

**The English DSC Presents:  
The Undergraduate Student's Guide to Queen's English**

**Co-Presidents**

Kelsey Watt ('21)  
Mitch de Lange ('21)

**Treasurer**

Jenna Lalani ('21)

**Secretary**

Erica Lake ('22)

**Events**

Larissa Zhong ('22)  
Erin Gilbert ('23)  
Erica Labriola ('21)  
Hyunny Kim ('22)  
Aria Goldin ('22)  
Isabella Galbraith ('23)

**Social Media**

Rachel Riddell ('23)

**Public Relations**

Daniel Green ('22)

## **Table of Contents**

Letter From Your Co-Presidents

The Department Student Council

- Keep in touch with the DSC
- What's happening this year?

Academic Insights

- What helps us read and write
- Study spots on campus
- Studying for English exams
- Organizing time during midterm and finals

Personal Insights

- Balancing academic success and mental health
- How to get the most out of the program

Degree Requirements

Department Contacts

## **Letter From Your Co-Presidents**

Dear incoming and returning students,

As your DSC co-presidents, we, Mitch de Lange and Kelsey Watt, are delighted to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year! Each of us at the DSC are immensely passionate about the study of English language and literature, and we hope to share that passion with you.

In this handbook, you will find everything you need to know about the DSC, wisdom from upper-year students, degree information for every English plan, and more. We hope this handbook will be helpful to you as you embark on a new school year and continue to learn and grow.

We believe that the study of English language and literature is never limited to the classroom. Despite the challenges we expect of this school year, we are making every effort to provide you with the resources you need to succeed and platforms on which to share your ideas. We remain committed to fostering a creative, inclusive learning environment that engages and inspires every English student.

We truly look forward to connecting with you. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns – our inbox is always open!

Kelsey Watt and Mitch de Lange  
English DSC Co-Presidents  
Queen's University

## **The Department Student Council**

Queen's University takes pride in its strong student governments and close-knit communities.

Every department in the Faculty of Arts and Science has its very own Department Student Council (DSC), made up of passionate students who work to connect students and faculty, host academic and recreational events, and work alongside the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society's (ASUS) Academics Commission to advocate for students.

Every year, each DSC's incoming Presidents or Co-Presidents are elected by the student body. When the election period ends, the new Presidents or Co-Presidents release applications for

each position on the DSC, conduct interviews, and handpick a team for the upcoming school year.

If you'd like to get involved with the DSC without being a member, you can volunteer as a class representative. Your professor will ask for one at the beginning of each course and you will be responsible for making announcements to your classmates on behalf of the DSC. (Note that this may vary from course to course due to remote learning.)

### **Keep in touch with the DSC**

Despite the oddities and uncertainties of virtual delivery, the English DSC is making every effort to be there for you.

Check out our website at [queensenglishdsc.com](http://queensenglishdsc.com). Browse our favourite books, submit your proudest piece of creative or academic writing to be featured in our student gallery, and learn about support and opportunities available to you.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to stay updated and be the first to exciting new events and initiatives.

Instagram: [queensenglishdsc](https://www.instagram.com/queensenglishdsc)

Facebook: [queensuenglish](https://www.facebook.com/queensuenglish)

Questions or comments? Message us on our socials or email us at [engl.dsc@asus.queensu.ca](mailto:engl.dsc@asus.queensu.ca). We are always happy to hear from you!

### **What's happening this year?**

#### September

##### 7. Fall Hiring

The English DSC is holding a second round of hiring! We encourage everyone who is interested to apply - we would love to have you on board.

##### 14. Sweater Designs Contest

Do you have an eye for design and love the idea of new English sweaters? Get ready to enter our sweater-designing contest!

#### 21. The First Book Club

We are hosting a book club every other month! You will vote on the book you'd like to read and there will be no discussion questions - we want you to think and speak freely, critically, and creatively.

### October

#### 1. Sweater Sale

It's sweater weather and we are holding presales for English sweaters!

#### 5. Grad Night

This summer, you submitted tons of questions you wanted to ask graduate English students at Queen's. Those questions will be answered on Grad Night!

#### 22. Halloween Scavenger Hunt

We will choose a gothic, mystery, or horror novel and provide a list of items to scavenge within the text. The first person to successfully complete the scavenger hunt wins a prize basket!

#### 25. QP Trivia Night

We are hosting a trivia night with the Queen's Pub! Bring your friends and a competitive edge.

### November

#### 16. Exam Gift Basket

We know that exams can be stressful and we want to support you - enter through our socials and win a gift basket tailored to exam season.

#### 23. The Second Book Club

### January

#### 11. The Third Book Club

#### 22. Careers Night

We are holding an alumni panel to inform English students of post-undergraduate career paths.

### February

#### 8. Valentine's Scavenger Hunt

In celebration of the month of love, we will choose a romance novel and provide a list of items

to scavenge within the text. The first person to successfully complete the scavenger hunt wins a prize basket!

### March

#### 6. QUCL x DSC Conference

Present your paper to a panel of peers and professors at the Queen's Undergraduate Conference in Literature.

#### 22. Exam Gift Basket

It's that time of semester again - enter the giveaway through our socials and win a gift basket tailored to exam season.

## **Academic Insights**

### **What helps us read and write**

- Paul Headrick's A Method for Writing Essays About Literature
- M. H. Abrams' A Glossary of Literary Terms
- Before starting any paper, create an outline to better organize your ideas
- On your draft, copy and paste your thesis to the beginning of each paragraph as a reminder to stay on topic
- Annotate readings with highlighters and sticky notes
- Owl Purdue is great for citations!
- Read over previous successful essays!
- Classical music and movie scores for white noise
- Research the author, background, and critiques of the text before beginning to read
- SparkNotes' No Fear Shakespeare

### **Study spots on campus**

#### Breakwater Park

Breakwater Park at the end of campus is a lovely place to be in warm weather. You can sit at benches, picnic tables, and even the rows of rocks on the lake - just don't let the wind blow your looseleaf pages away!

### Common Ground Coffeehouse (CoGro)

CoGro is located on the second floor of the Athletics & Recreation Centre (ARC). It's the perfect place to meet with classmates, get a class- or exam-sized coffee, and work on a paper all at the same time.

### Douglas Library Reading Room

Often referred to as "the Harry Potter room," the Reading Room on the top floor of Douglas Library boasts stained glass windows and tall ceilings.

### Isabel Bader Centre

The Isabel has two glass faces overlooking Lake Ontario, soaking the building in natural light all day long. There are chairs and tables in the lobby that students are welcome to use.

### JDUC Basement

The basement of the John Deutsch University Centre (JDUC) provides a lounge area with comfy couches and is conveniently next to the Printing and Copy Centre.

### Lederman Law Library

The Law Library fosters a rich, studious environment. Though it is housed by the Faculty of Law, the Law Library has public study spaces and bookable study rooms available to all students.

### Mackintosh-Corry Hall

If you like background noise and activity, Mac-Corry is ideal. Glass panes section off small seating areas and you can write on them with erasable markers - useful for creating historical timelines of English literature.

### Mitchell Hall

The recently renovated Mitchell Hall is a modern, open-concept building with a variety of study spaces for you to choose from. (The Starbucks in the foyer is a bonus.)

### Outside Summerhill

Surrounded by a stretch of beautiful greenery, Summerhill is the oldest building on campus. Pick a tree to do your readings under in warm weather!

### Stauffer Library Fireplace Room

The Fireplace Room on the second floor of Stauffer Library is a grand, isolated space tucked away from the rest of the floor. Take a seat by one of the fireplaces and live out your 18th century literature dreams.

### Stauffer Library Terrace

Open seasonally, this outdoor terrace is accessible through the Fireplace Room and overlooks



University Avenue and Union Street. If you love open air and the sun on your skin, the Stauffer Library Terrace is for you.

### The Tea Room

The Tea Room is an environmentally friendly student-run café located just inside the entrance of Beamish-Munro Hall, often bustling with busy students and pleasantly scented with handcrafted teas and light, wholesome foods.

### Watson Hall LINQ

Watson Hall LINQ encompasses a public study space and a bookable group study room with a large whiteboard, both modern and spacious. Watson Hall is largely occupied by professors and TAs, making the building a quiet place to work.

To book a study room, visit [booking.library.queensu.ca](http://booking.library.queensu.ca)!

## **Studying for English exams**

- "After the professor holds exam review, I collate all my class notes into a study guide according to the format of the exam."
- "I review lecture and tutorial notes, reread texts to refamiliarize myself with plots and themes, and go over previous essays."
- "I keep my study space clean, eat healthy foods, and make sure I'm sleeping enough!"
- "I take a fifteen-minute break for every hour I study. If I have multiple exams, I switch subjects every two hours."
- "I read my notes out loud, do close readings for any passages I have trouble understanding, and pay special attention to passages that illustrate a theme or exemplify characteristics of the literary period."
- "I form a study group with a handful of classmates, book a study room on campus, and we put our heads together."
- "I test myself with physical cue cards to form associations between texts, themes, characters, literary terms and genres, and key passages."
- "I focus on what the professor emphasized or spent the most time discussing."
- "Studying for exams starts at the beginning of the semester, not the end. If you put in the work throughout the course, you'll be in pretty good shape for the exam."

## **Organizing time during midterms and finals**

- "I outline each paper first, meet with my professor or TA to make sure I'm headed in the right direction, and then I write them one by one!"
- "I prioritize my prerequisite courses and pace myself to avoid burnout. At worst, I ask for an extension or take the late penalty to turn in a better assignment."
- "I make a daily schedule ahead of time, so when pace picks up I can follow the schedule I've laid out for myself and take things one day at a time. The stress cuts itself in half that way."
- "I designate time for each of my tasks and give myself time to eat and exercise! I also delete social media apps, as they can be quite distracting."
- "At the beginning of each semester, I go through my syllabi and mark due dates and reminders in my planner. This way, I know what to expect of each week of the semester and I have enough notice to start working."
- "If I have multiple papers due in the same week, which often happens, I take advantage of less busy periods during the semester to get ahead and hand them in early."
- "Once exam schedules are posted on SOLUS, I make a detailed study plan centered around my exam dates. This includes forming small study groups with classmates and booking study rooms on campus."
- "If I have back-to-back papers and exams, I ask for extensions on the papers to space them out and use a grade calculator to prioritize studying for the exams that could make or break my grade."
- "To maximize productivity, I allot myself enough time to complete each task but not too much time. According to Parkinson's law, work expands to fill the time available for its completion."

### **Personal Insights**

#### **Balancing academic success and mental health**

- "If your mental health is negatively affecting your academic performance, apply for academic consideration. In my experience, English professors are extremely kind and understanding. They want you to succeed and will do their best to help you."
- "Plan, plan, plan! Have a plan A, plan B, and plan C. Grant yourself the peace of mind of knowing that you have options and won't be cornered if things go wrong."
- "Sleeping, eating, and taking care of yourself are not optional! Don't give in to the toxic hustle culture that romanticizes sleep deprivation and poor eating habits. Good physical health supplements good mental health."

- “The most important thing about work-life balance is mindfulness. It’s okay when life stresses you out - you don’t have to pretend it doesn’t. Take some time to clear your mind, take care of yourself, and collect your thoughts.”
- “I believe academic success, mental health, and having a social life are heavily intertwined. Although it may seem like you have to give up one to have another, it’s important to strive for an equilibrium to maintain general wellness. Plan out your weeks to gauge how much time school demands of you, and from there, implement time with your friends and with yourself.”

For academic and wellness support resources on campus, see [queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/campus-support-services](http://queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/campus-support-services).

### **How to get the most out of the program**

You get out of the program what you put into it.

- “Studying English literature often becomes a solitary scholarly experience, but it doesn’t have to be, and it shouldn’t be.”
- “Go to office hours, go to every class prepared and eager to engage, and do as much reading as you can.”
- “... but don’t be too hard on yourself. Take the time you need to acclimate to the university environment and when you feel ready, there will be opportunities waiting for you.”

Reach out to your professors, TAs, and classmates.

- “I’ve yet to come across anyone in the Department who doesn’t want you to succeed or talk about literature.”
- “Bouncing ideas off of peers is a wonderful way to engage with the coursework and come up with great paper ideas, like talking about Chaucer over coffee!”

Remember why you chose to study English.

- “Most of us chose to study English simply because we loved to read and write, so continue to choose what you love. Take courses that teach the authors or periods you’re interested in, write papers about your favourite texts and characters from the course.”
- “At Queen’s, there are many English courses to choose from. You can receive an education that is tailored to who you are.”

- “English is a challenging program, but understand that reading and writing is a never-ending learning process and never stop trying to be better.”

## **Degree Requirements**

### **English Major**

English majors take 60 ENGL units according to the following.  
Core courses are noted by [C] and option courses are noted by [O].

#### **YEAR 1**

6 units in ENGL 100 - Introduction to the Study of Literature [C]

#### **YEAR 2**

6 units in ENGL 200 - History of Literature in English [C]  
3 units in ENGL 290 - Seminar in Literary Interpretation [C]  
9-12 units in 200-level ENGL courses [O]

#### **YEAR 3**

6 units from ENGL 305-339 - Small lecture in pre-1800 lit. [C]  
6 units from ENGL 340-359 - Small lecture in c. 1780-1920 lit. [C]  
6 units from 360-389 - Small lecture in post-1900 lit. [C]

#### **YEAR 4**

3 units from ENGL 405–459 - Seminar in pre-1900 lit. [C]  
3 units from ENGL 460–499 - Seminar in post-1900 lit./theory [C]  
9 units in 400-level ENGL courses [O]  
Any remaining units in 200-level (or above) ENGL courses [O]

For specific courses each year, see the department website at [queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-courses](http://queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-courses).

12 option units may be substituted by courses in other disciplines. For eligible substitutions, see [queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-degrees/major-english](http://queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-degrees/major-english).

## **English Medial**

English medials take 42 ENGL units according to the following.  
Core courses are noted by [C] and option courses are noted by [O].

### YEAR 1

6 units in ENGL 100 - Introduction to the Study of Literature [C]

### YEAR 2

6 units in ENGL 200 - History of Literature in English [C]  
3 units in ENGL 290 - Seminar in Literary Interpretation [C]  
0-3 units in 200-level ENGL courses [O]

### YEAR 3

6 units from ENGL 305-339 - Small lecture in pre-1800 lit. [C]  
6 units from ENGL 340-389 - Small lecture in post-1800 lit. [C]

### YEAR 4

6 units in 400-level ENGL courses [O]  
6 units in 200- or 400-level ENGL courses [O]  
Any remaining units in 200-level (or above) ENGL courses [O]

For specific courses each year, see the department website at [queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-courses](http://queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-courses).

6 option units may be substituted by courses in other disciplines. For eligible substitutions, see [queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-degrees/medial-english](http://queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-degrees/medial-english).

## **English Minor**

English medials take 30 ENGL units according to the following.  
English minors cannot take 400-level ENGL courses, but can take one 300-level course if space permits.  
Core courses are noted by [C] and option courses are noted by [O].

### YEAR 1

6 units in ENGL 100 - Introduction to the Study of Literature [C]

### YEAR 2

6 units in ENGL 200 - History of Literature in English [C]

0-6 units in 200-level ENGL courses [O]

### YEAR 3

6 units in 200-level ENGL courses [O]

### YEAR 4

6 units in 200-level ENGL courses [O]

Any remaining units in 200-level (or above) ENGL courses [O]

For specific courses each year, see the department website at [queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-courses](http://queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-courses).

6 option units may be substituted by courses in other disciplines. For eligible substitutions, see [queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-degrees/minor-english](http://queensu.ca/english/undergraduate/english-undergraduate-degrees/minor-english).

## **Department Contacts**

### **The Department**

49 Bader Lane, Watson Hall

343-363-2140

Mon. to Fri., 8-12 and 2-4:30

### **Head of the Department**

Sam McKegney

[englhead@queensu.ca](mailto:englhead@queensu.ca)

### **Administrative Assistant**

Karen Donnelly

[donnelly@queensu.ca](mailto:donnelly@queensu.ca)

**Undergraduate Chair**

Scott-Morgan Straker

ugrad.english@queensu.ca

**Undergraduate Program Assistant**

Cynthia Collins

cc98@queensu.ca

**DSC Co-Presidents**

Kelsey Watt and Mitch de Lange

engl.dsc@asus.queensu.ca