

Student Testimonials

Emer Murphy (Graduate of MA: Texts and Contexts (2015/2016))

I was in the final year of my bachelor's degree when I fully recognised my love of Renaissance literature after taking Dr. Edel Semple's "Shakespeare on Screen" seminar. The content was intriguing, and stimulated many a rich conversation in us slightly-hesitant undergraduates. What began as curiosity and interest, morphed into enthusiasm and passion as the class soon became the highlight of my week and I came to the realisation that a postgraduate course in English was something I should pursue.

I immediately went to the UCC School of English to investigate what they had on offer and discovered the MA in Medieval to Renaissance English. The programme stood out from all the others in Ireland for its diverse range of texts, from 700AD Old English writing to Renaissance literature c.1700 and everything in between. The sheer historic and generic scope of the programme as well as the invigorating material waiting to be delved into provided me with an exciting opportunity to further my studies. With lively discussions, which often continued beyond the classroom, the course allowed me to explore outside my comfort zone and challenged me to become a more inquisitive scholar as I was encouraged to push beyond my intellectual boundaries. For me, the MA was a journey of learning and growth as I created my own blog for the Research Skills module, deciphered intricate handwriting in Book History, attempted to deconstruct the musings of Margery Kempe in Middle English, and debated whether or not Shakespeare's shrew had truly been tamed. Each module was as engaging as it was thought-provoking and thoroughly fulfilled my expectations.

Under the guidance of a committed and passionate lecturing team, my academic ambitions were fuelled further as the lecturers' infectious energy inspired many a great scholarly debate. With their office doors constantly open, they were more than willing to share their expertise and knowledge, going above and beyond to create an exceptional Masters programme.

The most challenging and simultaneously rewarding aspect of the MA, however, was the research dissertation. Such a project allowed me to explore my own unique interests and provided me with an opportunity to put all I had learned over the previous nine months into practice. It was an immensely enjoyable undertaking and was one of the many highlights of my postgraduate experience. The support of the lecturers and the English department was second to none and I can only use positive words to describe my journey. I cannot recommend this MA programme enough as it truly was a year I will never forget.