

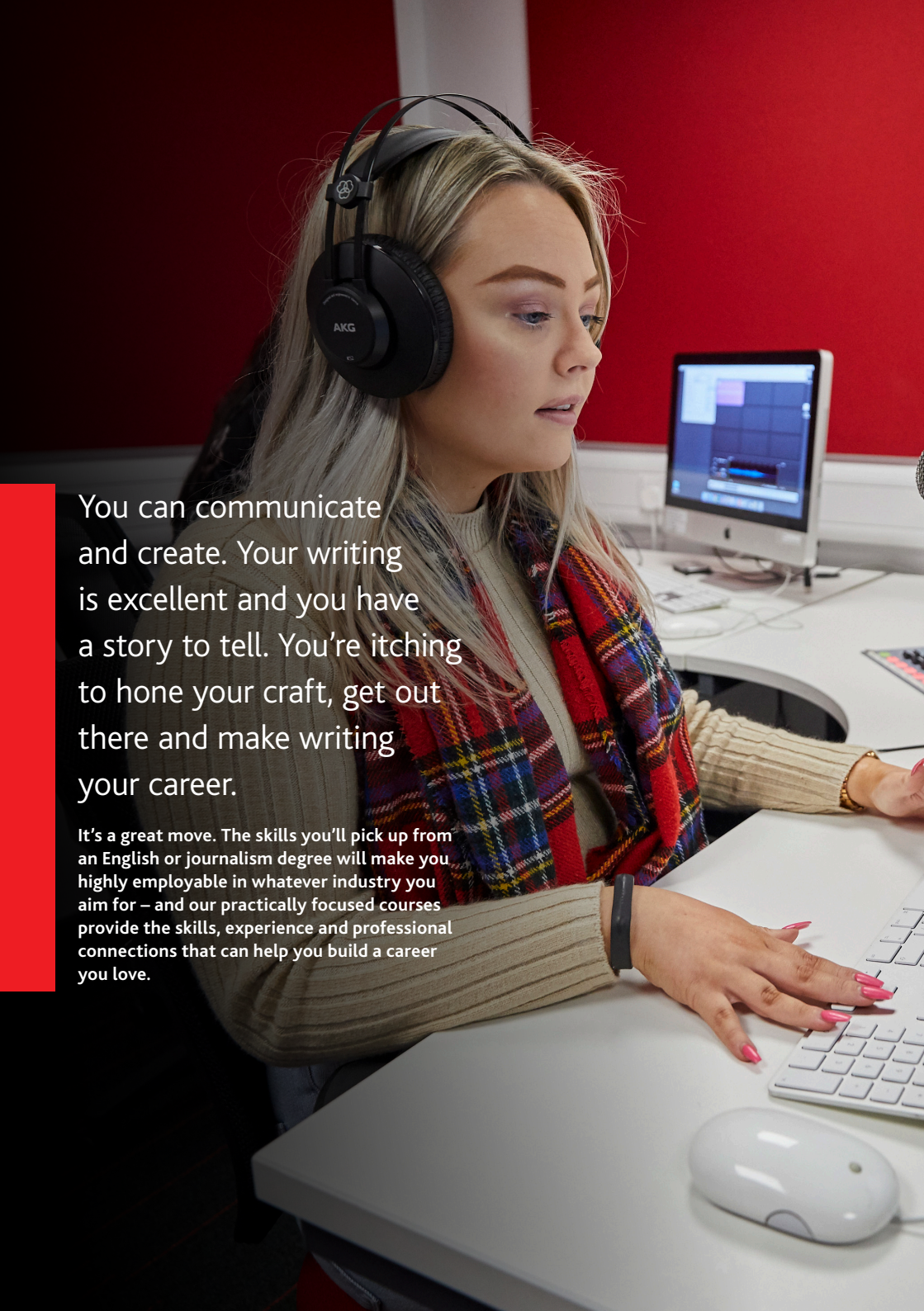
SOLENT
UNIVERSITY

SOUTHAMPTON



ENGLISH AND
JOURNALISM

2022



You can communicate and create. Your writing is excellent and you have a story to tell. You're itching to hone your craft, get out there and make writing your career.

It's a great move. The skills you'll pick up from an English or journalism degree will make you highly employable in whatever industry you aim for – and our practically focused courses provide the skills, experience and professional connections that can help you build a career you love.



Nail your narrative, develop your critical awareness and build on your creative flair through our hugely popular English and creative writing degree – with 100 per cent overall student satisfaction in the latest National Student Survey (2020), it's the most popular in the UK.

We'll help expand your familiarity with literature – and expand your mind, so that you become a more innovative and globally conscious writer with a huge range of classic and cutting-edge writing techniques at your command. But we'll also offer a practical edge to your ambitions, ensuring your energies are channelled into unrivalled opportunities, keeping you focused on your future.

You'll have the chance to work on live briefs with real-world clients, blending business acumen with industry-ready skills and your own enhanced creativity. And you'll even have the chance to become a published author, building up a portfolio of work that demonstrates your style and skills to prospective publishers or employers.

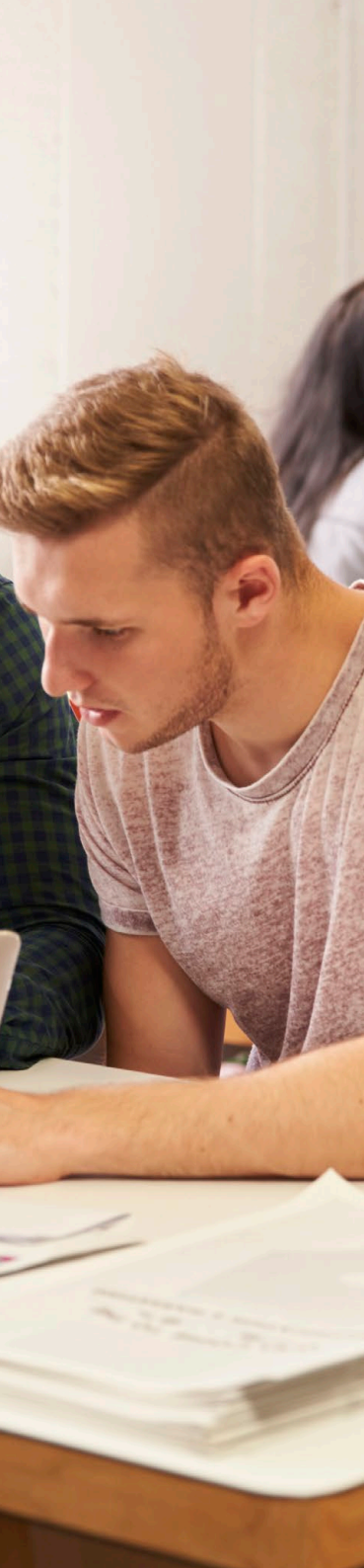
Our sports journalism degree is constantly refined to meet the needs of the modern industry, offering a broad spectrum of skills – from print or broadcast to online and social media reporting – training you to produce a comprehensive news package that will engage and excite your audience. Solent sports journalists operate at a range of top broadcast companies, including Sky Sports, BBC Sport, ESPN and talkSPORT, as well as national newspapers such as the *Daily Mail* and *The Times*. Other graduates work in the media offices of football, cricket and rugby clubs, as well as creative agencies and organisations.

So if you want to make an impact on the world, studying English or journalism at Solent could be the best choice you make.



WRITE YOUR STORY

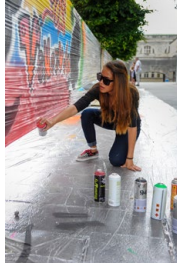
Wherever you see your future – whether it's writing for top brands, working in journalism, or pursuing a career in creative writing – Solent can help you take the next step.



WHY ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM?

- Publishing is estimated to have accounted for 193,000 jobs in the UK creative economy in 2016, almost 10 per cent of UK creative industries employment (Creative Industries 2016).
- The creative industries continue to grow and are estimated to employ over 1.8 million people in the UK, an increase of 5.5 per cent since 2013 (Department for Culture, Media & Sport, 2015).
- BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing is ranked number 1 in the UK and scored 100 per cent overall satisfaction (National Student Survey, 2020).
- Our in-house agency, Solent Creatives, gives you the chance to work on one-off assignments and briefs, making you more experienced, connected and employable.
- Work experience is a core element of all our writing and communications courses. During the second and third years of study you will have the opportunity to undertake a work placement year. You will also be supported and encouraged to gain work experience during your summer break to develop your skills and knowledge further.
- The Students' Union offers entrepreneurship-focused activities, networking, practical help, events and guest speakers.
- Thanks to our close links with industry, many of our writing and communications courses also offer the opportunity to take part in live briefs set by industry professionals. This enables you to solve real problems and come up with creative solutions.
- Throughout your studies you will have the opportunity to benefit from guest lectures, learning valuable industry insight. Recent speakers have included James McMahan (former editor of *Kerrang!*) and representatives from companies such as Work-Club, Saatchi and Saatchi, AKQA and more.





OUR GREAT CITY

With close to 25,000 businesses in knowledge-intensive sectors, employing 163,000 people across the region, we're ideally placed for graduate jobs.

Southampton is a vibrant maritime city at the heart of a healthy and growing regional economy. It's been one of the top three cities in PwC's Good Growth for Cities index for three years running, and it's home to some of the UK's flagship organisations, including Ordnance Survey, B&Q, Carnival and Ageas.

Hampshire is recognised as one of the most successful economies in the UK and has the largest sub-regional economy in the south east of England, with economic output totalling £50 billion. Southern England enjoys the largest business population in the UK, and the finance and business sector in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is worth around £4.5 billion.

The city also boasts Premier League football, world-class sailing and international cricket. It has a wealth of live music venues, theatres and exhibitions, with ambitious plans to become UK City of Culture in 2025. The city's historic walls and old town bring to life Southampton's rich maritime heritage, with major redevelopments complementing this and bringing new leisure, retail and employment opportunities into the heart of the city.

EMILY SMITH

BA (Hons) English and
Creative Writing, 2020



Finish this sentence: English at Solent is for you if...

...you love a good debate! Our lectures and seminars across the whole three years encouraged us to consider things on a deeper level and voice our opinions on everything from the novels we were studying to current affairs.

What was the best thing about your course lecturers?

The Solent English team has some of the most intellectual, inspiring and supportive people I have met. They all have a number of connections across multiple different industries, which is invaluable when it comes to establishing a career. Above all, their approach to their students is amazing, and I think I can speak for the whole course when I say we all had an amazing relationship with the team.

What about the facilities?

In terms of English, the library has an extensive collection of research journals, academic papers and theory books, and if we weren't able to access a certain text, it could be transferred from a different library, which was very helpful.

Do you feel that your studies helped you prepare for a career in the industry? How?

There are a lot of transferrable skills that we learnt from the Solent English team – for example, working as part of a team, being confident in voicing and backing your own opinions, and presentation skills – all of which are vital in the workplace.

We also had a compulsory work experience module, for which we had to complete 100 hours of work experience in our chosen field. The Head of Solent English invited me to work as an editorial assistant on the *African Communication Research* journal because I wanted to go into publishing, but I know others who worked in bookselling, teaching or human rights projects – each student was able to establish relationships in the industry they wished to work in.

My time working on the *African Communication Research* journal was definitely something of a highlight, though! After finishing my work experience module in 2019 I was invited back to work as deputy editor on the second edition in 2020. It was amazing to read and edit such revolutionary articles, and to be involved in the publication of something that provides a platform to voice opinions that may have otherwise been repressed.

What opportunities did you have to gain practical experience?

A few other third-year students and I – all with an interest in publishing – founded the Solent Society for Proofreaders and Editors (SSfPE), with help from the Head of English. This created an opportunity for students to get an insight into how the industry works and gave tips on how to successfully enter a notoriously competitive industry.

What's your favourite Solent memory?

One of my favourite memories would be when I was able to have my own short story and poem published by The English Collective (an indie publisher founded by Solent English), and then went on to create and publish *Pensive* magazine with a team of fellow students during one of our second-year modules.

What did you like best about living and studying in Southampton?

Southampton has lots of fun things to do. I loved being in the city centre – all of the uni accommodation is a five-minute walk away from the shops and restaurants, and most of the student housing for second and third year is very nearby too, which made socialising so easy!

What did you take away from your time at Solent University?

Friends, connections, new opportunities?
Absolutely all three!

You graduated in 2020 – what have you been up to since then?

My career, as such, is still developing. I have started working as a freelance editor to develop my skillset and experience in that industry. I feel happier doing freelance editorial work because it's not high pressure and means I have more freedom and control over my spare time.

What do you wish you'd known then that you know now?

I think it's so important to know that most graduates don't get a job in their relevant industry for at least six months – and more likely a year – after graduating. I think an awareness of that would have led me to be much less harsh on myself.

What are you working on at the moment? Any projects or plans you're excited about?

I'm currently finishing up a project with an author who is about to publish their third novel – it's in the final stages of the editorial process and it has been so great to see it finally taking shape after working on it for so many months.

I'm also about to start working as an acquisitions assistant for an indie publisher called SmashBear, so I'm very excited to get started on that – I was offered this role by another Solent English student who I worked alongside in the SSfPE. I also worked for them as an editor on their debut novel, which is being released next month!

This new role involves reading submissions sent to SmashBear, then presenting a report to the rest of the team on why I believe we should or should not proceed with the prospective novel.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in English?

You need to absolutely love reading; also, get as much experience as you can before graduating. You will also need to be prepared to relocate in order to work in publishing – although the world of work has changed with COVID, so this may be different in years to come.



DANIEL SHELDON

Freelance Journalist
BA (Hons) Sport Journalism, 2018

“This course is for you if you have a passion for sports news and you want to be given the tools to learn how to deliver that news to an audience.”



How did university prepare you for your career?

University helped me prepare for my career by giving me the platform to go out and get real-life work experience. Not only that, the lecturers on the course have a plethora of contacts who they are more than happy to let you use if you ask them. Because of these contacts, I managed to get myself freelancing opportunities at M & Y News Agency.

Tell us a little about your career story so far.

My freelance career started at the beginning of my second year when I started covering Swindon Town's matches for M & Y News Agency. That continued throughout the season, and I remember seeing the course leader at Fratton Park for one of Portsmouth's fixtures and saying that hopefully covering Swindon would lead to bigger and better things. After proving myself at Swindon, I was given the opportunity to cover Bournemouth and Southampton in the Premier League for the national newspapers. To be reporting on Premier League games before the start of my final year at Solent is something that I am immensely proud of.

Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves.

A typical match day involves me arriving at the stadium two hours before the game starts. This gives me time to chat to other journalists, eat some lunch and then do any final preparation for the match, if I need to. I then watch the match at the same time as writing my report, which is normally sent once the referee blows the final whistle. After that, I sit down in the press conference to speak to the managers. I then rewrite my

match report but base it on what the managers have said. From there, I go into the mixed zone to try and grab a player to interview for a follow-up piece which will appear in the newspapers on Monday.

What's your career highlight so far?

I have had many pinch-yourself moments so far. Interviewing Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho and Jürgen Klopp all stand out. But my current highlight is having an article published in *The Times*. It is my dream to one day work there, so when I saw my name written above the story I had written, it was a moment I won't forget.

What is your area of study to you?

Sports journalism isn't just watching Premier League football and writing about it. It's about being inquisitive, having a natural flair to your writing, having the confidence to ask questions, and ultimately picking up a telephone to ring someone. As a generation that spends a lot of time playing on our phones, all too often we are too scared to use it to call someone.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

If I were to give one tip to students looking for a career in this industry, it would be to put yourself out there. Had I not volunteered at M & Y News Agency in my first year, I wouldn't have been covering Premier League football in my final year. Don't just expect opportunities to fall into your lap – you have to make them happen for yourself.



ELLIE HARRIES

BA (Hons) Sports Journalism, 2016

Why did you pick Solent?

Complete chance – I initially didn't want to go to university as I was interested in playing cricket for England (which didn't work out because of injuries). I visited the Uni so that my friend could look around, and while she was sat in an open day lecture, I sat in the sports journalism teaser and fell for it. It combined my love of sport and writing.

What was the best thing about your course lecturers?

It was their industry knowledge. Our lecturers were able to give us tips and tricks from their time in the industry (many were still practising journalists), as well as contacts for work experience.

Do you feel like your studies helped you prepare for a career in the industry?

100 per cent – I would not have my job now if I hadn't completed my course. Although I specialised in sport, it set me up for covering all types of news, which is what I do now. I was taught how to sound good on air, as well as online, which has been vital for my job in radio.

What's stuck with you over the years?

I remember having voice training with lecturers as well as outside presenters, which was so useful in learning how I wanted to sound on air. The other thing was Tim Abraham coming in to talk to us about his experience in the sports industry. I've been a big fan of his for years, and would love his job some day.

Tell us a little about your career so far.

Work experience was part of our course, and I was put in touch with my local radio station, thanks to one of my lecturers. I started out working at Spire FM as an intern, and once I finished university they took me on part-time.

I then progressed to being a full-time member of staff within a year, mostly focusing on the digital side of the business, having been taught how to run websites and social media at Solent. I was also a regular newsreader in the afternoon. After four years I went to Global – which runs stations such as Heart, Capital and LBC – where I became the breakfast newsreader initially for Heart in the South, before going to Capital South Coast and Brighton.

Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves – a typical working day.

I start work at 5am every day, and for the first 40 minutes I collate the news for my areas for my 6am bulletins – checking out social media, other news outlets and emails. I then record both of my bulletins, before going back to scouting other news out, rewriting news and preparing for my travel bulletins, which are around every half an hour up until 9am. My news bulletins run on the hour from 6am until 12pm. During quieter periods I seek out news for my colleagues in the afternoon, as well as trying to find exclusives that could run across all our brands.

What's your career highlight so far?

I was working on the news desk in Salisbury when the Novichok poisonings were in the news, back in 2018. I was first on the scene to several cordons, as well as being one of only a handful of journalists to take photos of Sergei Skripal's car, which were then used by the BBC, ITV and Sky.

How are you finding the industry? Any unexpected challenges or other surprises?

It's been a whirlwind. Some days I've thrived on what news we have in, other days it's depressing, and the rest of the time it can be dull. I love breaking news, although it can be very stressful. The one thing that doesn't change is that we are working our hardest to find out information for the public.



ABBY COOMBES

BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing, 2020

Finish this sentence: English at Solent is for you if...

...you are passionate about literature, open-minded, and enjoy and value a small community (both the uni as a whole and the course).

What was the best thing about your course?

The lecturers genuinely care about their students and want to see them achieve their full potential. They put so much into their lectures and seminars to make them an intellectually stimulating experience.

And they were also really good at letting us know about creative writing competitions and other work experience opportunities in the industry.

How did your studies prepare you for a career in the industry?

Throughout the three years, there were several units that helped us acquire the skills required to work in publishing and other related industries. The work experience unit in the third year and the Business of Independent Publishing unit in the second year proved invaluable – and the skills I picked up are transferable into many careers, not just publishing.

Many of our seminars have stuck with me, too, because they were thought-provoking and a safe space for students to express themselves and be heard. In fact, the same can be said for all our lectures and seminars! And the Business of Independent Publishing unit springs to mind again, because it was an eye-opening experience and gave me the opportunity to lead a group and work within the Southampton community.

What was life like as a Solent student?

I enjoyed being a Solent student – both life in halls and in a student house. Southampton really is a city of culture. Coming from a very rural town, living in a city with everything on my doorstep or within walking distance was amazing!

What's your favourite Solent memory?

The nights out with my housemates and friends. Also the opportunity to go to Paris in 2019 on Solent English's Literary Grand Tour.

What do you wish you'd known then that you know now?

As daunting and scary as university seems, it will turn out to be the best experience of your life. Look for the lessons and opportunities in everything – everything happens for a reason.

Why does English matter?

English is so much more than just reading and writing. So many other subjects overlap, such as history, philosophy, media studies and psychology, to name a few. English matters because you can learn so much, not just outwardly by looking at society, but inwardly by questioning and reflecting on yourself and having conversations with academics.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in English?

Persevere and make connections wherever possible, and take opportunities to gain experience and meet people – you never know where it could lead.

“My friends from Solent are friends for life. I also left with new life skills and career-orientated skills.”

JOSHUA JONES

BA (Hons) English and Media, 2018
– see BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing

Briefly describe a typical day on your course.

There was a lot of reading and discussion: you are encouraged to share your views, no matter how outlandish or far-fetched you may think they are. You are encouraged to push yourself and to learn new ways of reading literature, and typically discuss topics such as feminism, sexuality and existentialism, to name a few.

Best and worst bits of the course?

The level of freedom is a blessing and a curse, depending on the kind of worker you are. For me, I thrive on the level of independence, but I am also a very last-minute worker. It can be difficult to motivate yourself, but there was a lot of time outside of the classroom to dedicate to reading and research, and also to pursue projects outside of university.

What surprised you about the course?

I've always had a deep dislike of Shakespeare since secondary school. I believe that schools don't teach Shakespeare efficiently enough, to say the least, and I wasn't expecting anything different. Now, I have an awakened appreciation of him as I never saw myself enjoying Shakespeare's work. I've since learned to read and study literature outside of predisposed bias and prejudice.

On the media side of the course, I learned that I love recording and designing sound, and about various ways to practise and experiment with that.





Your Solent highlight?

Putting together *On The Water* through Solent Creatives, an anthology of poetry, prose and everything in between. I loved the entire process and discovered I had a passion for publishing.

How did Solent help prepare you for a career?

My course helped me gain confidence and find my voice, think differently and experiment in terms of creative writing and expression. I'm a spoken-word poet and I like to perform and publish poetry. The course encouraged me to do that.

On the media side of the course, I learned how to use software such as InDesign (which I have used to create zines), and developed my skills in Photoshop, Premiere Pro and Lightroom. Media courses at Solent are very practical and hands-on. I believe the radio and photography studios and all the equipment (which can also be hired out for personal use) are really taken for granted: you won't be able to use the work spaces and equipment once you've graduated.

In one sentence, what is your area of study to you?

A platform for artistic and creative expression – and to gain confidence and fluency in that expression – in whichever way one decides.



HOLLIE WARD

Marketing Executive, Abri Group

BA (Hons) English, 2017 – see BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing

Why did you pick Solent? What made you think 'this is the place'?

I loved the modern, vibrant feel of the University when I visited for an open day, and the fact that everything was so easily accessible. Lots of other campuses I visited would have classrooms very far apart across the city, and I couldn't imagine having to rush to my next lesson!

I was completely won over by the library, too. I loved how many resources there were, and the different options for studying. Everyone I met throughout the open day was so passionate about Solent, so it went straight to the top of my list.

English at Solent is for you if...

...you're looking for a totally new way to study English!

What was the best thing about your course lecturers?

Where to start? They were so supportive of me throughout the entire course. I became quite ill during my first year, and my lecturers reached out and offered further support that was more accessible, and this really did make such a difference to how I was able to perform. They also let me know about extra support the University could provide – hardship loans, disability support allowance – that I just wouldn't have known about otherwise.

What about the facilities?

Going back to the library, it's such a wonderful asset to Solent. The staff are so willing to go above and beyond to ensure you have what you need to study. When it came to my dissertation, there were books I needed, and the library staff organised stocking a copy for me so I didn't have to buy my own. So if there's an article or paper that you can't access, they will always help!

And it being open for 24 hours a day was just world-changing, especially during that final year when you need a dedicated space to sit and focus. My friends and I spent many a late night sitting in the library, writing our papers!

The online learning portal was also a fantastic help to me, with all the battles I had with illness during the course. When I couldn't attend a lesson, my lecturers would put up helpful reading material, as well as presentations or notes from lectures, which meant I could still study for my course from home.

Do you feel that your studies helped you prepare for a career in the industry? How?

Undoubtedly! I worked in communications for two or three years after graduating, and I really feel that the course gave me such a good foundation. Of course, writing for my job has been a very different ball game, but it amazes me sometimes to look back on the first assignments I wrote for the English course and see how my skills developed over the three years.

I also spent a lot of time working with creative writers at ArtfulScribe, and even had a chance to teach creative writing to the Mayflower Young Writers group for a few years.

What did you learn or study which has stuck with you over the years?

During our second year, we did a great unit called Solent Press. We got to do all sorts of wonderful projects, from publishing an anthology of our creative writing to podcast interviews with staff members. Everyone did something completely different and independent, and I always loved logging on to see what everyone had been up to! We had learned about publishing, but in the space of two semesters we were doing it all for ourselves!

What was life like as a Solent student?

It was great. Everyone at Solent was so friendly and welcoming. I was briefly part of a few societies, including the LGBT+ society and the Quill Society. This was started up by the lecturers, and they supported us in putting together monthly events where we would invite people working in the writing industry to run guest lectures, as well as talking about their job and how they got there.

I think this was really eye-opening for a lot of the students – to really see the variety of careers we could go into from where we were, and have the chance to ask how! Plus, running these events really was a wonderful stepping-stone for me.

The Solent English students and lecturers are like a small family, so we had regular nights at the pub together – including an end-of-semester quiz!

What did you like best about living and studying in Southampton?

I had actually lived in Southampton my entire life, but one thing I'd never realised about the city was that the arts scene is second to none. This brought me so many wonderful opportunities during university and beyond – the quality and variety of shows, installations, galleries and music venues on your doorstep is just incredible.

What did you take away from your time at Solent University?

All of it! We're all still in regular contact with the course lecturers, and they offer wonderful support, even now that we've left. I can always count on them for references and advice of any kind. I've made some of my best friends during my time at Solent, and I'm really grateful for that.

And opportunities! I would never have met and worked with Southampton's Poet Laureate for Children without the Quill Society, and I'd probably not be in the job I am now without the University's internship scheme.

Tell us a little about your career so far.

After I graduated, I worked for Southampton Festivals for a few months, then as the events

assistant intern at Solent University, which eventually led to a role as the communications assistant. Alongside all of this, I continued supporting all sorts of creative writing and performance events in Hampshire!

Once I left Solent, I joined Radian as a marketing and communications assistant. I've now worked here for over two years, during which we've rebranded as Abri, and I'm currently the marketing executive for new homes in the south-west.

My current role has me overseeing marketing for the new-build homes we sell in the south-west. Brochures, floor plans, signage... I have a budget that has to last the lifetime of a site, so I have to pick and choose how we advertise it, including Facebook ads, Rightmove, Zoopla and more.

We also get to do some fun, seasonal campaigns! We brainstorm ideas which we then get our graphic designers to create fun little assets for. These then get rolled out into blog posts, social media and emails. It's always a great bit of fun to come up with something new.

Why does English matter?

Communication! It's such an important part of our daily lives, especially in this 'digital age'. We're communicating more than ever, and it's become overwhelming. So it's vital to be able to get your point across quickly and effectively to people – whether that's as a person or a business.

I love that challenge of trying to condense a big, complex idea down into something short and snappy so that literally anyone can understand it.

Any advice to someone wanting a career in your industry?

Say yes to everything! Never turn down an opportunity, or shy away from something because it's new or different. Take steps outside your comfort zone, and see where that 'yes' can take you.



ANGELA BARNES

Sky News Reporter, Producer and Presenter

BA (Hons) Journalism, 2008

– see BA (Hons) Sports Journalism

How did university prepare you for your career?

The course provided me with an excellent foundation to build on at the start of my journalism career by helping me to make a confident and impressive transition into a real newsroom environment.

My current position at Sky is one of the most diverse in the newsroom: not only do I produce, but I also report and present. Being able to combine all of these roles is thanks to the excellent tuition I received in these areas to prepare me for my career.

Favourite Solent memory?

My favourite Solent memory was in my final year of the course. At this stage, all the skills had come together and we were all tasked with producing and reporting a piece of content under a deadline for a live evening news bulletin. I found a story I wanted to cover with the Stop The War Coalition, so travelled to London to interview protesters outside Downing Street and film my story.

I remember self-shooting my own piece-to-camera and really enjoyed being on a breaking news story that other news outlets were also covering. I returned to the University with all my footage and really enjoyed the process of putting it all together and getting it ready for the news bulletin with the rest of the team.

Tell us a little about your career story so far.

During my final year at university, I started freelance writing for the business section of the *Daily Echo*, gaining weekly bylines. In my third year, I also gained freelance work at the *Evening Standard* newspaper, achieving my first national front page byline on a mayoral election campaign story.

Upon graduation, I was accepted onto Sky News' internship programme – a very competitive placement to get – which lasted three weeks. After impressing them, I was offered a full-time position at Channel 5 News, which was then part of Sky. I worked there for a year as an online producer and TV reporter. After that, I took a staff position at Sky News where I now work – and love my job!

Tell us about what you are doing now.

Every day at work is different, thanks to the variety of skills I have – I go between producing, reporting and presenting.

One of the programmes I occasionally host and regularly report on is called Swipe, Sky News' weekly flagship technology show. I'm tasked with coming up with programme ideas, then planning and executing them. I often travel around Europe with the show, reporting on interesting stories on TV and, to accompany my reports, writing an article for online or producing a version for mobile, Snapchat, Facebook and On Demand, catering to the different platforms.

I work with a cameraman on location, advising of the footage we need – we work together to capture the story. Afterwards, back at our main studio in London, I watch through the footage, write up my report and work with an editor to get it ready for broadcast. Most recently, I was in Paris, reporting on how it is trying to draw tech talent over from the UK post-Brexit.

I love the freedom we get to be creative, and I enjoy working on something to fit all the different platforms we consume now. Every day I work with a really encouraging, supportive team and get to meet interesting people with fascinating stories to tell.

What's your career highlight so far?

Presenting a programme for the first time on one of the best international news channels was a career highlight for me. I also really enjoyed working on a special report from Iceland, which I also implemented and executed – a 30-minute show where we explored the impact of another ash cloud crisis, working with a team of scientists on one of the country's most active and dangerous volcanoes. I delivered a piece-to-camera for TV standing in the crater of the glacier covering Katla – the volcano on the watch list! Definitely a career highlight!

What is journalism?

Journalism is delivering the news fairly, succinctly and as accessibly as one possibly can.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

I would advise lots of work experience – this often leads to your first job, as it did for me. Impress during your placements and always have ideas, be creative, be confident and be proactive!

Make the most of the University's facilities when you are there; film, shoot and edit original reports, and practise in the studio with the kit available; build a portfolio of work when you have the expertise and tools, to help set you on your path.

Apply for placements and start freelancing as soon as possible – find out who books freelance journalists at different media organisations, send them your CV and links to your work, and persist.

Also, keep any public social media accounts professional – you never know who looks at them!

“This course is for you if you want an excellent up-to-date range of core journalistic skills which can be applied to the different media.”



MAX WHITTLE

Presenter, Major League Baseball
BA (Hons) Sports Journalism, 2014



Why did you pick Solent?

As a city Southampton intrigued me; it had a big football club and I was hoping I could get involved through the course! During the open day at Solent I was impressed with the radio and TV facilities, and this opened my eyes to what I truly loved, which was broadcast – even if I didn't know it at the time!

What was the best thing about your course?

All of the course lecturers were immediately friendly, welcoming and honest about their own careers and how they could help us. They had all worked – or still did work – in the industry, and their willingness to answer questions about their respective fields was always appreciated.

They sent out weekly emails with work experience opportunities and potential jobs from alumni or fellow industry leaders. They organised regular guest lectures with big-hitters such as Matt Le Tissier, and understood exactly how to transfer the skills we were learning into the 'real world'.

What about the facilities?

The facilities were fantastic, and from what I see when I go back to Solent, they're getting better year on year. There are multiple professional studios for radio and TV, including industry-standard television galleries – it makes you feel like you are already in the industry and working towards your goals. The University also has a radio station, Radio Sonar, where you can present your own shows. I co-hosted a Monday night football show – writing a show format with my coursemate Alex and having total control over what we talked about was about the coolest thing I had experienced at that point.

If you want to become a DJ or a radio presenter, there is literally no better experience than to get into the studio, learn how it feels to sit behind a mic and edit your own work.



What opportunities were there to get practical experience?

We were asked by Hampshire Cricket Club to go down to training every week and create a video segment for their website. It was an honour to know that our trips to the club and the relationship we had built with the PR staff there – and our performances in this part of the course – had earned us paid work for a professional cricket club while we still studied in our final year. It was invaluable preparation, too – interviewing players and coaches, and presenting links on the Ageas Bowl pitch. Cricket was one of my first loves, so that was extra special.

What's your career highlight so far?

My career highlight so far absolutely has to be working for Sky Sports – first as a reporter at the Paris NBA game, then hosting a studio show in March. It was a six-hour show with two NBA games to cover, and it was just so much fun.

Do you feel your studies helped you prepare for a career in the industry?

100 per cent. Every core aspect was covered – writing long-form features, press releases and news stories, filming and editing both video and audio, podcasting, reading bulletins. You really felt like you had all the necessary skills upon graduating.

In my third year we started news days, which are now a regular portion of the course for all years. We would put together hourly radio packages or TV segments, write scripts, book guests and film across the day as if we were working in a professional newsroom. The pressure was high – the deadlines and environments in which we were recording (studios, filming the general public, and so on) mirrored what you do in the industry.

I recall presenting a short video sports show in the newsroom in front of everyone – it was really exciting. Now that I am working in TV I always think back to that moment as being the one where I thought: 'This is cool, this is what I want to feel more often.'

When you walk onto the set and see everything that you might have seen before on work experience and thought 'I really want to be in that seat', and now you are, it's a great feeling. It was an honour really, and I'm super grateful for it. And can't wait to do more!

What tips would you give to people who want to get into this industry?

You never know who you're impressing at any point in time! If you're in a room for a job interview, or you're meeting someone, or you're going for a screen test ... always be on your best game! Prepare as much as you can, because even if you don't get a role, you might have impressed someone in that room – and that will lead to jobs in the future.

So be prepared and be friendly! Be open-minded, too – this industry will not take you where you want to go directly. If you want to be a presenter on TV, you can go through so many different steps – producing, writing, working in radio, as I did ... there are so many ways to get there. Good luck!

COURSE LIST

COURSE	UCAS TARIFF POINTS	WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY	FOUNDATION YEAR AVAILABLE
BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing	104–120	Y	Y
BA (Hons) Sports Journalism	96–112	Y	Y

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Decline your other offers.



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SOUTHAMPTON

Solent University,
East Park Terrace,
Southampton SO14 0YN

Course enquiries: **+44 (0)23 8201 3039**

Main switchboard: **+44 (0)23 8201 3000**

Email: **ask@solent.ac.uk**

www.solent.ac.uk