Literary Studies

About this area of study

Literary Studies represents an interdisciplinary and theoretically oriented field of study. As a field of enquiry, Literary Studies introduces students to the long-established traditions and varied practices of literary texts, in the context of their cultural production and reception. Literary Studies draws on complementary disciplines of anthropology, philosophy, psychology, history and linguistics. In examining the ways in which different texts have been produced and received over the years, students develop high valued skills in analysis of complex material, oral and written communication, and specialist knowledge towards the use of language, narrative and representation in the organisation of ideas. These skills are readily transferable to many professions and therefore, are highly valued by employers.

Literary Studies graduates are intellectually trained for any position requiring critical thinking, conceptual analysis and research skills. As Literary Studies constitutes an interdisciplinary field of study, it is highly relevant for those considering a career in education, editing and publishing, journalism, cultural institutions, media, research institutes and the public service. Consequently a bachelor degree represents the necessary pre-requisite for most avenues of employment. To gain national accreditation in education or cultural and museum based professions, candidates generally require further postgraduate academic qualifications.

Key skills that Literary Studies graduates demonstrate include

- Highly developed interpretive and analytical skills
- Good comprehension and attention to detail
- Skills in research methods
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Knowledge of referencing and information systems
- Ability to engage in a reflective and interdisciplinary perspective

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Arts (with a Literary Studies major)

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

- Teaching
- Journalist
- Museum curator, archivist or cultural officer
- Conference producer
- Policy adviser, research assistant or information officer
- Librarian

Employers

Fairfax www.fairfax.com.au

Pacific Magazines www.pacificmagazines.com.au

Harper Collins www.harpercollins.com.au

Allen and Unwin www.allenandunwin.com

Working Title Press www.workingtitlepress.com.au

SBS www.sbs.com.au

Edit Force www.editforce.com.au

Australian Government www.apsjobs.gov.au

State Government www.careers.vic.gov.au

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Freelance writing www.freelancer.com.au

Arts Hub Australia www.artshub.com.au

Graduate Opportunities www.graduateopportunities.com

Uni Grad www.unigrad.com.au

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment www.asle-anz.asn.au

Association for the Study of Australian Literature www.asaliterature.com

Australian Society of Archivists www.archivists.org.au

Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance www.alliance.org.au

Australian Centre for Independent Journalism www.acij.uts.edu.au

Australian Press Council www.presscouncil.org.au

Society of Editors (Victoria) www.socedvic.org

Playwriting Australia www.pwa.org.au

Australian Writers' Guild www.awg.com.au

Australian Society of Authors www.asauthors.org

Australian Publishers Association www.publishers.asn.au

Magazine Publishers of Australia www.magazines.org.au