expertise and positions the department in national and international contexts. Our research interests cover a wide range of aspects of Anglophone literatures, linguistic varieties and cultures. In linguistics, we analyze the structure and use of the English language as well as first and second language acquisition.

... *The aim of the study is to explore how users create identities through language ...*

In literary and cultural studies, we explore the construction of cultural discourses in Anglophone literatures, both in the past and the present. Our staff engage in research projects which involve MA and PhD students. We situate

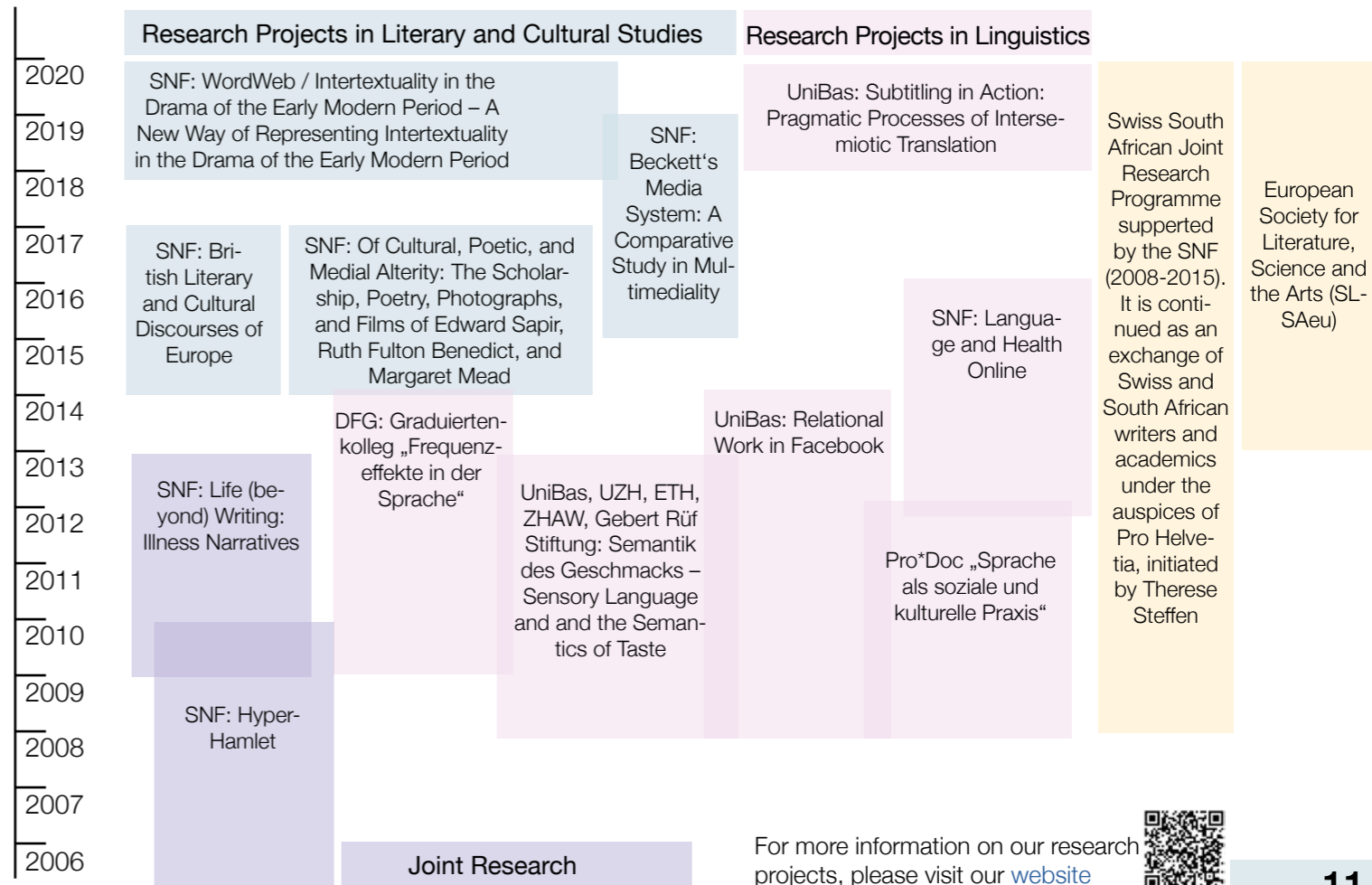
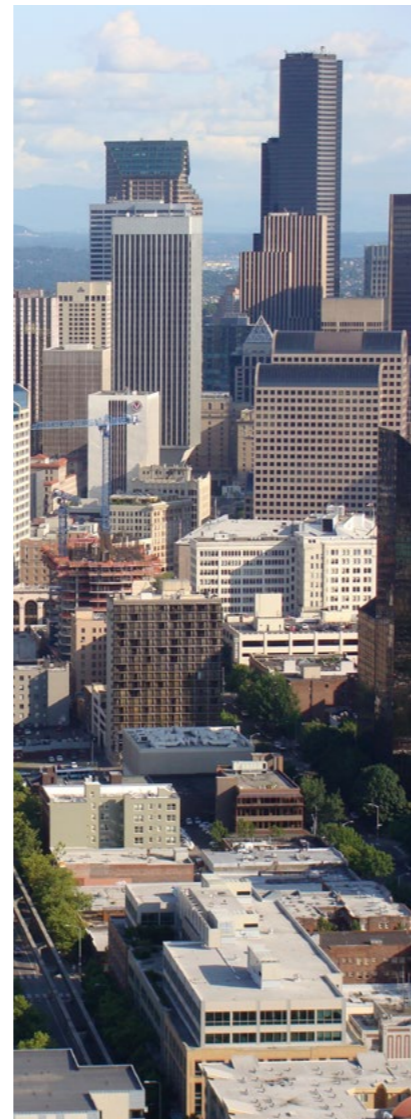
our research in the following fields:

Linguistics

- Cognitive Linguistics
- Psycholinguistics (First and Second Language Acquisition)
- English in Social Interaction
- Relational Work and Politeness Research
- Health Discourse

Literary and Cultural Studies

- English and Irish literature and culture since the Renaissance with a focus on literature and space, early modern drama, middlebrow writing and BrexLit
- 18th-21st century American Literature and Culture
- Aesthetics
- Post-colonial literatures and theory
- Literary, cultural, and media theory, Sound Studies





Research Projects

Of Cultural, Poetic, and Medial Alterity

Edward Sapir, Ruth Fulton Benedict, and Margaret Mead were three of the most influential anthropologists of the 20th century. Out of the three, it is Mead who has become famous for experimenting with media other than the standard ethnographic text, particularly photography and film. What is less well known is that together they wrote over 1000 poems, many of which engage with the objects of their anthropological investigations. Funded by the

Swiss National Science Foundation, this research project explored what

difference it makes whether one evokes other cultures in conventional ethnographic prose, in poetic language, or in films and photographs.

British Discourses of Europe

This research project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation from 2014 to 2017, analyzed twentieth-century British literary and cultural discourses of Europe. Since Britain finds itself, and places itself, on the margins of Europe, it is crucial to study British projections of Europe over time and the related constructions of national identity in fictions, travel writing and various other forms of cultural myth-making. Our research helped trace the 'road to Brexit' and proposes that we establish an Anglo-European Studies, both past and present.

Cultural Topographies

We study aspects of British and Irish literature and culture with a focus on space and place as well as discourses of



(national) identity and constructions of Englishness. MA-students can obtain an interdisciplinary certificate 'Cultural Topographies' as a means to highlight a spatial focus in their studies. In our research, we also focus on British literary and cultural discourses of Europe and Anglo-European relations, both contemporary and with a historical perspective.

Language and Health Online

This linguistic project investigated the e(lectronic)-health interaction in asynchronous, written computer-mediated communication: On the one hand we explored linguistic strategies of persuasion on health websites and peer-to-peer for dealing with smoking cessation; on the other hand we

studied the ways in which clients and counselors create a therapeutic alliance in e-mail counselling. Both sub-projects contribute to our understanding of how health discourse is negotiated on the Web.

Sensory Language and the Semantics of Taste (SenS, Semantik des Geschmacks)

This was an interdisciplinary project that involved linguists from the Institute for Applied Linguistics (ZHAW), the Universities of Basel and Zürich, and food scientists from the ETH. There are many linguistic pitfalls in the communication between food experts and the public (consumers). The aim of the pro-

... we aim for a better understanding of how contemporary notions of Europe have been shaped ...



ject was to analyze lexical use and meaning of German and English taste terms such as *crispy* and *crunchy*, for example. The analyses include focus group discussions with non-experts as well as naturally occurring corpus data in order to put together a lexicon which helps to bridge the gap between interlocutors from different fields.

Status Updates in Facebook

This project analysed language use in the profile pages and status updates of Facebook users from Switzerland and from

Great Britain. The aim of the project was to explore how users create identities through language, i.e., what 'acts of positioning'

they engage in, and how this practice is linked to relational work.

HyperHamlet

Structured as an open-accesshypertext, this collection of 10,000-plus quotations is a dictionary-in-progress which does not tell us where phrases come from but rather where phrases from Shakespeare's most famous play have gone.

ProDoc "Sprache als soziale und kulturelle Praxis"

Aiming to contribute to a better understanding of the intersectionality of language, sociality and culture, this project drew on concepts from sociology, anthropology, history and media studies while retaining a theoretical framework in linguistics.

Life (Beyond) Writing: Illness Narratives

The research project explored the social and cultural meanings of illness narratives and analyses their role and function in the literary, linguistic, and medical field. The dialogue established between the three different disciplines contributed to a more holistic approach to illness besides challenging more traditional concepts of health and illness.

Johanna Schüpbach, Subject Librarian (Anglophone Language and Literature, General Linguistics), University of Basel Library

When I first came to Basel, I was dead set on studying American Literature but couldn't imagine much else. Little did I know that my time at the English Department would bring me so much more, expand my horizon of interests, grow my love of stories, and generally exceed my wildest expectations.

My years spent as a student at the Department of English have not only sparked interests in different areas of study but also allowed me to explore a variety of subjects and discover new research fields. Eventually, I was actually more drawn to British literature!

I thoroughly enjoyed the immersive experience that the

Department's other offerings provided: As part of the Gay Beggars Drama Group I got to know a wholly different approach to working with texts and improving my spoken English; as a member of the student committee I helped organize events such as movie nights, Halloween and end-of-term parties; and as a student assistant I had the chance of gaining insight into the administrative, academic, and research-oriented processes at the Department.

I have also always greatly appreciated the fact that everyone was so approachable. The professors and teaching staff are always there for their students, and are happy to advise and provide guidance.

Studying at the English Department is a true privilege: the gorgeous rooms have always made the place feel warm and inviting. And I felt a bit of pride whenever I could show someone around the Department and would get comments like "Wow! This feels a bit like Hogwarts!"

I can only recommend soaking up all that the Department of English has to offer. There is so much going on – events, guest lectures, theatre performances, coffee/tea breaks, summer afternoons spent in the courtyard, excursions, and so much more – you won't regret it!

... Where have phrases from Shakespeare's most famous play gone? ...

... I thoroughly enjoyed the immersive experience that the Department provided...



Philippe Roesle, Deputy Head Bilateral Relations, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation

Studying English at the University of Basel challenged me to develop questions, while teaching me how to devise and evaluate answers. I was taught how to engage critically with words, texts and ideas. The freedom and independence I had with my individual timetable allowed me to pursue my own interests in a broad range of interdisciplinary topics, furthering my lateral thinking and encouraging me to approach and understand issues from various angles simultaneously.

... be open minded and get involved! ...

These skills were invaluable when I embarked on my PhD at King's College London and I still draw upon them in my current position

in the global context of Switzerland's science diplomacy.

My love for English literature really took off when I joined a student-led production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Bringing this text to life, together with like-minded students and friends, was an experience I still cherish. At the same time, I was attending a seminar on Shakespeare's comedies. It was this combination of practical and intellectual engagement with literary texts that triggered my profound interest in all things Early Modern.

So, I would advise every student at the English Department to be open-minded and to get involved! The combi-

nation of social activities as well as the intellectual environment at the Department of English is unrivalled. In Basel the world can be your oyster – there should be no limits to your curiosity and drive for knowledge. Make the most of the university's diversity – develop wide interests and pursue them. The diversity and broad range of the Department is fascinating and I would advise anybody to make the most of that opportunity in order to truly become an intellectual all-rounder.

Mobility and Going Abroad

Living abroad for a longer period of time is an invaluable experience in many respects. Not only is it an excellent way to improve your language skills, but, by being confronted with other points of view, other ways of life and other educational and political systems, you will also gain insights into a different culture as well as into your own.

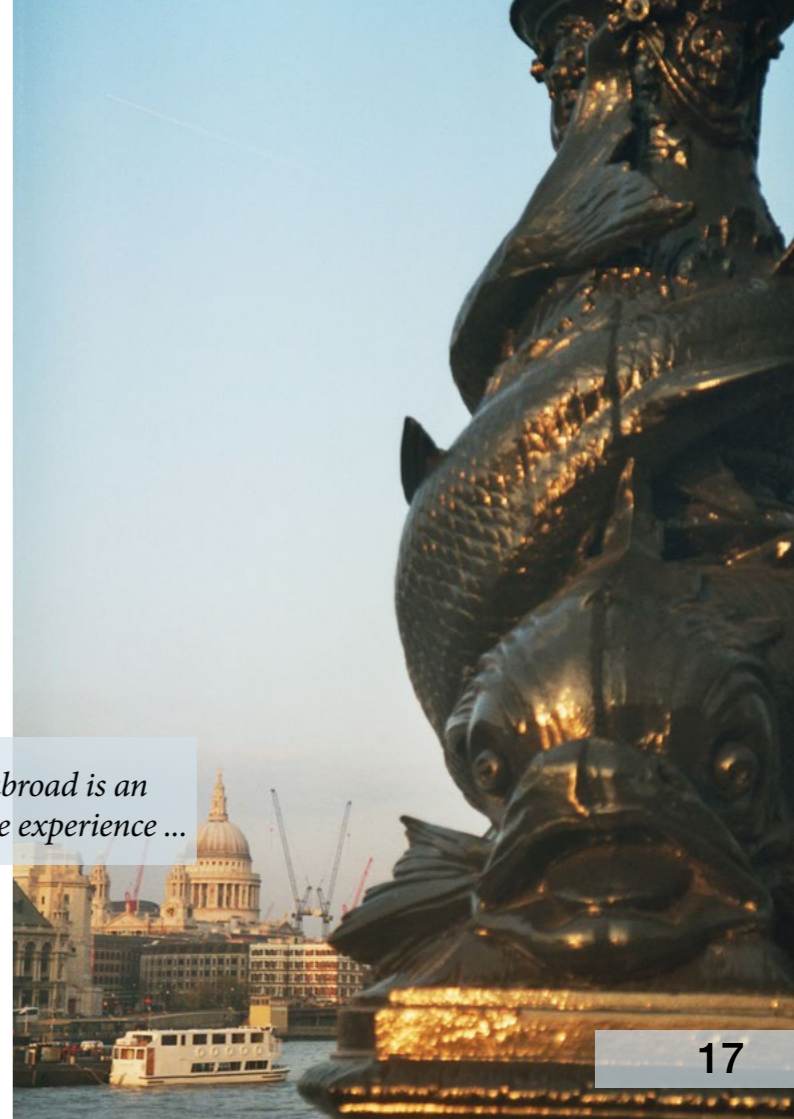
Although it is not compulsory for BA and MA level students who do not want to become teachers, we strongly recommend that you spend time abroad, either at university or teaching at a school. Apart from the academic exchange programme ERASMUS there is the possibility of working as an assistant teacher.

In English-speaking countries, the Department of English

currently has student exchanges with the Universities of Manchester, Cardiff, Stirling, Hong Kong, Virginia Tech and Central Oklahoma. There are also ERASMUS exchange possibilities with the Universities of Vienna, Orléans, Université Paris Diderot, Rennes 2, FU Berlin, LMU Munich, Università di Napoli, Olomouc, Torino and Warsaw. The university's Mobility Office can help you organize an exchange with further universities abroad.

As an assistant teacher of your native language, you can go to Great Britain for eight to nine months; or as an Amity Intern Teacher to the US for up to twelve months. This option of going abroad is especially attractive for aspiring school teachers.

... living abroad is an invaluable experience ...





Sibylle Bläsi, English Teacher, Kantonsschule Olten

I chose to study English because it has always fascinated me; as a teenager I enjoyed reading English literature and reflecting on language. Going to the U.S. as an exchange student turned out to be a momentous decision, allowing me to further develop my language competence and to gain insights into U.S. American culture. After graduating from grammar school I felt that studying English was the

... keep an open mind, take pleasure in what you do, and don't mind working hard ...

Basel appealed to me because it appeared to be an open-minded and culturally diverse city. It was perhaps not a

coincidence that some friends and relatives of mine also chose to study at the University of Basel.

Autonomy is an essential aspect of my current position as a teacher. During my studies at university I learnt to work independently, a skill I have substantially benefited from. Further skills that turned out to be useful encompass the ability to study a wide range of literary and theoretical texts from different periods; to write academic papers, i.e. to adequately express and organize thoughts by placing them in a theoretical framework; and to give presentations and interact with others.

I remember that my first semester at university was quite

a challenge – academia was indeed a new world compared to school! Of course it is advisable to plan your studies wisely. However, I also enjoyed the freedom of choosing lectures and seminars that truly interested me. Delving into the exciting universe of literary and theoretical texts allowed me to grow intellectually and personally. At the start of your studies you might not always find it easy to adjust to the new setting, but as time passes you will learn to master these challenges if you keep an open mind, take pleasure in what you do, and are willing to work hard (which is not necessarily a paradox).

Iris Wahlen Callegher, Communications Manager, Roche

I had always wanted to become a high-school teacher but ended up taking on a job in economics after my studies. I grew very fond of corporate communications and have been working in this area ever since.

The most important skill I learnt at university is to be able to think strategically and in complex ways; in literary studies I learnt to grasp concepts fully and view them from different angles. Linguistics helped me develop an affinity for intercultural communications and the playfulness of language: how to formulate and use the right sentences and words depending on which target audience you want to reach. I acquired academic skills that enable

me to do careful research. As a humanities person I feel that I gained a very broad knowledge of all sorts of fields and am thus able to reconsider and reflect on various topics.

It is definitely worthwhile studying a subject in the humanities because the industry does not only need economists. But before you choose English as your subject, you should make sure that you know what it means to study linguistics or literature, which are about more than becoming fluent in the English language.

I also recommend that students of English choose their second subject wisely; if you are interested in corporate communications, for exam-

ple, it can be useful to combine English with media studies or economics. All in all, philologists are definitely very well-equipped for a position in corporate communications.

I have very fond memories of studying at Basel. I enjoyed having the time to look at texts closely and to think about small but relevant details. The debates and conversations with fellow students and tutors were very fruitful and I am proud to have studied at the oldest university in Switzerland.

... philologists are definitely very well-equipped for a position in corporate communications ...



Career Prospects

The profiles of some of our graduates' current job positions distributed throughout this brochure are designed to give you an idea of the great variety of fields of work for which studying English at Basel prepares you.

A Bachelor's degree is not geared to a specific job but offers students the opportunity to acquire academic skills that are highly useful in a

wide variety of fields of work. Students are able to perform complex tasks in communication and administration

which are also important outside academia. They are confident both in speaking and writing in English, can read and analyze complex

texts critically, are skilled in obtaining crucial information and can interpret cultural phenomena methodically.

After successfully completing their Bachelor's degree, students with an interest in research can continue their studies with a Master's degree, possibly followed by a PhD and an academic career. Yet English Linguistics and Anglophone Literary and Cultural Studies also offer a much broader variety of career prospects. Becoming a teacher is one of the most popular choices: English teachers are required at all levels of the school system as well as in adult education. Many additional fields of work are open to graduates of English due to the wide range of skills they acquire during their studies: from the

professional analysis of texts to research competence and a high level of proficiency in spoken and written communication in English. These allow our students to take on jobs in various areas: the diplomatic corps, marketing, public relations, publishing houses, cultural institutions, any information or documentation services, newspapers, radio and television. Students are advised to think about their career choices and to get work experience while still at university.

... acquire academic skills that are highly useful in a wide variety of fields of work ...

Mariann Bühler, Writer and Literature Promoter

I knew English would be one of my subjects early on – and by that I mean primary school. Working in a literary field was my dream. When the Literaturhaus Basel was looking for an assistant I applied and actually got the job. I did everything from project and event management to public relations and fundraising and I got to know the literary scene intimately. One of my projects was “Sofalesungen” which brings public readings of young Swiss writers to private spaces. After five years the project had grown to eight cities and regions in the German and French speaking parts of Switzerland and I felt it was time to move on. An important reason for handing it off was a small voice in the back of my head that had become

louder and louder: I wanted to write. Encouraged by a grant I was awarded in 2018 I decided to take the plunge and focus on writing my first novel. I have been self-employed since mid 2019 and work as a moderator, copywriter and fundraiser while writing on the novel.

My first year at university was tough: the native speakers showed me what proper English was and academic texts turned out to be nothing like reading the odd novel in English. I had to rewrite my first paper and was extremely ashamed to have failed so terribly. But then I got the hang of it and things got easier and I met people who were equally crazy about British TV series and obscure vocabulary – we became lasting friends.

Reading and working with lots and lots of literary and critical texts and being familiar with literary genres and epochs is crucial to my job. The best preparation for any job in literature is to read, read, read. New, old, whatever interests you. Be curious, get into things: the really fascinating stuff is rarely on the surface. Attend readings, get to know people. Get to know the field working at a bookstore or a publishing house – or start your own reading series. Don't be disappointed if you don't get the “right job” immediately, try again – the right way may not be a straight line.

... the best preparation for any job in literature is to read, read, read ...



Social Activities

The Department of English has a very lively social life and several institutions that actively contribute to it.

The student committee's official duties revolve around university politics. As a student of the Department of English, you are automatically a member of the committee and are allowed to participate; the committee is kept up-to-date on all goings-on at the department and holds general student assemblies once a semester where all

students meet and are invited to voice their concerns.

The committee also organizes a number of parties and events. Regular movie nights are one of its most well-known activities and its

yearly summer barbeque or its Halloween parties have become very popular. See also <http://english.philhist.unibas.ch/en/about-us/student-association>

The Gay Beggars is an independent non-professional theatre company which specializes in the production of plays written in English. Founded by students of the Department of English in 1941, the Gay Beggars have managed to keep up the long-standing tradition of staging at least one play a year. The late Professor Rudolf Stamm instigated their use of the marvellous Cellar Theatre, which opened in 1969. In addition to the annual performances in the Cellar Theatre, there have been many performances in other venues in Switzerland and Europe.



People with an insatiable interest in theatre and a reasonably good command of the English language are very welcome to look in and join the Gay Beggars. Though quite demanding and time-consuming, theatre work with the Gay Beggars offers you a brilliant opportunity to get involved in a rewarding activity and get to know other students. For more information, please visit: www.gaybeggars.ch

The English Seminar Choir was founded in 1989 by Allan Turner, then a lecturer at the University of Basel. Thanks to his profound knowledge of the English choral repertoire, as well as his dedication to this "hobby", the choir thrived and grew to become an integral part of the university and of Basel's cultural

life. The choir is open to all singing enthusiasts, students as well as non-students. For more information, please visit: www.esc-basel.ch



... get involved in a rewarding activity and get to know other students ...



Laurenz Bolliger, Literary Editor-at-Large

English had always been full of promise for me – for as long as I can remember. It was the language of jazz and rock music and of some of my favorite authors. I liked many places in the world where it was spoken. As it were, some of my favorite food was English, too. Hamburgers, fish and chips, beans on toast, bacon and egg. So, I enlisted. And I never looked back in anger.

Why Basel? It is my home town and one of the most beautiful cities I know. It is cozy and easy-going and open-minded. Today, I live in Berlin, which is less cozy, of course, but admittedly great fun and a swell place to be.

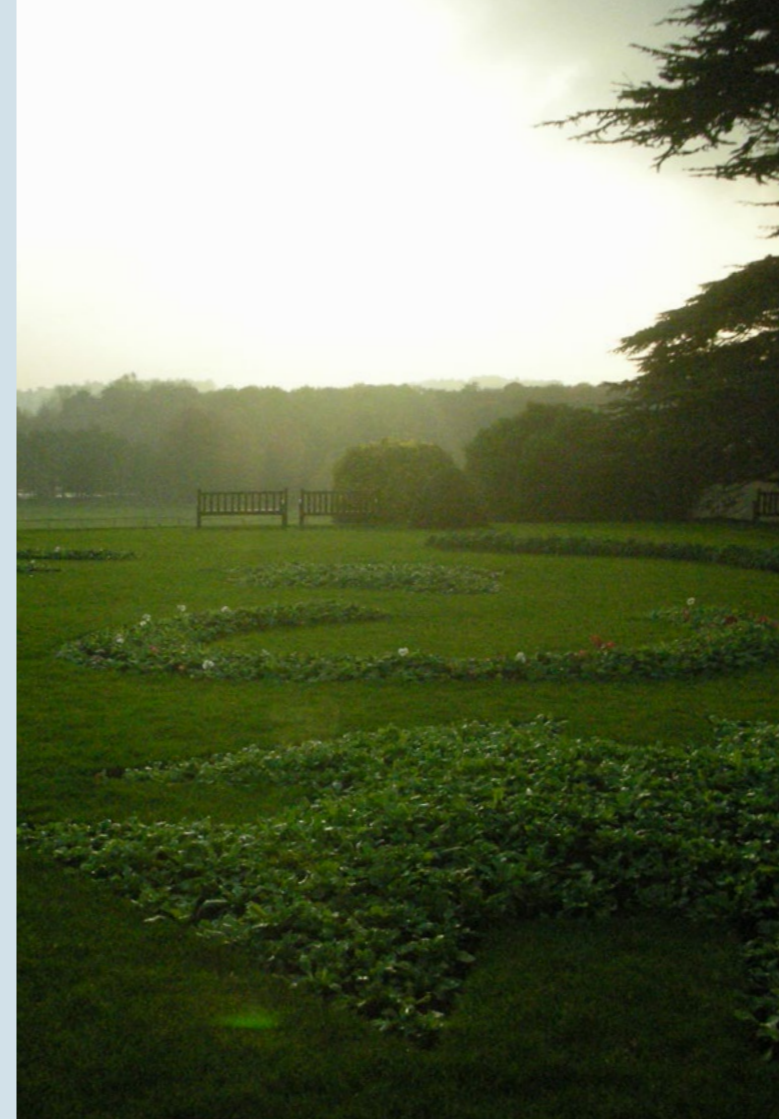
I only found out two years after finishing my studies what I wanted to do for a living. I had meandered and traveled and cycled around, tried this and that. Then, one day, I asked myself a simple question: Why don't I try to do what I like most and earn a living by doing it? I applied as an editor. It was rather naïve, but it was the right direction. The initial steps were muddy and uncomfortable, but once I was on my way, things fell into place. You don't need to be an Indian guru or Jimmy Cliff to know that "you can get it if you really want" – even if it means to sweat for a while.

My advice to students: Try to do as many internships as you can. Read, read, read. Never

tire to be enthusiastic. And don't be snobby.

Studying was wonderful. We were the luckiest people. The Department of English was our secret garden, our fountain of youth, our stage, our clubhouse and our home. We were happy. We had, in short, a jolly good time.

... we had, in short, a jolly good time ...



Useful Links and Addresses

University of Basel
Petersplatz 1
CH-4051 Basel
<http://unibas.ch>

Fachgruppe Englisch
<http://english.philhist.unibas.ch/en/about-us/student-association>

Student Services /
Studiensekretariat
+41 61 207 30 23
<https://unibas.ch/de/Studiensekretariat.html>

The Gay Beggars Drama
Group
<http://www.gaybeggars.ch>

Student Advice Centre /
Studienberatung Basel
Steinengraben 5
CH-4051 Basel
studienberatung@unibas.ch
<https://studienberatung.unibas.ch>

Faculty of Humanities /
Philosophisch-Historische
Fakultät
Bernoullistrasse 28
CH-4056 Basel
<http://philhist.unibas.ch/>



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PETER
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