

ENGLISH MA

STUDENT PROFILES



Alison Belanger
Class of 2015 (Practicum)

My practicum placement was at Harbourfront Centre, working for International Festival of Authors. I helped with preparatory work for the annual festival, as well as the smaller weekly series. My responsibilities included composing author Q&As, blog posts, and writer biographies for the Festival program. This placement was an invaluable opportunity to learn more about non-profit organizations in Ontario and up-and-coming Canadian authors. Working in a professional environment with other lovers of literatures was an exciting experience that will stay with me in my future career development.



Stephen Carlick
Class of 2011 (Practicum)
Currently: Senior Editor, *Exclaim!* Magazine

It was through my English MA at Ryerson that I met the Books Editor for the *National Post*. He came to our practicum meeting for a Q&A, and I struck up a conversation with him afterwards that led to my first published book review. As a 23-year-old trying to establish a name for myself as a writer, that gave me both confidence and credibility. I'm not sure I'd be where I am today without that crucial meeting.



Christopher Chang
Class of 2011 (Major Research Project)
Currently: PhD Studies, English, University of Kent, UK

What I really appreciate about the Literatures of Modernity program is its flexibility in allowing me to take MA courses that I was interested. In the year I was enrolled, I was able to take – and thoroughly enjoy – the “Postcolonial Affects” course that was being offered in another program but by a member of the English MA's faculty.



Bassam Chiblak
Class of 2012 (Major Research Project)
Currently: PhD studies, English, University of Victoria

As a Victorianist, having the undivided and personalised year-round attention of my MRP and RA supervisors was the unexpected pinnacle of my experience in the English MA in Literatures of Modernity; I was a peer. Moreover, the funding was unrivalled, which allowed me to live comfortably and partake in many digital humanities events in Toronto.



Amanda Cosco
Class of 2011 (Practicum)
Currently: Mediapreneur and Journalist

Having completed my undergraduate degree at a large university, I appreciated that Ryerson's Literatures of Modernity master's program was intimate. We all became friends fast, and formed a tight-knit community that fostered communication and collaboration.



Derek Fisher
Class of 2010 (Major Research Project)
Currently: PhD studies, English, Texas A&M University

I grew considerably as a student and a scholar in the English MA program because of the faculty's commitment to the teaching of contemporary theory. The faculty and students worked cohesively at all times, which fostered an environment of open dialogue about critical theory and the evolving discourses in the field.



Alec Follett
Class of 2011 (Major Research Project)
Currently: PhD studies, University of Guelph

The Ryerson English MA provided valuable exposure to many fields of literary study through its core course LM8901. Classes were led by different professors who highlighted specific areas of study, and were attended by the entire cohort. In addition to creating a strong community, this course directed me to an MRP topic and provided me with a foundation that has helped me successfully navigate my MA and PhD work.



Dennis Hogan
Class of 2014 (Major Research Project)
Currently: PhD studies, Comp. Literature, Brown University

At Ryerson, I TA-ed two literature sections, worked as a research assistant at the Centre for Digital Humanities, was funded to attend a week-long conference with Ryerson colleagues, and published my first article in an academic journal. Faculty encouraged me to be involved, steered me toward invaluable opportunities, and gave freely of their time and attention in mentoring me.



Leila Meshgini
Class of 2011 (Major Research Project)
Currently: Librarian, West Vancouver Memorial Library

The best thing about this program is its intimate size, which allows for greater engagement and collaboration between students and faculty than a typical graduate program. I was quickly able to get to know the faculty and their research interests, and learn about RA opportunities. This helped me find my dream position RAing at the Children's Literature Archive, which directly led to my pursuing a career in librarianship.



Chelsea Miya
Class of 2013 (Major Research Project)
Currently: PhD studies, English, University of Alberta

One of the benefits of doing my MA at Ryerson was having the opportunity to get involved with a digital project at the Centre for Digital Humanities. Not only was I gaining valuable technical skills, but I had a strong sense that my work was contributing to the larger research community.



Sara Saljoughi
Class of 2009 (Major Research Project)
Currently: Assistant Professor, University of Toronto – Scarborough

As an MA student in the program, I learned how to analyze literature and other texts using nuanced and innovative methodologies. Through coursework and in the process of writing my MRP, I learned how to speak to a field and a discipline. The program's emphasis on professionalization was also a great benefit to me as I moved into my doctoral studies.



Alison Smith
Class of 2010 (Practicum)
Currently: Publisher, *Queen's Park Today*

My favourite part of the program was getting to spend my days discussing books and ideas with a group of smart, engaged people. Our seminar rooms were sanctuaries of thought and debate that felt a million miles away from the bustle of the city below.



Micha Zollinger
Class of 2010 (Major Research Project)
Currently: Parliamentary Services, Federal Assembly, Berne, Switzerland

When I started to look for a place to do my English MA in Canada, I came across Ryerson's website. Among the faculty listing, I encountered men and women, young, middle-aged, and elderly faces, Africans, Caucasians, Asians – in short, the world in one place! And I knew where I was headed...