Welcome!

Welcome to the Department of English at the University of Innsbruck!

Founded in 1898, our department is one of the oldest English departments in Austria. The department currently has about 900 students and offers the following courses of study:

- BA
- MA
- Lehramt
- PhD

In addition to the traditional fields of English studies (literature, linguistics, culture, and language training), members of our department specialise in post-colonial and cultural studies, bi- and multilingualism, and corpus linguistics. We particularly take note of the global role of the English language, and, in addition to Great Britain, we also include the numerous other Anglophone countries around the world in our teaching and research. For future teachers the department offers a variety of courses and modules in cooperation with IMoF (Innsbrucker Modell der Fremdsprachendidaktik). Our students are encouraged to participate in one of the many exchange programmes with universities in and outside Europe.

All of our courses are held in English and taught by highly skilled and committed lecturers. Students are also supported by the student representatives on departmental and faculty levels. A degree in English will equip you with a wide range of skills which can be flexibly applied to many occupations. As a student in our department, you will not only learn to communicate competently in English, but also to think critically and independently.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon!
On behalf of the other members of the Department of English

O.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. Wolfgang Zach
Head, Department of English
Your Studies

BA, MA, Lehramt, PhD

If you wish to study English at the University of Innsbruck, you can choose from a variety of programmes offered jointly by the English Department and the Department of American Studies: BA Anglistik und Amerikanistik, MA Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Lehramt (Englisch) and Doktoratsstudium.

The BA programme (6 semesters, 180 ECTS credit points) covers five main areas of study: Basics, Language Skills and Awareness, Linguistics, Literature, and Culture.

The MA programme (4 semesters, 120 ECTS credit points) includes the following areas of study: Advanced Language Studies, English Linguistics and Culture, English Literature and Culture, and American Literature and Culture.

BA and MA graduates of English and American Studies can go into many different kinds of employment, including publishing, journalism, public administration, tourism, public relations and adult education.

If you are considering becoming a teacher of English at an Austrian AHS or BHS, however, you need to study Lehramt: this programme takes 9 semesters and, in addition to English, includes a second subject plus pedagogical and methodological training (teacher training). At the end of your studies, you will be awarded the degree of Magister/Magistra.

If you wish to continue your studies after the MA or Mag. degree, you can choose between two doctoral programmes offered by the Faculty of Humanities II (Language and Literature): Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft and Sprach- und Medienwissenschaft.

Pre-service Teacher Education and Training

Are you thinking of becoming a teacher of English? Do you feel you can take up the challenge? That you have the idealistic commitment? We teach courses on the theory, principles and practice of teaching English as a foreign language. We offer a wide range of principled methodological approaches and procedures. We specialize in multilingual learning, creative lesson planning, and testing and assessment. Our courses are administered by IMoF - the Innsbrucker Modell der Fremdsprachendidaktik, internationally recognized as a centre for research into foreign language acquisition and testing/assessment.
Language Skills and Competences

Why learn English? For career purposes? To travel the world? To be able to understand English songs and literature? Or is it a combination of all these aspects?

Whatever the reason, this degree course will help you to achieve an excellent overall command of this world language. This includes being able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, as well as being able to mediate through translation and interpreting. The skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking will be mastered at an advanced level.

Being able to communicate effectively also requires an awareness of how language works in practice in a variety of social, cultural and communicative contexts. While stressing practical knowledge and skills, our degree course promotes an understanding and appreciation of English as part of our European and global cultural heritage.

Linguistics

Have you ever wondered what distinguishes human language from animal communication? Why learning a foreign language is so much harder than acquiring one's mother tongue? Or why the pronunciation of English words seems so unpredictable? Linguistics, i.e. the scientific study of language, provides answers to these and many more fascinating questions.

Linguistics studies the sounds of a language (phonology), its words (lexicology), its sentence structure (syntax), how language is used to express meaning (semantics) and its usage in everyday situations (pragmatics). But the range of the field is much broader: Linguists help to solve crimes (forensic linguistics), help people with language disorders (neurolinguistics), illustrate the role of regional varieties (dialectology), highlight the important relationship between language and society (sociolinguistics) and work on the automated translation of texts (computational linguistics).

In short, linguistics helps us to understand how people communicate or why they may fail to do so. You will certainly be surprised to learn about the great variety of issues that can be raised and answered within this branch of philology.

Literary Studies

Why do human beings produce literature? What makes a text a literary text? Is literature always written down? What can we find in a literary work? How are we affected by literature and how is literature affected by us?

A literary work is always more than what we make of it, which is one of the reasons why the study of literature is such a fascinating discipline. Literature gives you a glimpse into distant worlds and helps you experience other cultures – cultures that may be similar but also different to your own. Reading literature offers you opportunities to imagine what it is like being someone else – someone living in a far-away place, in an age long past, or even in the future – and it invites you to look at the world from many perspectives.

In studying British and other Anglophone literatures you will be investigating phenomena of cultural development, contact, exchange and conflict from a variety of angles. You will be studying literary genres, literary theories, literary criticism, and literary history to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the complexity and wealth of English literatures – an understanding that will enable you to say not only why you like a text or why you don’t, but also help you explain how texts work to produce certain effects and meanings.

Cultural Studies

Why is British culture so global? In what ways are the British different from other Europeans? How did the United Kingdom become the conglomerate of nations it is today?

Questions like these are topics for discussion in cultural studies, which are an essential part of your curricula in English and American Language and Literature. In this field of your study you will be analysing texts and other relevant media and be dealing with concepts such as “identity”, “nationality”, “gender”, “ethnicity”, and “class” and how these have changed in Britain and other Anglophone cultures over the past decades.
Socrates / Erasmus Exchange Programme

Socrates / Erasmus for Lifelong Learning

Socrates / Erasmus is an exchange programme funded by the European Commission, which gives students in higher education the opportunity to study in another European country for a period of three to twelve months. Special features of this programme are:

- study grants
- no tuition fees to be paid at the partner university
- full recognition of courses taken at the partner university

Socrates/Erasmus gives you the unique chance to enrich your education and also broaden your horizons. When living and studying in another European country, you will see new places and cultures, improve your language skills, and encounter fellow students from all over the world – a lifetime experience.

Our Department has established exchange programmes with its counterparts at other European universities. Currently, there are exchanges with institutions in Great Britain (Birmingham City University, Nottingham Trent University, University of Wales, Bangor), in Malta (University of Malta), in Denmark (Copenhagen Business School) and Italy (University of Verona, University of Lecce). For the most up-to-date information regarding these exchanges, please check with our Department or see our link at http://wwwuibk.ac.at/anglistik/studiesabroad/
Student Representatives

Student Representatives (Studienvertretung - StV)
of the Department of English and the Department of American Studies

The Student Representatives of the Department of English and the Department of American Studies are elected biannually at the Students’ Union (Österreichische Hochschülerschaft - ÖH) elections.

We undertake a range of activities and provide a valuable link between the student body and academic staff. In addition to our student advisory service, one of our main tasks involves the representation of our students’ interests in various university commissions to ensure that students’ views are heard. We also try to build a sense of community by organising social events.

The Student Representatives can be contacted at any time concerning study-related issues. If you have any questions, queries or comments, feel free to e-mail us at: StV-Anglistik-Amerikanistik-oeh@uibk.ac.at.

Also come and take advantage of our student advisory service; times are put up before the beginning of each semester.

We wish you all the best for your studies and look forward to helping and supporting you with any of your study-related needs!

Your Student Representatives

Job Opportunities

Recent graduates have found employment in the fields of...

- Academia
- Advertising
- Broadcasting
- Editing
- Event Management
- Journalism
- Librarianship
- Marketing
- Proofreading
- Public Relations
- Publishing
- Teaching
- Tourism
- Translation
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We wish to thank our sponsors: