Programme Specification

Programme Title and Name of Award	MA Literature, Romanticism, and the English Lake District		
Academic Level	Level 7	**Total Credits**	180
Professional Body Accreditation / Qualification	Not applicable		
Date of Professional Body Accreditation	Not applicable	**Accreditation Period**	Not applicable
UCAS Code	Not applicable		
HECoS Code	100319		
Criteria for Admission to the Programme	The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the Applicant Information pages of the University website for more information. For APL, please refer to the University website. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage:- https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/literature-romanticism-and-the-english-lake-district/		
Teaching Institution	University of Cumbria		
Owning Department	Institute of the Arts		
Programme delivered in conjunction with	n/a		
Principal Mode of Delivery	Face to face		
Pattern of Delivery	Full Time (This programme may also be made available on an infill part-time basis at the discretion of the academic programme leader).		
Delivery Site(s)	Ambleside Campus		
Programme Length	Standard registration period 1 calendar year		

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	Maximum registration period is 5 calendar years
Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)	Upon successful completion of this programme, you may receive a Diploma Supplement/Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).
Exit Awards	You may be awarded one of the following Exit Awards if you fail to achieve the requirements of the full programme. PGCert Literature, Romanticism, and the English Lake District (60 credits) PGDip Literature, Romanticism, and the English Lake District (120 credits)
Period of Approval	From 1st August 2019 to 31st July 2025

Cumbria Graduate Attributes

Throughout your studies, you will be provided with the skills and knowledge relevant to the global workplace. All successful graduates of the University of Cumbria will be:

- Enquiring and open to change
- Self-reliant, adaptable and flexible
- Confident in your discipline as it develops and changes over time
- Capable of working across disciplines and working well with others
- Confident in your digital capabilities
- Able to manage your own professional and personal development
- A global citizen, socially responsible and aware of the potential contribution of your work to the cultural and economic wellbeing of the community and its impact on the environment
- A leader of people and of places
- Ambitious and proud

Programme Features

This full-time, year-long literature MA programme is taught at our World Heritage Site Ambleside campus and consists of six taught 20 credit modules plus an independently studied 60 credit dissertation. You will study three modules in both semester one and semester two on campus. The dissertation is then produced over the summer and gives you the opportunity to work flexibly and independently, and to develop your own areas of related interest. Throughout the programme you will examine the way in which the landscape of the Lake District is 'written' and culturally encoded in literature from the eighteenth century to the present, and from Wordsworth's poetry to children's fiction. Alongside this, you will explore a range of related critical issues, including the role of literature and the arts in addressing contemporary environmental concerns.

In 2017 the English Lake District was granted UNESCO World Heritage Status and was identified as a 'Cultural Landscape' – in other words, the unique properties of the region are deemed to be the 'combined works of nature and of man' (UNESCO). In the case of the Lake District, its social and

economic development has been shaped in significant ways by the impact of literary tourism and by the ideas of place which were promoted and developed by a group of writers in the late 18th and early 19thC. The Lake District therefore represents a unique location in which to explore concerns which have come to increasingly dominate the study of English Literature over the past two decades, relating to the way in literature is informed by but also informs how we perceive and respond to landscape and the environment. Questions regarding humanity's relationship with nature and the way in which literature can make us think and feel about the natural world, have been given a more pressing urgency by the various environmental crises of the 21st century and by emerging concepts such as the Anthropocene (the idea that we are living within an epoch marked by significant human impact on the Earth's ecosystems). Issues relating to environment and sustainability are not only matters of wider global significance at the present time but are also key portfolio themes for the University of Cumbria, which draw closely on staff research and expertise.

In the first semester you will spend some time studying the work of William Wordsworth, the central Romantic poet of the Lakes, who has been perceived as a founding father of ideas which underpin modern ecological thought. In Wordsworth's poetry and prose, inspired more than two centuries ago by the landscape of the Lakes, he asks important philosophical questions about man's relationship with the natural world. In the programme we return to the debates and ideas about nature which are explored in his writing and build on this foundation to go on to explore a range of writers from diverse cultural backgrounds who have since gone on to engage with and seek inspiration from the Lake District, Cumbria, and the natural environment more broadly within their own work. Through this body of writing we address a number of central questions relevant to a range of contemporary philosophical, ethical, and social concerns including the role of literature in responding to these issues and shaping the evolving Cultural Landscapes of the future.

This taught MA offers a truly unique opportunity to study a rich body of literature within a landscape which has been a source of inspiration to generations of poets and writers, at the University of Cumbria's Ambleside campus in the heart of the Lake District National Park. Ambleside itself is surrounded by spectacular scenery and the campus affords stunning views of this inspirational territory. Not only are you able to explore the relationship between the creative imagination and place in an unusually dynamic and experiential way – e.g. by fieldtrips to specific locations and by exploring material held within the Wordsworth Trust's internationally important manuscript and rare book archive – but you will have the opportuntiy to work closely with partner organisations within the heritage and tourism sector and explore the ongoing ways in which literature continues to shape and direct the work of this sector. In your second semester, you experience the work of a literary heritage site in the region (e.g. Brantwood, the Wordsworth Trust, Hill Top) and you will develop a 'real-world' project arising from that work-based learning in order to explore the interface between university and subsequent employment opportunities. The MA also functions as a platform for those wishing to go on to study at doctoral level.

Aims of the Programme

The overall aims of the Programme are:

1. To deepen and extend knowledge and understanding of literature and other modes of cultural representation, through a detailed consideration of a range of texts which respond to a particular geographical and environmental context;
2. To develop advanced critical understanding of the interface between human culture and the environment, and especially the ways in which literary and other cultural texts both respond to, and help shape attitudes to place;
3. To encourage confident experimentation in, and sophisticated understanding of, critical theories

and scholarly debates, especially those underpinning representations of landscape and the natural world in language and culture (e.g. ecocriticism);

4. To encourage independent scholarship in the field of literary and cultural studies, with work presented in a coherent, reflective and sophisticated manner;
5. To develop advanced subject specific and transferable skills, including high-order conceptual, literacy, communication, and research skills of value in graduate employment or for those planning to progress into doctoral research.

Level Descriptors

Level Descriptors describe in general terms the expected outcomes you will achieve at each level of study as you progress through your programmes. They describe the relative demand, complexity, depth of learning and learner autonomy associated with a particular level of learning and achievement. The University's Level Descriptors are aligned to the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and are a key mechanism for ensuring the academic standards of the University's provision.

At Level 7 (Usually Master's level), you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability:

- To display a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.
- Employ advanced subject-specific and cognitive skills to enable decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Generate new ideas and support the achievement of desired outcomes
- Accept accountability for decision making including the use of supervision
- Analyse complex concepts and professional situations by means of synthesis of personal and work place reflection and data drawn from scholarship and research in the field.

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 60 credits of study (PGCert) you will be able to demonstrate:

K1. Detailed knowledge of a number of authors and texts from different historical periods;

K2. Understanding of the impact of geographical location on specific literary texts;

K3. Critical understanding of the role of culture in reflecting and shaping the way we experience place;

K4. Awareness of critical and theoretical issues underpinning representations of landscape and the natural world in language and culture (e.g. ecocritical traditions).

After 120 credits of study (PGDip) you will be able to demonstrate [in addition to K1-4]:

K5. A scholarly appreciation of a range of different modes of literary discourse, including canonical and non-canonical material;

K6. Understanding of the multi-faceted nature of literary representation and its complex relationship to other disciplines and forms of knowledge;

K7. Knowledge and understanding of the work of the Cultural Heritage sector.

After 180 credits of study (MA) you will be able to demonstrate [in addition to K1-7]:

K8. Sensitivity to and critical understanding of a wide range of literary styles, genres, and conventions;

K9. Understanding of the historic and ongoing role played by literature in terms of the ideological, economic, and social conditions of a specific region;

K10. A mastery of a complex and specialised area of knowledge and a critical awareness of issues at the forefront of the area of study.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes (including Employability Skills)

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 60 credits of study (PGCert) you will be able to demonstrate:

S1. An ability to analyse tasks and identify objectives and relevant information sources effectively;

S2. Self-direction and independent time management in tackling and solving problems;

S3. Advanced verbal and written articulacy in communication;

S4. The capacity to work productively and effectively with peers as part of a group or team;

S5. Skills in seeking and retrieving information from a variety of sources (e.g. library, journals, electronic sources) and in critically evaluating its significance;

S6. Appropriate bibliographic skills, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work.

After 120 credits of study (PGDip) you will be able to demonstrate [in addition to S1-6]:

S7. An ability to adapt and transfer critical and communication skills to a work environment;

S8. Skills in working with and in relation to others in a professional way, through the presentation of ideas and information and the collective negotiation of solutions;

S9. Advanced IT skills working with web-based technology, film, and/or multimedia.

After 180 credits of study (MA) you will be able to demonstrate [in addition to S1-9]:

S10. The ability to effectively manage substantial quantities of complex information of diverse kinds in a structured and systematic way;

S11. A capacity to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and communicate your conclusions clearly;

S12. An ability to formulate research questions and employ appropriate methods to explore these questions.

External and Internal Reference Points

The following Subject Benchmark Statements and other external and internal reference points have been used to inform the Programme Outcomes:

There are no Master's level QAA benchmark statements for English but the programme is informed by the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for the honours degree in English, February 2015.

The programme is also informed by the following Internal Reference Points:

- UoC Vision, Mission and Values
- UoC Corporate Strategy
- UoC Strategic Plan
- UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
- UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes

Graduate Prospects

The course can enhance prospects in a range of careers that demand high-level analytical and interpretative skills as well as advanced skills in written and oral communication. Specific career pathways might include work in publishing, media, or the creative and cultural heritage industries; the course can also support students wishing to go on to study at MPhil/PhD level. Similar programmes report destinations such as public and private sector careers in research, book and publishing industries, work within the environmental sector and green industry (advocacy, charities, education, ecotourism and planning), heritage and tourism sector, and the creative industries (HESA data).

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies employed to enable the Programme Outcomes to be Achieved and Demonstrated

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you are part of an inclusive learning community that recognises diversity. You will have opportunities to learn by interacting with others in a collegiate, facilitative and dynamic learning environment. Teaching, assessment and student support will allow equal and equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy.

We seek to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning, whether encountered on campus or at a distance, on placement or in the workplace. Facilitated by our expert practitioner staff, you will experience a learning environment that is well equipped, flexible, and stimulating.

Learning and Teaching within the Programme

Modes of delivery within the programme depend ultimately on module content and academic aims, although most learning and teaching within the programme will be conducted through seminars. The latter encompasses informal tutor input, whole and small group discussion, interaction with peers, close textual study, and directed tasks. Across your programme you will, however, experience other teaching modes, including: small group and individual tutorials, workshops, directed study tasks, student led sessions, fieldtrips, specialist sessions (e.g. working with the archive at the Wordsworth Trust; IT workshops), and distance-learning (e.g. Skype tutorials to support work on Dissertation). The variety of learning and teaching methods used within the programme is designed to ensure inclusivity and to support a range of learner types, and at all times we seek to cultivate a nurturing and supportive learning environment.

Within the programme we utilise learning technology to promote your learning and achievement. You will find that all of your modules have a Blackboard site and details of how to access these sites will be provided during the induction period. This is a virtual learning environment (VLE) which allows you to access worksheets, tasks, online resources, primary texts and/or other information in advance of taught sessions. This allows you to manage your learning and your time in a more flexible way.

At postgraduate level there is a significant emphasis on independent study. You will be required to read all of the set texts in advance of taught sessions and will be asked to work on directed tasks and also independently on the material being studied. The learning and teaching methods adopted within the programme are intended to support your development as an independent critical thinker. You will

be involved in both independent and group work activities and will be expected to make an appropriate contribution in seminar and other contexts.

The curriculum is directly informed by staff research and specialisms and all of your tutors make original contributions to fields of knowledge relating to your studies. In addition, there is input within the programme from external partner organisations, which is designed to both raise awareness of career opportunities and offer experience of work-based learning within the cultural and heritage industries sector.

As the Programme Features section makes clear, while the curriculum responds closely to literature produced in response to a specific region and landscape, the global implications and relevance of the curriculum are made clear throughout as we explore questions around humanity's relationship with nature in relation to environmental crisis and the Anthropocene.

In terms of specialist learning resources a key asset of the programme is our Lake District campus located within a World Heritage site, which allows you to study to Master's level within a beautiful part of England with a rich literary heritage. The programme includes fieldtrips to local sites connected with literature, allowing for unique opportunities for experiential learning. It also provides opportunities to work with the Wordsworth Trust's unique archive of manuscripts and other related material.

As well as our own University library, which holds a good stock of materials relating to this field of study, there are two important specialist libraries within easy reach of the campus:

- The Armitt library is situated on the Ambleside campus itself and holds more than 10,000 books relating to the Lake District and its society including early guide books, works by Lakeland poets, and local authors. The collection also includes over 400 original watercolours by Beatrix Potter and manuscript material relating to important local writers, including John Ruskin.
- The Wordsworth Trust is based in Grasmere and holds a major resource on British Romanticism. While opportunities to work with this resource are included in the programme, the Trust's Jerwood Centre Reading Room is also open to scholars engaged in specific research by prior appointment.

Programme Assessment Strategy

The programme assessment strategy makes use of a range of assessment methods to enable you to demonstrate the extent to which you have achieved the learning outcomes of individual modules and the programme of study overall, and to encourage your development as an independent and autonomous scholar. The critical essay remains a central mode of assessment in literature but other assessment modes deployed throughout the programme include portfolio exercises (e.g. shorter close readings; annotated poems), the scripting and recording of a documentary-style programme, the production of a leaflet or webpage and project work, as well as the dissertation. A range of assessment modes are used because this enables us to test different aspects of your learning but this also reflects our commitment to engaging with the needs of different learners. The assessment strategy encourages you to plan your time effectively, with some activities involving ongoing and incremental engagement and others lending themselves more to shorter and more focussed periods of work.

Where two assessment items are involved within a given module, there may be some overlap in terms of assessing the module's ILOs where these relate to areas addressed by the overall module content, such as knowledge and understanding of specific literary contexts/periods, but there will also be at least one ILO which is unique to each assignment, thus allowing - for example - for the assessment of a more specific skill/application of knowledge in each element (e.g. specific IT skills, close-reading skills, group working skills).

In the case of all summative assessments you will receive detailed written feedback but there are also opportunities for formative feedback built into the programme via – for example - tutorials to discuss draft material and assessment-focussed workshops. Given the emphasis on providing bespoke formative feedback within the programme, anonymous marking is not possible and instead our

emphasis is on producing effective and supportive personal feedback.

The assessment strategy deployed on the programme as a whole ensures that you will have demonstrated a broad range of skills which are relevant to the workplace and thus help to enhance your employability and/or provide a solid base for further study. You will also, however, work with a regional heritage organisation in your second semester and will work towards your design and implementation of a real-world project in which you can showcase and reflect upon the skills you have developed and their application within the heritage sector (though within this you may choose to work on an area which supports your specific career goals e.g. educational, media-related, curatorial).

Student Support

We provide responsive learner support that promotes student success. Our approach to learner support is designed to support achievement and progression, champion inclusivity and accessibility, prepare you for opportunities beyond study, and promote independence and resilience, enabling you to achieve your potential.

As a student of the University of Cumbria, you will be taught by academics and expert practitioners who facilitate learning through structured inquiry. You will be provided with access to high quality academic resources through physical and digital libraries and will be supported to develop skills that enable you to become a critical, reflective, discerning and independent learner and researcher.

Induction

Your studies will commence with a week-long programme of induction activities designed to provide you with essential information about the programme and to support you as you commence your studies, this will include input from the programme leader, from module tutors, and from Student Support staff. Following this first week, ongoing induction support is built into normal timetabled delivery.

International students will be offered bespoke induction during the induction period which will include not only introduction to the University's processes but also support for the transition into UK HE. Following this initial induction period, support will be offered via the support mechanisms available to other students and in particular via the Personal Tutoring system.

High levels of support are offered by the academic programme team throughout the course of your studies and you will be able to contact us directly should you need academic support with your studies.

Personal Tutoring

You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor. Your Personal Tutor will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University. They will support your learning and development, including through tutorials, Progress Reviews and other support as outlined in the Personal Tutoring Policy.

Personal Development Planning

During your studies we will encourage and support you in engaging with personal development planning (PDP). Such development is intrinsic within the programme learning and assessment process but you will be supported in reflecting on and enhancing personal development via tutorials with your Personal Tutor.

Library and Academic Support (based in Information Services)

Module leaders will collaborate with Library and Academic Advisors to ensure that your reading and resource lists are current and items are available via the library discovery tool OneSearch. In order to maximise access, availability and usefulness, ebooks and electronic journal titles will, in most cases, be prioritised. You can access a wide range of electronic and print content using OneSearch and you can

find out more about key texts, databases and journals for your subject by accessing the library's subject resources webpages. Where appropriate, module reading and resource lists will be made available to you electronically using the University's online reading and resource list system.

The Skills@Cumbria service can help support your academic skills and success throughout your programme. The service is delivered by a team of professional Library and Academic Advisors. It includes a suite of online self-help resources accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site. It also provides group and individual advice and guidance accessible through and alongside your course and by different means such as face to face, email or virtual. Visit skills@cumbria for more details.

IT and Technical Support

Technology is an invaluable asset when it comes to studying, so it's important you know how to make the most out of the excellent facilities we have available. Our aim is to ensure you can access university electronic resources from anywhere or any device, whether on or off campus. The Student Hub is your one-stop gateway to all university systems, Outlook email, and OneDrive.

Whether you consider yourself a computer expert or you're not confident about your IT skills, we're always around to ensure you get the level of support you need. We have a wealth of information and support available on the website and have a dedicated IT Service Desk where you can talk to someone by phone or log your question online from anywhere, at any time.

Staff and Student Services

Staff and Student Services offer a wide range of support, including: careers and employability, financial help, counselling, health and wellbeing and support for disabled students and those with specific learning requirements. We know that you want to get the most out of your programme, make the best use of your time and find or continue in the career you always dreamed of. Access university support and facilities easily and quickly via the website and/or via the Student Services guidance tile on the Student Hub.

In addition to the range of guidance above, you have the opportunity to further develop your personal, academic and professional skills by taking part in a number of initiatives coordinated and delivered by professional services advisers:

Preparing for Postgraduate Study

This free online pre-entry Master's level course is available free of charge through the Open Education Platform powered by Blackboard as is Head Start Plus. It provides a useful insight into the academic requirements of study at postgraduate level and is recommended to students who are about to start their PG qualification.

To access the course simply follow the link to https://openeducation.blackboard.com/cumbria and set-up a free account with Open Education. Once logged on, select the course free of charge and work through it at your own pace.

Mature Students' Events

Whether it is a coffee morning, lunchtime gathering or a social event, there are events happening throughout the year to link you up with other mature students who will also be juggling a number of commitments alongside their studies.

Help is at Hand Events

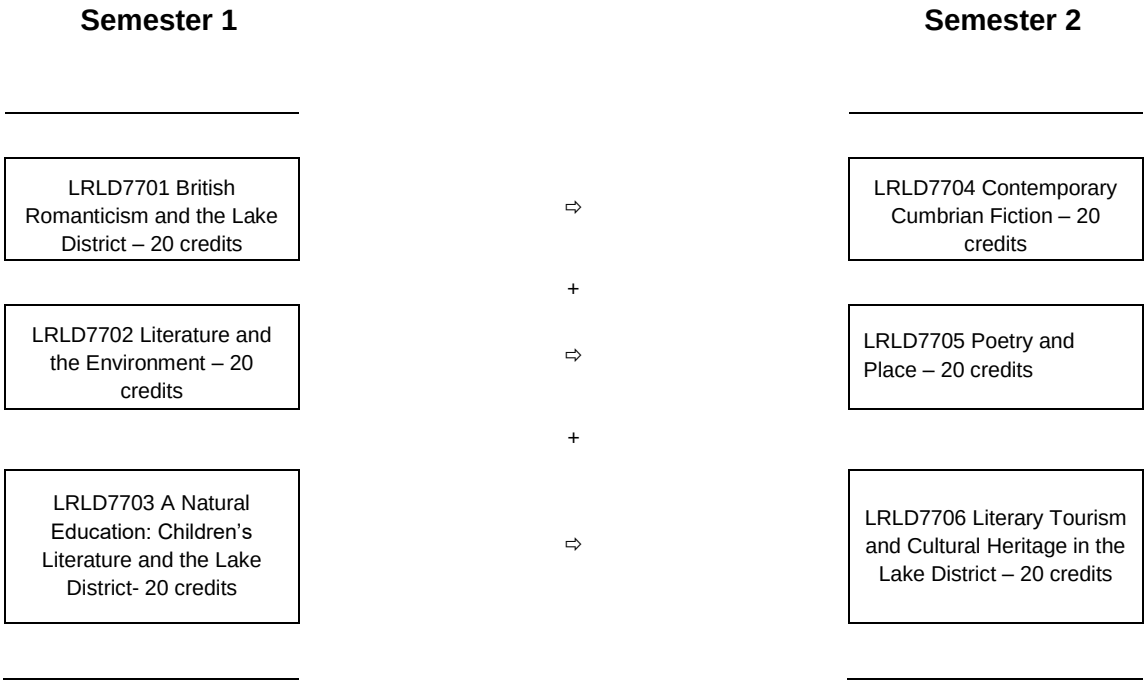
Keep a look out for these interactive events on campus around October and January. You are encouraged to attend these as they showcase the range of support available here and gives you the opportunity to talk to people from Finance, Accommodation, the Students' Union, the Wellbeing and Disability Team etc.

Career Ahead

Career Ahead is the University's Employability Award, which gives students the opportunity to make their graduate CV stand out. Based on what employers look for in an ideal candidate, this award works with students to identify any gaps in their skill set, reflect on their experiences and develop further skills. The University of Cumbria's employability award is split into three stages: Bronze, Silver and Gold, with a further Career Ahead + Platinum level. Students' engagement in extra curricula activities such as volunteering, part-time work, project and charity work and peer mentoring are recognised within Career Ahead. To find out more or to register, email careerahead@cumbria.ac.uk.

Programme Structure

A diagram showing the overall structure and design of the programme is given below:



Summer/Extended Spring Semester

LRLD7710 Dissertation – 60 credits

Programme Curriculum Map					
Academic Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Module Status***	**Programme Outcomes achieved**
7	LRLD7701	British Romanticism and the Lake District	20	Compulsory	K1-6 & 8; S1-3, 5-6
7	LRLD7702	Literature and the Environment	20	Compulsory	K1-6 & 8; S1-6 & 9
7	LRLD7703	A Natural Education: Children's Literature and the Lake District	20	Compulsory	K1-6 & 8; S1-3, 5-6
7	LRLD7704	Contemporary Cumbrian Fiction	20	Compulsory	K1-6 & 8; S1-3, 5-6
7	LRLD7705	Poetry and Place	20	Compulsory	K1-6 & 8; S1-3, 5-6
7	LRLD7706	Literary Tourism and Cultural Heritage in the Lake District	20	Compulsory	K2-4, 6-7 & 9; S1-7, 9-11
7	LRLD7710	Dissertation	60	Compulsory	K1-6 & 8-10; S1-3, 5-6, 10-12

Notes

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes

A failed student will not be permitted to re-register on the same programme.

* **Key to Module Statuses**	
Compulsory Modules	Must be taken although it may possible to condone/compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed)

Programme Delivery Structure: Full Time				
Module Code	**Module Title**	**Delivery Pattern** **Autumn Semester / Spring Semester / Extended Spring Semester / Year-Long**	**Method(s) of Assessment**	**Approximate Assessment Deadline**
LRLD7701	British Romanticism and the Lake District	Autumn	5000 word portfolio	December
LRLD7702	Literature and the Environment	Autumn	5000 word written assignment	January
LRLD7703	A Natural Education: Children's Literature and the Lake District	Autumn	Group project work	January
Students exiting at this point with 60 credits would receive a PGCert Literature, Romanticism, and the English Lake District				
LRLD7704	Contemporary Cumbrian Fiction	Spring	1000 word set exercise 4000 word written assignment	Feb-March May
LRLD7705	Poetry and Place	Spring	5000 word Portfolio	May
LRLD7706	Literary Tourism and Cultural Heritage in the Lake District	Spring	2000 word equivalent set exercise 3000 word equivalent project work	March-April May
Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a PGDip Literature, Romanticism, and the English Lake District				
LRLD7710	Dissertation	Extended Spring Semester	15000 word written assignment	August
Students exiting at this point with 180 credits would receive an MA Literature, Romanticism, and the English Lake District				

Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Learning	
Mechanisms used for the Review and Evaluation of the Curriculum and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods	• Module Evaluation • Programme Validation and Periodic Review • Annual Monitoring • Peer Review of Teaching • External Examiner Reports • Student Success and Quality Assurance Committee • Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)
Mechanisms used for gaining and responding to feedback on the quality of teaching and the learning experience – gained from: Students, graduates, employers, placement and work-based learning providers, other stakeholders, etc.	• Staff Student Forum • Module Evaluation Forms • Programme Evaluation • Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) • Module/Programme/Personal tutorials • Meetings with External Examiners

Date of Programme Specification Production:	16.06.2018
Date Programme Specification was last updated:	11.02.2019
For further information about this programme, refer to the programme page on the University website:- **https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/literature-romanticism-and-the-english-lake-district/**	