Why Study English?

English and Film Studies offers one of the most dynamic learning environments at the University of Alberta, with great resources and opportunities for students:

- small classes that afford regular direct contact between instructors and students;
- a superb university library, with physical holdings, electronic resources, and digital databases to rival the very best in North America;
- opportunities for community engaged learning;
- longest-running Writer-in-Residence Program in Canada, sponsoring annual residencies for acclaimed authors;
- first university home for digital humanities in Canada;
- numerous awards to support undergraduate study and recognize outstanding students;
- the English Undergraduate Students’ Association (EUSA), a vibrant students’ group that plans exciting events annually.

Study in EFS provides students with rich experience engaging collectively and critically with culture, a broad education rather than rote learning, and enduring skills, applicable to any workplace, that outlast the latest technology:

- effective communication and argument;
- ability to analyze diverse forms of linguistic and cultural expression;
- critical thinking, analysis, judgment;
- ability to understand and develop intricate ideas, to apply diverse theoretical positions, and to weigh the importance of alternative perspectives;
- ability to grasp the nuances and ambiguities of words and symbols;
- research skills, including ability to gather, sift, and organize quantities of diverse material and evaluate its significance.

Employers love hiring English majors – and English majors pursue diverse careers! Some notable alumni from EFS include Paula Simons (award-winning journalist and producer), Jason Kapalka (co-founder of PopCap Games), Mark Haroun (writer and producer on TV’s Heartland), and Shar Levine (bestselling children’s author).

Our programs prepare students for many careers:

| Teacher | Non Profit Administrator |
| Lawyer  | Film or TV Editor / Producer |
| Librarian / Digital Archivist | Digital Content Editor |
| Publisher / Editor | Multimedia Developer |
| Professional Writer | Politician |
| Journalist | Public Policy Advisor |
| Web Developer | Government Relations Consultant |
| Communications Strategist | Software Developer |
| Media Relations / Public Relations | Community Relations / HR |
Want additional insight and perspective on the question? See what other people say about the value of humanities degrees such as English.

- “What Can You Do With an English Literature Degree?”:  

- English “help[s] us enjoy life more and endure it better”:  
  [http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/why-teach-english](http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/why-teach-english)

- “Reading expands our social imaginations”:  

- Humanities as a pathway to executive success:  

- The value of “soft skills” of the sort learned in English:  

- The value of engagement in learning:  

- The benefit of “problem-solving skills”:  