What to do with a degree in ... ENGLISH

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

Career & Leadership Development Centre

dal.ca/cldc
Overview of Major and Job options

Why Study English?

English fosters the development of various skills: it requires students to think, and to use language with clarity, judgement, and imagination. Exploring texts raises questions about how literature relates to history, philosophy, politics, religion, and fine arts. The value of English Studies therefore, can be discovered in the largest currents of culture, and the smallest nuances of language. [Dalhousie Department of English]

Like many degrees, an English degree does not prepare you for a single career path. Instead it provides you many options. The career options available to you will likely depend on what transferable skills you have developed, and your career interests and goals. When considering where to start keep in mind your concentration (Literature, Creative Writing, etc.), any significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

Though you can end up in a variety of jobs with this degree the skills you have developed may make you especially competitive in the following areas:

- Editor
- Journalist
- Blogger
- Speech Writer
- Public Relations Officer
- Technical Writer
- Poet
- Reporter
- Publicist
- Digital Copyright
- Press Secretary
- Correspondent

These traditional jobs related to English Majors can be highly sought after and hard to obtain. Therefore it is important to identify the positions outside your field but with your skill set. In your studies you will have developed a number of transferable skills that can be used across multiple fields. These skills include:

- Editing
- Active Listening
- Persuasive Writing
- Communications Skills
- Research Skills
- Writing different texts
- Analytic Skills
- Time Management Skills
- Imagination

Many graduates who have studied English as a major seek additional education after their degree. By doing so they can better target a specific area of employment that pairs well with their degree. Whether you seek Masters, PhD, MBA, undergraduate degree or certificate program additional education can opens up a variety of other options. Here are some options available with further education:

- Teacher
- Professor
- Management Consultant
- Managing Editor
- Programmer
- Lawyer
- Marketing Manager
- Technical Writer
- Executive Director
- Lawyer
- IT Director

With the many options a graduates in the field of English can take, it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Developing your skills, experience and network

Opportunities in Your Program

Study Abroad - There are numerous opportunities to study English abroad which are available through the international centre.

Creative Writing - Build your creative writing skills through creative writing classes.

Get Published - Fathom is a student run publication showcasing creative work of undergrads.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also give you the chance to focus on any specialties you are interested in. There are many different avenues you can pursue to help you develop these experiences. Consider joining a program like DALConnects or a Dalhousie society/organization like the ones listed below:

- Dalhousie’s Assoc. of Graduates in English
- Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society
- Dal Gazette
- Dalhousie English Society

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/ccr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteer work are another great way to develop experience. They give you the chance to develop specialties and discover what you like in a job. Even if your summer job doesn’t directly relate to your field you can focus on building transferable skills. Check out these great resources:

**Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)**
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

**Talent Egg**
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

**Volunteer Halifax**
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

**Fusion Halifax**
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional associations and conferences are a great way to network with professionals in your field. This is especially true for graduate students. Below is a sample listing of professional associations that may be worth examining.

The Professional Writer’s Association of Canada  http://pwac.ca/
The Canadian Public Relations Society  http://www.cprs.ca/
The Dalhousie Department of English fosters an active and engaged intellectual community both in and out of the classroom. The programs develop independent thinking, and encourage students to become more thoughtful, tolerant citizens while preparing them for any career.

Undergraduate Program
The Undergraduate English program allows students to explore the history and discipline of English Literature and develop presentation and research abilities. The curriculum is designed to convey the historical depth and richness of literature in English and to pass on the basic techniques of the discipline for considering literature critically. The faculty is committed to representing and advancing new areas of, and approaches to, scholarship and teaching.

The English department is also involved with a number of interdisciplinary minor programs for students interested in Canadian Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, American Studies, Film Studies, Popular Culture, and Medieval Studies.

Graduate Program
Dalhousie's graduate program is small and select. They take in about fifteen MA students per year, and about three or four new doctoral students. Students are attracted to the graduate programs by the research and teaching strength of the faculty as well as the intimacy and collegiality of the department.

Average Program Length
MA - Full-time 1 year or part-time 3 years
PhD - 4-5 years

Entrance Requirements
Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Dalhousie admits those applicants who appear to be the most likely to succeed in the program. This is generally determined by your grades and your background in English. To be considered for any of our graduate degree programs, candidates should have at least an A- average. In addition, a formal writing sample will be required with your application.

[ Dalhousie English Dept.]
There are many other established English programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable English programs as identified by QS world University 2013-2014 Rankings:

**University of Toronto #13**
Location: Toronto, Ontario
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: World Literature, Children’s Literature, Native North American Literature, Christianity and Culture, Cinema Studies, Medieval Studies

**McGill University #34**
Location: Montreal, Quebec
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: Modernism, Literature, Drama and Theatre, Contemporary, Restoration, Twentieth Century, Canadian Studies, Medieval, American Literature, Theory

**University of Alberta #22**
Location: Edmonton, Alberta
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: Canadian Literature, Cultural Studies, English Literature, American Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Postcolonial Critical Studies

**Concordia University #51-100**
Location: Montreal, Quebec
BSc, MSc, PhD
Subject areas: Media Studies, Sexuality Studies, Print Culture, Performance Studies, Game Studies, Poetics, Globalization, and Environmental Humanities

**University of British of Columbia #33**
Location: Vancouver, British Columbia
BA, MA, PhD English Literature
Subject areas: A Range of Historical Periods, National Literature, Transnational Literature, Indigenous Literature, Critical Theory, and Media Studies

**Queens University #50-100**
Location: Kingston, Ontario
BA, MA, PhD
Subject areas: Gender Studies, Postmodernism, New Historicism, Cultural Materialism, and Psychoanalytical Criticism.
Labour Market Information

Given the broad array of directions you can take a English degree it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So to begin it is important to first identify the sectors that philosophy students work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics on Dalhousie alumni in appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Media and Communication
- Education
- Community and Social Services
- Entrepreneurship
- Legal
- Operations
- Arts and design
- Marketing
- Research

Popular employers include:

- Government of Nova Scotia
- Halifax Regional School Board
- Capital District Health Authority
- NSCC
- University of British Columbia
- Scotiabank
- Halifax Regional Municipality
- The Chronicle Herald
- IBM

Projections

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period. For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers'. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

Good Outlook ★★★
(3 out of 3 stars)

The best job outlooks for individuals with an English degree are in sales. Jobs include sales consultant, magazine sales representative, trade supervisors, sales clerks, and wholesale trade representative.

Fair Outlook ★★
(2 out of 3 stars)

There are many opportunities for English graduates with a fair outlook. Education related positions such as college instructors and educational counsellors. Marketing jobs including public relations and communications, and marketing researchers. As well librarians, authors, and lawyers all have fair outlooks within Nova Scotia.

Limited Outlook ★
(1 out of 3 stars)

For fields with a limited outlook the arts and culture occupations within Nova Scotia do not have a great projection. Jobs include journalists, and editors.

Out of the possible occupations an English graduate could pursue, additional jobs with a limited outlook in Nova Scotia include: government program officers, and secondary and elementary school teachers.
Resources

Online

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada's labour market.


Print


*The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directory. Senor Media inc.

*What Color is your Parachute: A practical manual for job-hunters and career-changers (2014)

How to Find a Career With Your Humanities Degree in 126 Days (2009). James Mulvey


Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
Technical Writer/Content Editor

Position: Full Time  -  Salary: $40,000 to $60,000  -  Hours: 35

Are you a passionate writer? We are looking for a creative and innovative Technical Writer/Content Editor. The ideal candidate has a strong writing ability and is able to identify content that is compelling and shareable and not readily available in the marketplace. The candidate we need is aggressive in their decision-making and allows their creativity and innovative thinking to grow a strong engagement with content consumers.

Duties

• Will work closely with the Executive Producer and Video Content Producer assigned to the project.

• Develop, organize and execute daily content plan in line with overall product strategy.

• Use strong producing, writing, and content curation skills applicable to digital platform and handle many deadlines.

• Produces follow-ups to popular stories beyond initial reporting.

Qualifications & Skills

• Strong editing, writing, and publishing experience.

• Experience using or working with content management system topic based authoring.

• Knowledge of Microsoft Office applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, SharePoint), and web technologies.

• Experience with using SharePoint 2010 taxonomy, libraries, lists, web content authoring and approval workflow.

• Ability to work collaboratively on team projects and establish positive working relationships.

• Ability to work independently on multiple tasks simultaneously, manage time, and prioritize tasks to accomplish project goals and meet project deadlines.

• The candidate must be detail oriented and very organized, creative thinker, and problem-solver. The candidate must be able to explain technical processes to non-technical individuals.

Skills you can hone while volunteering or by doing an internship:

Skills you may want to list a class that you developed these skills in:

May want to focus attention on any major written work you have put together inside or outside school:

Experience can be developed through volunteer work:

Skills you will have developed throughout your education and can further develop at a summer job:
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

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