



ENGLISH STUDIES

ADMISSIONS ESSAY / SEPTEMBER 2025 ENTRY

BACHELOR EN CULTURES EUROPÉENNES / UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

PHOTO © Leslie Schmit, University of Luxembourg

The admissions essay plays an important role in your application. It is your chance to tell us why you want to join the Bachelor in European Cultures and it will help us to assess whether our programme is suitable for you. Literary Studies and Linguistics require specific sets of critical and analytical skills. Depending on your educational background, you may or may not have (much) experience with this dimension of our programme. This should not stop you from applying, but you need to be aware that you will have to develop these competences.

Please also take into account that although you will specialise in **English Literature and Linguistics**, about one third of your studies will be focused on other academic fields in our Common Curriculum in European Cultures and their relation to English Studies. Writing this essay will encourage you to think about the study programme you are applying to, and ultimately, our aim is to help you decide whether studying English Literature and Linguistics is what you want to do.

The point of writing an admissions essay is to present **(1) yourself (2) in your own words**, and to show – to yourself and to the Admissions Commission – why you want to study English and European Cultures at the University of Luxembourg, which skills you bring, and how the Bachelor in European Cultures can help you to develop your unique (academic) profile.

Presenting yourself in your admissions essay

1.1. Presenting yourself: What should I write about in my essay?

Your admissions essay must address the following points:

+ YOU AND YOUR WORK

250-300 WORDS

In this part of your essay, we would like to find out more about who you are as a person and as a student. To help us understand this, please tell us about a (school) project or an assignment you completed and what you learned from this. Did you develop any (new) skills while working on this project? What did you learn about yourself, the topic, the world, ... in the process? Were you given any feedback? What did you learn from this feedback?

+ THE BCE AND YOUR 'FUTURE YOU'

250-300 WORDS

In this part of your essay, we would like to find out more about your decision to study English Literature and Linguistics in combination with European Cultures, and how this decision fits into your personal project. What do you expect to gain from this combination (please look at the course descriptions and at the Global Course Catalogue to get a better idea of what to expect)? How can the Bachelor en Cultures Européennes help you to achieve your goals?

You will find the Global Course Catalogue on the University website: <https://www.uni.lu/fhse-en/study-programs/bachelor-en-cultures-europeennes-english-studies/european-cultures/>

+ WORKING WITH TEXTS

250-300 WORDS

Please submit 1-3 (graded) samples of written work composed in English, including the project discussed in your essay under **You and your work** (if available) in the Admissions Portal with your official transcripts. If at all possible, please submit a graded copy of the works, including your teacher's feedback and comments. Explain what these work samples show about you, your skills, the challenges you are facing and/or have overcome, and why you think these might help you as a BCE student.

IMPORTANT We are not looking for 'best work samples' or for work that shows how 'perfect' you are. On the contrary, we would like to hear about projects or assignments that presented you with a challenge, or that helped you grow, in short, works that you consider an achievement, even if they were imperfect or did not yield the highest grade.

This also means that we are interested in different types of writing and assignments. You could include a brief essay, short story, or poem you wrote for a class, an analysis or an exercise, a PowerPoint presentation ... anything that will allow you to give us a sense of who you are and how you work. If you have problems accessing graded samples of your work, please contact the BCE Admissions Team (bce.office@uni.lu).

+ PREVIOUS STUDIES (Only applies if you have studied at university before)

150-200 WORDS

Have you started studying or completed a university degree in another field and/or another university? If this is the case, please let us know why you wish to change fields and/or universities. Please only answer this question if you have attended university before.

1.2. Presenting yourself: What should I **NOT** write about?

You are applying for a study programme that focuses on English Literature and Linguistics, and we want to know why you are interested in this subject. Unless it has a direct bearing on your choice, please do not write about:

- + what your general career plans are;
- + the fact that English is a world language; and
- + any personal information that is already available in your application form.

Writing your admissions essay

2.1. Presenting yourself in your own words: Is it ok to get help with my admissions essay?

This depends on what you mean by 'getting help'. Asking a friend or relative to proofread (looking for spelling or grammar errors) your essay or brainstorming about what to write about should be fine. **However, you should be the one who does the writing** (develops the arguments, formulates ideas, etc.). This is important in many ways: your writing provides a lot of information about you and your potential needs. Having somebody else write your essay creates a skewed image of who you are and what your skills are. As a result, if you are admitted, we may not be able to meet your actual needs, and you may find yourself in a programme that is not suited to you. Please consider this seriously as you write your essay – its purpose is to determine whether you would be happy in our programme!

2.2. Presenting yourself in your own words: Can I use chatbots and other AI tools such as ChatGPT or Grammarly to write my admissions essay?

Deciding which digital tools to use when drafting original work can be tricky. The points made under 2.1 apply here too: **you (and not a machine) should be the one who does the writing!** Using proofing tools (spellcheck and grammar check) included in your word processor (for instance: Microsoft Word or Google Docs) is not only indicated, but also advisable. These proofing tools signal errors and typos and, depending on the programme you are using, they may suggest stylistic changes (for instance: Word will flag 'take into account' for 'wordiness' and propose 'consider' instead). However, they always require you to decide whether a correction or change is necessary.

Other tools that are available on the internet or as an add-in for your word processor go further than this and make these decisions for you: they may reformulate your text in other words (paraphrase) to make it sound more knowledgeable or academic or shorter, etc.; some, such as ChatGPT, will also write text and invent ideas for you. These are not acceptable in the field of English Studies, and they will not help you to demonstrate your own competences or to showcase your own unique voice.

Admissions Essays written using such tools may compromise your application, as these essays will not meet their central requirement (the 'originality requirement'): they must be written in your own words.

2.3 Presenting yourself in your own words: Form matters!

The form of your admissions essay matters. Please make sure your admissions essay meets the criteria specified below:

- + identification: please include your full name and Personal Identifier issued by the University of Luxembourg.
- + language: English
- + length: please make sure your admissions essay is between 750 and 800 words (excluding point 4). Essays that exceed this limit will be disqualified.
- + precision and proofreading: make sure you check your essay for language errors before you submit it.
- + essay title: if you wish, you can give your essay its own title.
- + proofing tools: please indicate which writing tools you have used and how (if applicable). If you wish, you may consult the guidelines on understanding and avoiding plagiarism and on chatbots and student assessment available on the University website: <https://www.uni.lu/en/education/academic-matters/academic-conduct/>

Contact

For further information, please visit our website (<https://www.uni.lu/fhse-en/study-programs/bachelor-en-cultures-europeennes-english-studies/>) or contact the BCE Admissions Team: bce.office@uni.lu.