



Could Postgraduate Studies be for you? DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES

DID YOU KNOW...

A typical degree result for students applying to do a Master's is a good 2.1.

Master's degrees are not just for students determined to pursue an academic career. For every Master's graduate who decides to undertake a PhD, two others leave higher education (to work in the media, business, PR, teaching, the civil service...)

Masters graduates are more employable. They have more experience working independently on complex problems, and are skilled at communicating their own perspective.

Master's graduates typically earn significantly more (30-40%) than first-degree graduates.¹

¹Government statistics on the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education for 2005 (the most recent data available) lists the average salary of full-time, first degree leavers who entered full-time employment as £17,697. For Master's graduates the equivalent figure was £24,428 (38% higher). This accords with international trends. A recent survey of 498 employers in North America and Asia reports that 95% seek to actively recruit employees with a graduate qualification. The 2007 QS International Recruiter Survey indicates that the Master's 'earnings premium' (difference in salary between an employee with a first degree and a graduate qualification) varies by field, but is typically 30-50%. 'Although the investment for many students is high in terms of both tuition fees and opportunity costs, the return is clear – a graduate degree really does pay dividends.'

(Source: 'Making graduate degrees pay: salary benefits for Masters and PhD candidates', October 2007, www.topuniversities.com/gradschool)

There are two types of Master's degrees:

- < Taught Master's programmes involve seminars and coursework, but at a higher level than undergraduate studies. Seminar discussion is more lively, challenging and intimate (groups of 5-10). The degree culminates in a Master's dissertation, written during the Summer.
- < Research Master's students pursue their own research independently, under the guidance of a supervisor. (At Stirling, this is the M.Res in Humanities – History also offers an M.Res.)

Both kinds of degree may be taken as a prelude to a PhD, but need not be; both are valuable qualifications in their own right.

In the Department of English Studies, taught MLitt degrees last one year, but can be taken on a part-time basis over two years.

By the part-time route, the time commitment is around 3 hours per week in class (this can

be done mainly during evenings, on some programmes).

Tuition fees are £3315 per year for Home/EU students (2008/09). Part-time students spread this cost over two years.

On a competitive basis, the department offers bursaries worth £1000 to Master's students.

It costs nothing to apply, and being offered a place carries no financial obligation.

You can apply at any time throughout the year, but must have been offered a place on a Stirling course to apply for our departmental bursaries.

The 2008 Research Assessment Exercise found that the Department of English Studies enjoys 'internationally excellent esteem', and that our research culture 'supports research activity of an internationally excellent quality.'

For further information about our individual Master's degrees, please contact a member of the Department or see the [webpage below](#).

<http://www.english.stir.ac.uk/postgraduate/index.php>