Applicant and Admission

We seek creative and ambitious graduate students who have achieved high levels of academic distinction and sophistication at well-regarded colleges and universities with rigorous BA/MA programs. To be competitive for admission you should have a high GPA (3.7 and above in English) and typically have scored at or above the 90th percentile on the Verbal portion and/or 4.5 or above on the Essay portion of the GRE General Test. You should also have identified your fields/areas of intended study, possible thesis/dissertation topics, and specific faculty in our department with whom you might wish to work. We attempt to provide a graduate assistantship to all students entering the program. The typical assistantship affords two years of support for master’s candidates and at least four years of support for doctoral candidates in the form of a nine-month stipend (currently $18,000), 18 credit hours of tuition scholarship annually, and health insurance.

To be considered for admission, you will need to provide:

1. An official transcript of your undergraduate record and, for applicants to the Ph.D. program, graduate record.
2. Recent GRE General Test scores (the GRE Subject Test is not required).
3. A recent résumé.
4. Three letters of recommendation assessing your promise in graduate studies.
5. A statement of no more than 750 words that lays out your professional and intellectual goals, and your interest in graduate studies in English. Please ensure that your statement addresses the following four points: the specific field of English studies that you are interested in; how you would like to contribute to existing research and criticism in your area of interest; the critical and scholarly approaches to literature you have found most productive; and the SLU faculty members you are looking to work with. While your plans may well change as a result of further study, your statement will help us to assess both your grasp of the field and your ability to describe your ideas coherently and compellingly.
6. A 10-page writing sample which demonstrates competence in analyzing literary texts (and which may be an excerpt from a longer piece).

Completed applications with all materials for admission and financial aid must be received by January 1. We do not admit students to begin in the Spring semester or a Summer session. 1818 instructors seeking a graduate degree should consult the Director of Graduate Studies in English.

To apply, visit the Graduate Admission Website. Please do not forward any application materials directly to the Department. All application materials must be submitted through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

For application forms and more information, contact:

Graduate Admission
Saint Louis University
DuBourg Hall, Suite 150
One North Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103
Website: http://www.slu.edu/graduate-admission-home/apply-now
Email: gradadmission@slu.edu
Phone: (314) 977-2500 or 1-800-SLU-FOR-U