



# ENGLISH STUDIES

## ADMISSIONS ESSAY / SEPTEMBER 2026 ENTRY

BACHELOR EN CULTURES EUROPÉENNES / UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

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**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 while you will specialise in **English Literature and Linguistics**, 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 with European Cultures**, which skills you bring, and how the Bachelor in European Cultures can help you to develop your unique (academic) profile.

### Before you start: Find out what we are (not) looking for!

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# 1. 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:

### + YOUR WORK AND YOU

400-450 WORDS

**In the first part of your essay, we would like to find out about who you are as a person and as a student.** To help us understand who you are and what is important to you, please tell us about how your studies have prepared you to study English with European Cultures at university. Please submit 1-3 (graded) samples of written work composed in English in the Admissions Portal. We encourage you to select samples that demonstrate your ability to analyse and discuss texts. A graded copy of selected assignments, including your teacher's feedback and comments, can help us understand your history as a learner and the contexts that have marked you. In your answer, please explain how the feedback you received has influenced your approach to reading, writing, and/or thinking about texts.

**IMPORTANT** We are not looking for 'best work samples' or for work that shows how 'perfect' you are. On the contrary, we would also 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. Provide a mixture of samples showcasing both your skill and the challenges you encountered.

**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, ... anything that will allow you to give us a sense of who you are and how you work with text. Typically, 'TRAPE' type group projects (*Travail personnel encadré*) do not demonstrate the skills the admissions commission is assessing. Our advice is to privilege shorter, more representative examples of individual work. The same applies to creative work: please limit submissions to 1-2-page pieces or samples.

If you have problems accessing graded samples of your work, please contact the BCE Admissions Team ([bce.office@uni.lu](mailto:bce.office@uni.lu)).

### + THE BCE AND THE 'FUTURE YOU'

350-400 WORDS

**In the second part of your essay, we would like to find out whether the Bachelor in European Cultures is right for you.** Expertise combined with flexibility and the ability to explore multiple perspectives are important assets for young professionals. The Bachelor in European Cultures will help you to develop these skills by inviting you to explore and create links between your specialisation (English Studies) and European Cultures. Please check out the fields and courses on offer in our Common Curriculum. Which fields or courses seem of particular interest to you? Choose one or two courses (not from English Studies) and write about how the perspectives and skills (learning outcomes) gained from this/these course(s) may complement your English Studies and be of benefit to you in your academic or professional future.

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/>. More detailed course descriptions can be found in the programme tab under 'Cultures Européennes': <https://www.uni.lu/fhse-en/study-programs/bachelor-en-cultures-europeennes-english-studies/programme/>.

### + 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.

## 2. Presenting yourself in your own words

We want to read about you, about what motivates you, the choices you have made, the books you have read, and the role these play in your life. We want to read about how you work and what you do to improve the quality of your work. We want to read about the things that make you you.

### 2.1. 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. Can I use AI tools such as ChatGPT or Grammarly?

**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 generate 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. 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 850 words (excluding point 3). 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/>
- + citation: please cite any sources and resources you have used.

## 3. Further questions? Contact us.

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](mailto:bce.office@uni.lu).