



Why Medieval Studies at Queen's?

Postgraduates who undertake Medieval Studies in the School of English at Queen's join a lively and vibrant research and social culture. Staff working in Medieval Studies in the School are at the forefront of their disciplines, contributing to scholarship at national and international level, and they have a record of providing teaching and supervision of the highest quality. The expertise of staff ranges from the Anglo-Saxon period to late Middle English and beyond and our students are working right across this span.

But as well as the teaching and supervision, there are plenty of activities involving researchers and students, which complement and extend the curricular and dissertation experience of postgraduates and provide communal support. The well-established weekly '[Medieval Cultures](#)' seminar series attracts interesting speakers from far and near, including current students working at Queen's. Our students also participate vigorously in postgraduate activities and initiatives more widely in the UK and Ireland, notably in the 'Borderlines' annual conference, held in a different university in Ireland each year, and in national networking and training events such as the current '[Quadrivium](#)' series of workshops.

Academic Environment

Within Queen's our staff and students have interdisciplinary links with other medievalists as part of the [Medieval Forum](#), which is an interdisciplinary research group, comprised of students and staff in the Schools of English, History and Anthropology, Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology and the Institute of Theology. The

Forum supports activities which internationalise research at Queen's and helps expose Queen's postgraduate students to current work in the field of medieval studies nationally and internationally. The Forum also works to broaden public engagement with research at Queen's on medieval cultural and historical studies.

Resources and Facilities

The [School of English](#) fosters personal and career development among postgraduate students and has a policy of engaging research students in teaching, as appropriate to the stage they are at, a policy fully embraced in Medieval Studies. We provide funding for postgraduates to help them with their work, enabling them to attend conferences and to make research trips. Other sources of such funding are also available in the University.

The new McClay Library at Queen's offers students work-leading facilities and research resources. Medievalists at the School collaborate with Special Collections staff at the McClay Library to provide skills training in palaeography, codicology and book history generally. Students on the MA and PhD programmes consult archives in Belfast, Armagh and Trinity College Dublin as part of their research training.

Postgraduate students have access to work and computing facilities in the School of English itself as well as in the Humanities Postgraduate Centre and the International and Postgraduate Centre, located near the McClay Library.



MA in English Literary Studies (Medieval Studies)

Convenor: Dr Malte Urban

The MA in English (Medieval Studies) enables students who have developed a keen interest in medieval literature and culture to pursue their interests in a more focussed way. The objective of the MA is to expose students to the professional preoccupations, critical and theoretical perspectives, and research skills constitutive of contemporary medieval literary studies. Students will encounter medieval texts in their material contexts for the first time, examining medieval manuscripts at Queen's, PRONI, the Armagh Library and, when possible, the library of Trinity College Dublin. There is considerable scope for independent research and students join a thriving postgraduate culture with a lively intellectual and social life.

Staff on our MA have strong links with archives at the Armagh Library and PRONI, and there are normally opportunities for MA students to gain work experience through internships at these institutions.

Modules Available in 2013-14

Compulsory modules:

- *Research Methods* - this module introduces students to local archival resources and research skills, such as palaeography and codicology.



- *Medieval Literatures and Cultures* - this module explores the transition from undergraduate to postgraduate work.

Elective modules (subject to change):

- *Cultures of Piety: English Religion 1300-1550*
- *Moments in the History of Translation: the Middle Ages*
- *Making Histories: the politics of historiography in medieval culture*
- *John Gower and Late Medieval Traditions of Knowledge*
- *Anglo-Saxon Voices*

Students undertaking the MA may also audit any modules offered by colleagues on the MA in History (Medieval Studies) programme.

"With classes that provided both practical skills for considering texts from the Middle Ages as well as a fantastic introduction to the theoretical discussions of the field, the compulsory modules provided me with a fresh outlook on the nature of intellectual study and were consequently the impetus for my sustained research in the second semester and dissertation. I found the teaching within the School to be excellent, with members of staff always available and very supportive of all academic ventures. The community of medievalists at QUB cannot be underestimated, as few other specialisations can boast such regular interaction with other subjects, providing the basis for the dynamic interdisciplinary work that is prevalent among students and teachers alike."

- Paul Murphy, who completed the MA in 2010

Eamon Byers, a doctoral student in his second year, reflects on why he chose Medieval Studies



"Throughout the three years of my BA in English Literature at Queen's I had hoped to proceed to postgraduate studies. Yet while I was sure I wished to continue at Queen's and was sure I wanted to explore English further, the question of what area I should specialise in took me longer to answer. In the end, although tempted by other options, I settled on the MA in Medieval Studies for two reasons. Firstly, at Stage 2 the introductory module 'Late Medieval Literature' hooked me in a way none other had. By the end of my BA I had (voluntarily) read The Canterbury Tales in its entirety, along with most of Chaucer's other works, and had acquired an abiding fascination with medieval drama. Secondly, in my study of medieval literature I had not only been allowed but was actively encouraged to incorporate my personal interest in folk music and culture into my work. I have never looked back. The MA in Medieval Studies provided me with a superlative grounding in the methods and techniques required by academic research and exposed me to innumerable aspects of medieval literature and culture. Moreover, it afforded me the opportunity to explore my interest in premodern performative culture by mounting a production, for public consumption, of a series of modernised mystery plays. After my MA, it was almost inevitable I would proceed to a PhD in Medieval Studies at Queen's. In spite of the specialisation demanded by doctoral study, I have found that the vibrant sense of community fostered by both the Medieval Forum and the School of English through their respective weekly seminars and many other events have allowed me to keep my interests as open as they were five years ago when I first stepped on the ladder of university education."

PhD in English, Medieval Studies

Doctoral research in Medieval Studies ranges from constructions of identity in Old English literature, to the poetry of Charles d'Orleans; from the English apophatic tradition to the intellectual history of magic in Western culture. Unlike in some institutions, doctoral candidates design and develop their own topic and benefit both from a lively and thriving culture in Medieval Studies, and from dual supervision, where students have a primary supervisor and an additional, secondary supervisor, whose level of involvement is calibrated according to a given student's topic.

Recently completed doctoral theses:

- *Magic and Possibility: medievalism and the idea of the occult* (2009)
- *Possible Selves: Imagined Experience, Narrative Transformation, and Late Medieval English Literature* (2010)
- *Love's Mirror Before Arundel: audiences and early readers of Nicholas Love's Mirror of the Blessed Life of Jesus Christ* (2011)
- *Continental Drift: the Reception of European Visionary Writing in Late Medieval England* (2011)
- *'Of The Holy Londe Of Irland': A Reconsideration Of Some Middle English Texts In Late Medieval Ireland* (2011)

How to Apply and Funding

Applicants should apply for a place on the relevant programme via the University's online application system at - <https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/> - and may do so until 4 June 2012 for September 2012 entry. Applications submitted between 1 April and 4 June 2011 will not be eligible to be considered for funding. The application requires a record of undergraduate academic results, a sample of written work, and two academic references.

The School of English commits a proportion of its annual budget to fund postgraduate taught and research students. Home and EU students are eligible for awards from the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Department for Employment & Learning (DEL). International students can avail of awards from the University, amongst other sources.

General information about postgraduate study at Queen's is available at: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/ProspectiveStudents/PostgraduateStudents/>.

Funding for September 2013 Entry

The closing date for funding applications for September 2012 entry to MA programmes in the School of English is **Friday February 22nd, 2013**.

The deadline for self-funding applicants is Monday 3rd June.

For further information, contact:

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<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEnglish/ProspectiveStudents/>

