

English Literature at De Montfort University (DMU) - Employability Skills

While you are learning about literature, theory, film and adaptation studies you may not be considering how your work on these topics will help you in your career after graduation.

However, studying English teaches a range of transferable skills that make English graduates extremely employable and sought after in the workplace. Humanities students often go on to forge successful careers in a range of industries, including those that you might not immediately associate with English and the Humanities.

Did you know?

- Oscar winning director **Steven Spielberg** learnt the art of storytelling by studying English at university.
- The former CEO of the **Walt Disney Company** specialised in English and theatre at university.
- **Google employs 4,000-5,000 Humanities graduates:** Damon Horowitz, Director of Engineering at Google (with a PhD in Philosophy) says: "You go into the humanities to pursue your intellectual passion; and it just so happens, as a by-product, that you emerge as a desired commodity for industry".
- **DMU's English graduates** have gone on to work in a range of careers including banking, the civil service, marketing, public relations, publishing and teaching.

Studying English Literature at DMU gives you the opportunity to learn a number of key workplace skills that you can apply to a variety of careers.

Reading skills:

- Reading and comprehending information quickly.
- Thinking critically about what you are reading.
- Expanding and synthesising your knowledge by reading secondary sources.
- The ability to think, reflect, and judge independently.

Time Management skills:

- The ability to organise your time to complete all the reading before your week's workshops.
- Planning your time effectively to research and write longform essays.

Interpersonal skills:

- Expressing your thoughts and opinions clearly and effectively.
- Listening to the ideas of others and using them to develop and expand your own opinions.
- Negotiation skills: the ability to listen, compromise and agree.
- The ability to work as part of a team.
- Creative and innovative thinking and idea formulation.

Research skills:

- Sourcing relevant information.
- Compiling diverse information to create a coherent document.
- Recognising the most important information.

Problem-Solving skills:

- The ability to recognise your strengths.
- Approaching situations in multiple different ways.
- Using research to make informed decisions and construct persuasive arguments.

Written Communication skills:

- The ability to express your ideas and thoughts clearly and coherently.
- Creating and sustaining arguments.
- Correct use of grammar and an overall good standard of written communication.
- The ability to think and express your ideas creatively.

Independent Working skills:

- The ability to set yourself tasks and complete them before deadlines.
- Self-motivation.
- Note-taking and the ability to recognise the most important information in a discussion.

Editing skills:

- The ability to recognise the most important aspects of your argument.
- The ability to omit information that does not strengthen your work.
- Excellent proofreading skills.

Whatever career you choose after graduation, the skills you develop during your English Literature degree at DMU will be vital. The ability to communicate effectively and push ideas in a creative way are unique skills that are well sought after in the workplace.

