

We write to share an update regarding Ph.D. admissions to University of Chicago's Department of English. For the 2020-2021 Ph.D. admissions cycle, as part of our commitment to funding and fostering scholarship in Black Studies, and in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, we are **only accepting applicants working in and with Black Studies**. We understand Black Studies to be a capacious intellectual project that spans a variety of methodological approaches, fields, geographical areas, languages, literary formations, and time periods from the medieval period to the present; we hope you will encourage your students to apply.

The Department of English at Chicago has become a newly exciting place for students working in the broad tradition of Black Studies. In the past two years, we have welcomed eight new tenured and tenure-track faculty in this area, including six faculty members in literary studies and two more in creative writing. In keeping with our department's longstanding investment in interdisciplinary methods, many of our faculty were trained in disciplinary formations extending beyond traditional literary studies (including American Studies, African American Studies, and Cultural Studies) that continue to sustain the cutting edge scholarship we produce and mentor. Members of our department also work trans-historically, using the conceptual tools and resources of Black Studies to explore racial formations from the Middle Ages to the 21st century and to think through racial pasts, presents, and futures. You can learn more about current area faculty [here](#) and the broader initiative [here](#).

New students will benefit from the specific breadth of work in Black Studies within the department but also from the entire departmental faculty, who have unanimously supported this admissions initiative and are uniformly committed to support the thriving of all of our graduate students, this year and thereafter. In addition, many of our students and faculty in Black Studies work in collaboration with other departments to study African American, African, Caribbean, and African diaspora literature and media, as well as the histories and aesthetics of political struggle, collective action, and protest in pursuit of racial justice both here in the United States and internationally.

You can find the webpage of our Black Studies concentration, with a list of faculty members, course offerings, publications and events here: <https://english.uchicago.edu/about/fields-study/black-studies>. For general information about graduate life at UChicago, visit <https://grad.uchicago.edu/admissions/>. Students can submit applications to the program here: <https://apply-humanities.uchicago.edu/apply/>.

For more specific questions about this admissions cycle including fee waivers for the application, feel free to contact englishsupport@uchicago.edu.