



## Selection Process for Ph.D. English (2026 admission) Jindal School of Languages and Literature

**Fall 2026 Entrance. There will be no mid-year admission to Ph.D. English in 2026-2027.**

Applicants to this programme are advised to carefully review information on the university website about doctoral study and to look at website profiles of JGU schools, programmes, and faculty members before applying to Ph.D. English. While English studies is today a broad and multi-disciplinary field, an application to Ph.D. English without clear relation to English language education, or literature studies, or linguistics will not be accepted.

Applications to PhD English are encouraged from candidates who aspire to work in the following areas:

- Anglophone literature (including Indian English writing)
- Postcolonial literature
- Autobiography studies
- Graphic narrative studies
- Gender and sexuality studies in literature
- Disability studies and literature
- Translation studies
- Ecocriticism and environmental humanities
- English Language Education (including TESOL, English writing pedagogy)
- Linguistics (grammar theory, phonology, morphology, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics)

**Minimum eligibility for application** to Ph.D. English is a master's degree with minimum 55% in any field of the humanities and social sciences from an accredited university or institute; or an honours bachelor's degree in English with research (4-year programme) with minimum 75%. Every eligible applicant goes through a **three-stage admission process** as follows:

1. **Online objective test on MCQ pattern (ET1).** Candidates will have to answer 50 questions in 90 minutes. Areas covered are **British literature, Anglophone literature including Indian English writing, literary-cultural theory, English language teaching, and linguistics.** Questions will relate to authors, texts, movements, periods of literary activity, literary theories, etc. Some knowledge is assumed of (non-English) Indian literature(s). Some questions will require identification of quotations in English. The total marks for ET1 are 100. Candidates are required to score at least 50 marks to proceed to the next admission phase. (No negative marking.) *UGC-NET qualified applicants are not exempted from this entrance test.*
2. **An online written test (ET2)** will be administered for all candidates who have cleared ET1. This essay exam covers the same knowledge areas as ET1. The exam is of 2.5 hours' duration and consists of two sections. Candidates must answer two questions in Section 1 (@ answer 600-800 words) and one question in Section 2 (1000-1200 words). The two answers in Section 1 have the same weightage as the one answer in Section 2. Some questions test knowledge of specific literary periods, movements, or genres, while others test conceptual understanding. The essay answers will be evaluated on the basis of their content, precision of response (addressing the questions asked), correct use of language, and writing style. Candidates scoring  $\leq 50\%$  will not qualify for the interview phase. *UGC-NET qualified applicants are not exempted from this entrance test.*
3. **Interview phase of selection** is an online interview by programme faculty centred on a candidate's provisional research statement. Prior to interview, **a candidate must submit a provisional statement of research interest ('PSR')** of between 500 and 1000 words inclusive of bibliography. (See additional instructions in this document below.) No marks are awarded for the PSR by itself, prior to interview, but no applicant will be interviewed unless they submit their PSR by the announced date/time. Candidates will make a presentation (with or without visual aids) for up to 15 minutes on their PSR and they answer questions put to them by the interview panel about their PSR or about other matters relating to their education, career, or professional ambitions. The purpose of this interview is to get a clear picture of the candidate's research aptitude, their motivation, and whether the proposed research can be appropriately supervised.

**In preparing a merit list of applicants who participate in all three stages of examination, only marks for stages 2 and 3 are counted.** Stage 1 is a qualifying/elimination stage and all candidates who pass Stage 1 enter Stage 2 with 0 marks.

JGU attaches utmost importance to ethics in the pursuit of all study programmes. The PhD English entrance exams are conducted through an online examination system that detects use of unfair means (e.g., looking at notes, texts, or another device, accessing websites, taking help of anybody by any means during the exam). The university shall cancel the exams of candidates found to have used unfair means (including Artificial Intelligence) and terminate their applications without reimbursement of fees.

Candidates are finally selected for admission not only on the basis of their test/interview scores (i.e., order of merit), but with regard to potential availability of a JGU doctoral supervisor for the stated research topic. Every effort will be made to admit a well-qualified candidate even if an arrangement for their mentorship and supervision cannot be imagined at time of the admission offer. Note that supervision-eligible faculty in English studies work in JSLL and in several other JGU schools.

<b>Pattern of Tests and Scoring</b>		
	Test 1	Test 2
QUESTIONS TO ATTEMPT	50 MCQ's	3 essays
TIME ALLOWED	90 minutes	150 minutes
WORD LIMITS FOR EACH ANSWER	Not applicable	600 – 1000 words
QUALIFYING SCORE FOR NEXT LEVEL	50%	50%

Entrance Test 1 is a qualifier. Applicants who score  $\geq 50\%$  proceed to Test 2, but their score on Test 1 is ignored in calculating their combined performance in stages 1, 2, and 3. The weightage between Test 2 and the proposal-interview performances (Stage 3) is 40:60.

<b>(1) Last date for filing application</b>	Friday, 5 June 2026
<b>(2) First written test</b>	Friday, 12 June 2026
<b>(3) Second written test</b>	Tuesday, 16 June 2026
<b>(4) Online interview</b>	Wednesday, 24 June 2026

Applicants will receive information after Stages 1, 2, and 3 about their eligibility for the next stage of admission. Admission offers will be made within ten days after Stage 3.

- For any query, please write to [phd@jgu.edu.in](mailto:phd@jgu.edu.in) or phone: +91 83969 07333 Dr. Sunishtha Singh Yadav, Officer for Doctoral Admissions, O. P. Jindal Global University.

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### PREPARING A PROVISIONAL STATEMENT OF RESEARCH (PSR)

- (1) The PSR is used by the PhD English admission committee to evaluate an applicant's aptitude and motivation. It does not fix an admitted doctoral scholar's actual research topic. Registration of research topic and assignment of supervision happens only after the candidate completes the designated coursework. **An admission committee uses the PSR to assess an applicant's ability to identify a suitable area of research ('topic') and to conceptualize their research.** The PSR should identify research questions and objectives, comment on likely methods of investigation, identify relevant 'sources' or data, and reference some of the scholarly-professional literature to which the researcher will respond (the work of others that has shaped the applicant's choice of topic). Scholarly referencing serves to identify existing research in the area of the topic, to indicate theories or scholarly claims to which the doctoral scholar will respond (whether positively or to help point out research gaps).
- (2) The PSR should not name JGU faculty/scholars with whom the candidate would prefer to work. Possibilities for mentorship and research supervision might be touched upon in the candidate's interview. Since JGU research regulations allow for co-supervision by an external (non-JGU) expert under certain conditions, an applicant may identify during their interview an external expert they would wish to work with in some official capacity.
- (3) **The PSR (in Word or PDF) of 500 – 1500 words inclusive of bibliography should include the following:** (a) candidate's name and application number; (b) topic name/title; (c) 'introduction to the topic' of not more than 200 words; (d) statement of research questions (not more than three or four); (e) statement of research objectives (what the research questions seek to uncover or accomplish); (f) note on research methods or tools; (g) select bibliography or list of 'sources' (recommended 10 - 20 items). With regard to research methods (f), it's not enough to state that your research will be quantitative or qualitative (or both): be more specific. The bibliography and any in-text referencing may follow APA, MLA, or Chicago Manual of Style formats.

(4) **The PSR will be checked for plagiarism and inappropriate use of AI.** Use of grammar check or writing ‘improvement’ applications is acceptable. The admission committee takes a neutral view of use of AI for ‘literature review’. The committee takes a harsh view of using AI to attempt to generate research ideas or to anonymize ideas of others--to make ‘your’ ideas or claims appear more original. If the committee discovers that you have not attributed words or ideas to their original creators, that sources/references mentioned are not relevant, that sources are ‘AI-hallucinated’, or that sources mentioned cannot be traced, your PSR will be graded harshly. Your admission interviewers assume your understanding of the texts, artifacts, theories mentioned in your PSR. They do not expect you to deliver a fully conceptualized research project, but they want to ascertain your ability to develop a research topic. . . There is a composite grade for the written PSR and the candidate’s interview performance (Stage 3 of admission process), not separate marks for each.

{Prof. Denys P. Leighton, PhD, Dean, Jindal School of Languages and Literature & Chair, PhD English Programme Committee}