Choose from specializations in American literature; British literature; comparative and world literature; film, literature, and visual culture; and interdisciplinary studies
MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE

The part-time graduate program in creative writing provides students the opportunity to grow as artists within the specializations of fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction.

Success in any career field depends not just on mastering the technical training specific to that field but also on the critical thinking skills that are best gained from literature.

Master of Arts in Literature (MALit) program students engage in advanced literary study and grapple with the thought and creative vision of the world’s most remarkable minds: rediscovering and mastering classic texts while exploring exciting, contemporary works, diverse genres and cutting-edge ideas in narrative form and interpretation.

Graduates of this broad and stimulating intellectual program develop improved abilities to analyze complex information, challenge assumptions, weigh competing considerations and reach effective solutions.

By dissecting the ideas and creative vision of the world’s greatest writers, students can sharpen analytical and writing skills in preparation for application to PhD programs and build critical thinking and communication skills needed for success in diverse professional areas from advertising to law. For secondary-school teachers, the MALit program can create a competitive edge by deepening literary subject knowledge — a key distinction between the MALit program and more general graduate programs in education.

Seminar-style, small group discussions — not traditional lectures — form the core experience of the MALit program. Guided by distinguished Northwestern faculty, courses are designed around weekly readings drawn from a range of literary genres and periods, as well as critical and theoretical works. Explore classic and contemporary works as well as insights about literary form, narrative and meaning, and the shifting cultural contexts in which literary art is produced.

Written responses to course readings, along with valuable feedback from professors, can significantly elevate and refine students’ writing skills — even those with prior professional or creative writing experience.
Students must complete nine courses to complete their Master of Arts in Literature degree. Students must complete one core course (LIT 410 Introduction to Graduate Study), seven elective courses and a capstone project. Students may take elective courses that cover such topics as comparative literary studies, English, French and Italian, Slavic languages and literatures, and theatre.

**CORE COURSE** *(1 COURSE)*  
• LIT 410 Introduction to Graduate Study

**SPECIALIZATIONS**  
Students who wish to lend more structure to their MALit experience can elect to complete a specialization in:  
• American literature  
• British literature  
• Comparative and world literature  
• Film, literature and visual culture  
• Interdisciplinary studies  
A specialization may be especially beneficial to educators, students who are thinking of going on to a PhD program, or anyone who wants to focus their literary study more precisely. Students complete four thematically linked courses for a specialization.

**CAPSTONE PROJECT** *(1 COURSE)*  
Students sign up for the final course in the program during the term in which they start their master’s thesis. The capstone project for the MALit program is an essay of 45 to 75 double-spaced pages written under the supervision of an approved faculty member. The project presents an opportunity to research and explore a topic thoroughly. Students often elect to expand a seminar paper from a previous course. With the approval of the program director, students may create an interdisciplinary final project rather than a traditional thesis.

**ELECTIVES** *(7 COURSES)*  
Students may take elective courses that cover such topics as comparative literary studies, English, French and Italian, Slavic languages and literatures, and theatre. See sps.northwestern.edu/malit for details and course listings.  
• IPLS 401 Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad  
• IPLS 402 Asian Religions in Lit & Film  
• IPLS 492 Millennial Masculinities  
• IPLS 492 Loving the Child  
• IPLS 492 New Documentary Film  
• LIT 405 20th C British & American Lit  
• LIT 405 Topics: 1890s British Lit  
• LIT 405 Virtues/Vice - Renaissance Lit  
• LIT 405 20th C Lit: Joyce and Woolf  
• LIT 405 Grief and Mourning - Brit Lit.  
• LIT 405 Reading Romantic Poetry  
• LIT 405 Henry James and Film  
• LIT 405 Can You Have Good Without God?  
• LIT 405 Reading Romantic Poems  
• LIT 405 Representing the Psyche  
• LIT 405 Experiments with Verse  
• LIT 405 Victorian Travel & Crime  
• LIT 405 Anglo-American Mysteries  
• LIT 405 Liberty in Western Drama  
• LIT 480 Comp Lit: Fictions of the City  
• LIT 480 Lit. and Cultures of 1968  
• LIT 480 Feminism as Cultural Critique  
• LIT 480 Indochina and Duras  
• LIT 480 Postmodern Film  
• LIT 480 Love and Sexuality - Comp Lit  
• LIT 480 The Novel Novel  
• LIT 480 An Exploration of German Film  
• LIT 492 Topics in Lit: The Jazz Age  
• LIT 492 19th-C American Lit Culture  
• LIT 492 Topics: Proust  
• LIT 492 In the Heart of the City  
• LIT 492 Founding Terrors  
• LIT 492 Mysteries of Cities - Amer Lit  
• LIT 492 Travelers, Exiles, and Expats  
• LIT 492 Poetics of African Amer. Lit.  
• LIT 492 Race, Space & Place in Chicago  
• LIT 492 Contemporary Adaptation  
• LIT 492 Lit of Amer. Century & After
Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution or its foreign equivalent. A competitive undergraduate record that indicates strong academic ability is required, though applicants need not have extensive experience in literary studies. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required, but strong scores bolster chances for admission. Visit sps.northwestern.edu/malit for more information.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

• Online application — access from sps.northwestern.edu/malit and then click “Start Application Process.”
• $75 nonrefundable application fee
• Sealed copies of official transcripts from ALL attended colleges and universities.
• Official transcripts must arrive in our office in the original sealed envelope issued by the institution. Northwestern University School of Professional Studies accepts electronic transcripts from U.S. institutions via secure electronic transcript providers. Consult with your institution to see if they are part of a secure e-delivery network. All electronic transcripts should be sent to spsadmissions@northwestern.edu. Please note transcripts are not accepted by fax or personal email.
• Applicants with international transcripts must request an official course-by-course evaluation of transcripts from a NACES member such as WES or ECE. A course-by-course evaluation will translate courses, degrees and grades to U.S. equivalency.
• Two letters of recommendation focusing on academic achievement and writing ability
• Statement of purpose (see following)
• Writing sample (see following)
• Current resume or curriculum vitae

Statement of Purpose: Applicants must submit a 300-word statement of purpose explaining how the degree program will help them meet their academic goals. Applicants who did not major in the humanities should explain how other experiences, academic and nonacademic, have prepared them to undertake graduate course work in the humanities.

The Writing Sample: The writing sample is a brief critical paper that demonstrates the ability to evaluate and analyze a literary text. It should not exceed 10 pages and should contain the following:

• A clearly articulated argument with a clear and concise support for that argument
• Documentation of quoted material and acknowledgement of ideas taken from the works of others

TUITION

• 2015-16 Tuition per course: $3,030
• Estimated cost for entire program: $27,270

For detailed admission information visit sps.northwestern.edu/malit
For application assistance call 312-503-2579 or email mals@northwestern.edu.

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<th>Application Deadlines</th>
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<td>Applications are accepted every quarter.</td>
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<td>FALL: July 15</td>
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“...I worked closely with esteemed faculty and learned how to polish my writing and craft my argument.”

John Kerpan (MALit ’14), winner of SPS 2014 Distinguished Thesis Award for Literature

“A lot of teachers choose education to do their graduate work because it seems easier or more practical. But in the MALit program I was truly challenged, and I loved showing my students that I was like them — reading, writing papers and balancing school with life. I found new ways of thinking about the novels I teach my students, and my thesis on literature and race prepared me for the Fulbright application process.”

Jessica Stovall (MALit ’13), teacher, awarded Fulbright Scholarship in 2014
Feed your brain

MALIT | MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE