

What kind of jobs do MA and PhD students get?

Becoming a professor is one option, but not the only option after you graduate with an MA or PhD in English. Beyond the 60 percent of graduates who work as professors, a recent NEH study found another 20 percent work in educational institutions in a non-faculty capacity; four percent work in government; five percent work in the non-profit sector; another six percent in private business; and five percent are self-employed. While academic jobs are relatively scarce, the number of NGO, foundation and non-profit jobs keeps growing. Many MA and PhD graduates work for non-profits, in higher-education administration, in museums, in advertising and marketing, or in public policy.

Why go to graduate school?

- People who earn doctorates in the humanities tend to report a high degree of professional satisfaction, regardless of where they are employed.
- We offer selected students a tuition waiver and a modest stipend, meaning you don't have to go into debt to obtain a graduate degree. Summer research assistantships are available on a limited basis.
- Your schedule is typically flexible; classes are often in evenings if you have caring or job obligations during the day.
- You will improve your critical thinking skills, writing skills, teaching skills, oral communication, and ability to research and synthesize material.
- The opportunity to explore your passion for your subject area, as well as knowledge and discourse with other individuals who are similarly inclined.

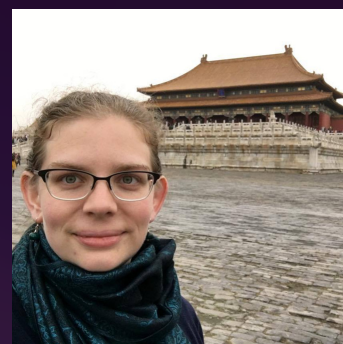
"As a Support Receptionist, I used many of the skills I gained from my education. I am adept at multi-tasking, prioritizing, learning, communicating with both clients & coworkers, and being resourceful, which my employer appreciates. During my time at Ball State, I also developed my own system of organization and planning, which ultimately helped me get a promotion."

- Rachel Tindall, Project Intake Coordinator at Orchard Software, MA General English, 2017

OUR ALUMNI



Ashley Mack-Jackson received an MA in Creative Writing from Ball State in 2015. She teaches English at Ivy Tech Community College and serves as the Co-CEO of Word as Bond, Inc., an organization that provides free creative writing programs for teens in Indianapolis.



Leslie Erlenbaugh received an MA in TESOL and Linguistics from Ball State. She participated in study abroad opportunities and the JET Program, where she spent three years working with students in Japan. She currently serves as the International Student Academic Advisor at BSU.

Meet more of our accomplished alumni

Elisabeth Buck (PhD Rhetoric and Composition, 2016), Assistant Professor & Faculty Director, Writing and Reading Center, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Sarah Smith-Robbins (MA Rhetoric and Composition, 2011) Director of Emerging Technologies, Kelley School of Business, University of Indiana

Imad Khawaldeh (PhD Literature, 2014), Assistant Professor, Hashemite University, Jordan.

Hideki Goya (PhD Applied Linguistics, 2014), Associate Professor, University of Ryukyus, Japan

Alex Wenning (MA General English, 2005) Director of the University Honors Program, Wright State University

Robert Maakestad (MA Creative Writing, 2014) Coordinator of Campus Outreach, George Mason University

Jolene McConnell (MA TESOL and Linguistics, 2006) Recipient of the US Department of State's English Language Fellowship, a 10-month opportunity to teach English in Moscow, Russia at Moscow Research Institute of Steel and Alloys

Abdullah Al-Sheikh Hasan (PhD Literature, 2016), Assistant Professor of English Literature, Hashemite University, Jordan

Aaron Nicely



Aaron Nicely is a reader turned web developer. With an **MA in Creative Writing** from Ball State in 2010, Aaron returned to Ball State to earn an additional **MA in Literature** with hopes of pursuing a PhD in Literature. However, after a graduate assistantship creating social media content for Ball State's College of Sciences and Humanities, a growing interest in web design and content creation changed his career path towards digital marketing, and eventually web and app development. As Director of Digital Communications at Noblesville-based Elbert Construction, Aaron now develops and maintains web-based software for a multi-million dollar company, as well as its website and social media platforms.

Elisabeth Buck



Elisabeth Buck earned a **PhD in Rhetoric in Composition** from Ball State in 2016. During her time as a graduate student, she held positions as the Graduate Assistant Director of the Writing Program and the Graduate Assistant Director of the Writing Center. Her graduate coursework also prepared her to turn her dissertation into a book, *Open-Access, Multi-Modality, and Writing Center Studies*. Elisabeth now works as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of English and Faculty Director of the Writing and Reading Center at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

Jolene McConnell



Jolene McConnell, now an English Language Fellow in Albania with the US Dept. of State, attended Ball State University 2003-2006. After finishing her **MA in TESOL and Linguistics**, Jolene McConnell began working at a private language school for adults in Poland. At the completion of her contract, she then moved to Korea to teach in a public school. This was followed by a brief stint teaching ESP on cruise ships and another 2-year contract with public schools in Korea. Upon her return to the US, Jolene worked for ELS Language Centers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for a year before moving to Kansas State University, where she worked for five years before taking a leave of absence to do the fellowship. In her current role in Albania, McConnell is conducting workshops for English teachers throughout the country.

Leslie Erlenbaugh



Leslie Erlenbaugh received a BA in English Literature from Trine University and an **MA in TESOL and Linguistics** from Ball State. She participated in study abroad opportunities before joining the JET Program, where she spent three years working with students in Fukui, Japan. This teaching experience inspired her to return to the US and pursue her MA in Linguistics and TESOL. She currently serves as the International Student Academic Advisor at BSU. Here she works with the international student population to facilitate the academic transition from ESL classes to academic programs, as well as dual degree-seeking students. She also focuses on student success, acculturation, and student retention.

Ashley Mack-Jackson



Ashley Mack-Jackson received an **MA in Creative Writing** from Ball State in 2015. She teaches English at Ivy Tech Community College and serves as the Co-CEO of Word as Bond, Inc., an organization that provides free creative writing programs for teens in Indianapolis. Her poetry has appeared in journals like Drumvoices, Revue, Reverie, and Callaloo.