

Requirements for admission – MA in English

To be accepted for the MA program the student must possess:

- a) A BA in English (*spécialisé* or *majeure*) from the Université de Montréal, with a grade-point average of at least 3.3, or an equivalent degree from another university. The student should have taken at least 1 advanced undergraduate course in each of the following fields:
 - 19th-century British literature
 - 19th-century American literature
 - 20th-century British literature
 - 20th-century Canadian literature
 - 20th-century American literature
- b) Aptitude for advanced literary studies, which the Department will evaluate in the light of the following materials (submitted in English), which should be sent with the application:
 - 3 letters of reference
 - Undergraduate grades
 - A letter of intent (1-2 pages)
 - A 10-20 page writing sample
- c) Students who have not taken courses in all the above-mentioned areas, or whose preparation is otherwise considered inadequate, may be required to do additional course work. If no more than 2 extra courses (6 credits) are required, they are considered "complementary" and do not affect the time limit for completing the program.

If more than 2 courses are required, they are called "preparatory," and extra time is allowed to complete them.

The MA *avec mémoire* or *travail dirigé* is a prerequisite for doctoral studies. The MA with stage provides training for a variety of occupations in the fields of culture, publishing, public relations, and CEGEP teaching. Students in this option benefit from both academic and professional supervision. The MA *avec stage* is not considered a preparatory degree for doctoral studies.

Equivalences: Degrees taken in English-language universities

BA honours: the usual BA honours degree, generally involving 20 or more courses (60 credits) in English, will be acceptable for admission to the MA provided the student has taken prerequisite courses in literature equivalent to those offered in the Université de Montréal program.

BA with major in English: this degree will be acceptable for admission to the MA if the student has at least 42 credits in English, including the equivalent prerequisite courses.

BA general or BA minor in English: students will be expected to have taken at least 18 credits in English and 18 in related fields. Those students will normally have to take a full year of work at the undergraduate level.

Regulations for the MA degree

All types (*avec mémoire / avec travail dirigé ou avec stage*)

Passing mark

The passing mark for each course is C; a minimum grade-point average of 2.7 must be maintained for course work as a whole. Failure in more than 2 courses results in the dismissal of a student from the program. After failing a course, a student may take the same course again if it is offered, replace the failed course by a different course, or redo some or all of the work of the original course. The maximum grade for the re-taken failed course or its replacement is C (Article 56). Penalties for plagiarism are detailed in the [Règlement disciplinaire sur le plagiat ou la fraude concernant les étudiants](#).

Required course

All MA students are required to take [ANG 6032](#) (*Modern Literary Theory*).

Time limit

A full-time student must complete all requirements for the degree in 6 terms (2 years). A half-time student has 9 terms (3 years). This limit may be extended by 1 or 2 terms for students who are required to take "preparatory courses." Upon request, and with the recommendation of the research supervisor, a student may be granted an extension of 1 year.

Students may seek permission to suspend their registration for up to 3 terms; time spent in suspension does not count toward the 6 or 9 terms time limit.

All students are registered in the MA without thesis in the 1st instance. Those who would like to write a thesis need to submit their thesis proposal, bibliography and sample chapter before the end of their 2nd term.

The MA degree

The MA degree with thesis ("*avec mémoire*") or "*travail dirigé*" is a normal pre-requisite for doctoral studies. The MA with internship ("*avec stage*") provides training for a variety of occupations in the fields of culture, publishing, public relations, and CEGEP teaching. Students in this option benefit from both academic and professional supervision. The MA with internship ("*avec stage*") is not considered a preparatory degree for doctoral studies.

All students are registered in in the MA without thesis in the 1st instance. Those who would like to write a thesis need to submit their thesis proposal before the end of the 2nd term.

MA with thesis

Course work

One year of full-time study or 2 years of half-time study, during which time students should complete 15 credits. Upon completion of all required course work, students are registered *en*

réduction de mémoire.

Thesis

A student must secure a director for his or her thesis **before the end of the 1st term**. The head of the English Studies Section and/or the director of graduate studies will counsel students about potential directors when they enter the program.

The thesis project accompanied by a preliminary bibliography and a 20-25 page chapter must be submitted **before the end of the 2nd term**. Students receive 3 credits for researching their project. The 2-page, single-space research proposal (prepared according to [SSHRC](#) requirements), accompanied by the Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales (FESP) form [Enregistrement du sujet de recherche](#), a 3-5 page preliminary bibliography and the chapter are evaluated by the Graduate Studies Committee, which may require revisions before approving the proposal.

For best results, students should maintain close contact with their thesis director, reporting regularly on their progress. The thesis is an initiation to research, therefore 75 to 100 well-argued pages are normally sufficient. For correct formatting of the thesis, please consult the University's guidelines in the [Guide de présentation des mémoires et des thèses](#).

A full-time student registered in the thesis option should be able to receive the degree after 4 or 5 terms in the Department. After completion, the thesis is evaluated by a jury of 3 professors (including the student's supervisor), and defended orally.

MA thesis with a creative component

With approval from the Graduate Studies Committee and the support of their supervisor, students can include a creative component in their MA thesis. Their creative work can constitute up to 50% of the thesis. The balance of the thesis discusses the creative work and/or provides a theoretical or literary critical complement.

The sample chapter for a creative MA thesis can be a piece of creative writing as long as the place of that writing within the thesis is clearly delineated in the proposal. The proposal follows the usual 2-page structure and makes clear both the conceptual/theoretical framework for the thesis and the relationship of that framework to the creative writing.

MA with *travail dirigé* or *stage*

Travail Dirigé

Twenty-four credits of course work and a minimum of 1 year of full-time study or the equivalent at half-time. Most students will need another term to complete the course work.

The student will revise and expand one term paper written for one of his or her courses. The paper should be given to the Graduate Secretary. The Graduate Committee will appoint 2 professors for the evaluation (one of whom is the professor for whom the essay was originally written). The revision of the paper is meant to bring it up to a professional level, at or near publication quality. It should run 25 to 30 pages, be well-focused, develop a clear and coherent argument, reflect the important relevant scholarship, and respect MLA Handbook guidelines for documentation.

Stage

Twenty-four credits of course work, and a minimum of 1 year of full-time study or the equivalent at half time. Fifteen credits for the *stage* and 6 credits for the student's written report on the stage. Most students will need an additional term to complete the course work. A student's written request to do a 15-week *stage* must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee by the end of the 2nd term.

The internship is normally completed within 1 term. The student is supervised by a faculty member and a professional from the site of the internship. The duties of the intern and the responsibilities of the host are set out in a contract signed by all parties. The professional supervisor submits an evaluation of the intern's performance. After completing the internship, the intern submits a report, both descriptive and analytical, of the internship experience. The report is evaluated by the academic supervisor and the other faculty member.

[Consult the Graduate Student's Guide for more information.](#)