



# ENGLISH STUDIES

## WRITING YOUR ADMISSIONS ESSAY

BACHELOR EN CULTURES EUROPÉENNES / UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

PHOTO © Ariane Henry, 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.

## What should I write about?

Your admissions essay must address the following points:

### + YOUR CHOSEN SPECIALISATION

150-200 WORDS

In this part of your essay, we would like to find out more about your decision to study English Literature and Linguistics. Please explain your choice by writing about the *text*, *person*, or *situation* that inspired your decision.

### + WORKING WITH TEXTS

250-300 WORDS

Choose 2-5 lines from the lyrics of a song you like and that prompted you to see the world from a *different perspective*. Formulate a statement (1) examining the *language and figures of speech* used in these 2-5 lines and their effect on you (how they made you feel, what they made you think, or see, etc.) and (2) explaining how these lyrics changed your perspective.

### + EUROPEAN CULTURES

250-300 WORDS

You have chosen the *Bachelor en Cultures Européennes* (BCE), an interdisciplinary programme with a specialisation in English Studies. Please choose one of the courses available in the [Common Curriculum in European Cultures \(uni.lu\)](#) modules (other than English Studies). In your essay, please explain how and why the subject of this course could be *relevant to the study of English literature or linguistics*.

### + 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.

## 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 career plans are;
- + the fact that English is a world language; and
- + personal information that is directly available in your application form.

## Is it ok to get help with my admissions essay?

**This depends on what you mean by ‘getting help’.** Asking a friend or parent 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 more ways than one: 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!

## How should I format my essay?

**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 650 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 subtitle.

Your Name
Personal Identifier issued by the University of Luxembourg
Date
<b>Admissions Essay</b>
<b>Subtitle (optional)</b>
Text of your essay
Word count: ... words

## Contact

For further information, please visit our website (<http://bce.english.uni.lu>) or contact the BCE Admissions Team: [admission.bce@uni.lu](mailto:admission.bce@uni.lu).