

MA Shakespeare Authorship Studies

1 year full-time, 2-3 yrs part-time

KEY FACTS

Mode of Study

One year full-time, 2-3 years part-time.

Entry Requirements

You should have a good honours degree in a relevant area such as English Literature.. Applicants with relevant practical experience and/or professional qualifications will also be considered.

Fees

For information on tuition fees for this course, please visit www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/pg/pgfees/

Enquiries

Further details may be obtained from:
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Web

www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/pg/graduateschool/application

This new MA programme, the first of its kind in the world, tackles and takes seriously Shakespeare and the subject of Authorship in all its diversity. The programme examines ways in which Shakespeare has been mythologised and how issues of collaboration change our notion of authorship, value and authority. The programme also examines the enormously controversial phenomenon of the Shakespeare Authorship Question and ponders why this question causes such controversy.



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Resources and Location

The location of Brunel in London places it most conveniently for Shakespeare studies, close to The Globe, to Stratford-upon-Avon, the British Library and Senate House. Students can thereby study and immerse themselves in the key facilities for Shakespeare Studies in the UK. Furthermore, Brunel possesses an archive of texts concerning the subject of Shakespeare and Authorship to facilitate easy access to learning materials. Thus we are able to offer an MA designed and taught by experts both in mainstream Shakespeare studies and in those areas which have, until now been marginalised.

Employment

Graduates of this course will be well placed to find employment in the ever expanding field of publishing, journalism and the arts. In addition, their advanced communication and research skills make them ideal candidates for employment in such areas as the culture industries, teaching and, increasingly, business where such skills are now highly valued.

Students

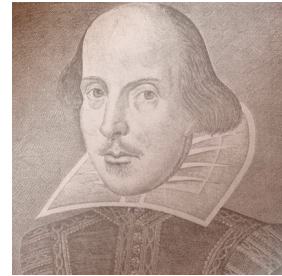
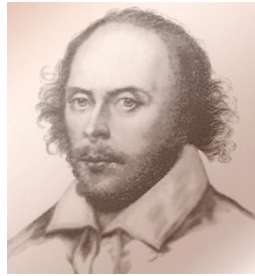
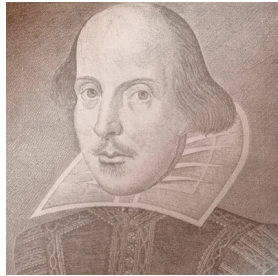
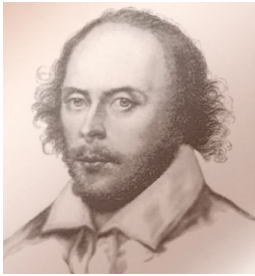
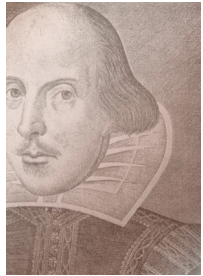
All students will engage in a range of reading, research and analytical practices that will provide a deep understanding of the social and cultural processes which have worked and continue to work in the construction of Shakespeare as a cultural and national icon. This MA seeks to promote a high level of independent thinking and initiative.

Course Content

The way in which Shakespeare has been made into what he is today, namely "Shakespeare", will be examined through a close analysis of the historical developments and forces which gave rise to the perceived need, or at least desire for a national and global icon/genius. A subsequent close textual analysis of a number of Shakespeare's writings will be studied and shown to contain the work of other writers. Finally, the phenomenon of the Shakespeare Authorship Question will be studied. The aim is not to promote an alternative candidate as the author of Shakespeare's work. Rather, it is to analyse the actual social and cultural phenomenon that is the Authorship Question itself. Why that Question is now more popular than ever amongst the general public will be an important area of discussion.

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The programme runs over three terms. **One module per term will take place in the evenings, allowing students who wish to carry on working full-time the opportunity to take the MA part-time.** The taught part of the programme runs over terms one and two. In term three, which runs from Easter to summer, you embark on your major project which will be a critical essay. Assessment will be based on the critical essay along with other innovative, task-based projects to promote and assess professional-level research skills. The MA is awarded upon successful completion of all modules and the major project.



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Module Content

The modules available are likely to include:

The Making of Shakespeare

This module examines the historical construction of Shakespeare as a cultural icon and 'sacred cow'. There will be a consideration of the known facts of Shakespeare's life, the production of the First Folio, the deification process beginning in the eighteenth century, the 'capturing' of Shakespeare by/for academia and the centrality of Shakespeare to modern academic practice.

Shakespeare the Collaborator

This module will examine the history of this phenomenon as well as interrogating specific texts. There will be a close examination of some of the plays which are now regarded as having been produced collaboratively such as *Henry VIII* and *Pericles*. The second half of the course will be devoted to students examining plays which have not (yet) been deemed collaborative with a view to producing new and independent views.

The Shakespeare Authorship Question

This module will examine and consider the suggested alternatives to Shakespeare as author with a completely open mind. Outside speakers will be invited to put their case to the student group. Students will examine the history and cultural relevance of this phenomenon and will assess its cultural *raison d'être*.

Research Methodologies

The module will contain an overview of the intellectual, aesthetic and cultural issues relevant to research issues.

Final Major Project:

A critical essay of 15,000-18,000 words

For further information about Brunel University, or about accommodation, fees and finance, requirements for entry into the United Kingdom etc, or for a copy of the prospectus, please contact:

Course Enquiries: Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1895 265599

Directions: Please visit

www.brunel.ac.uk/about/where/ux/



Programme Convenor: **Dr William Leahy**
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Bill Leahy's research specialises in Shakespeare's History Plays, Shakespeare and Authorship and Elizabethan Processions.

Bill received the Brunel Vice Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence, after being nominated by students as the tutor they found particularly inspirational.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication and the University will use all reasonable endeavours to deliver courses and services in accordance with the descriptions set out in this leaflet. The University's rules and regulations, that are from time to time in force, are incorporated into any contract made with a student. All students are required, as a condition of registration, to abide by and submit to the University's statutes, ordinances, regulations and rules, which are published on the University's web site or in hard copy available from the Registry at the Uxbridge address.