

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021~22

Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing – OPTION 1

About the course

Our two-year, part-time Diploma allows you to strengthen your ability in four major areas of literary activity — prose, poetry, drama and analytical reading — as well as the chance to specialise in the medium of your choice.

The course offers a rich combination of seminars, tutorials and group discussions. The chance to have your work read and analysed by a supportive, suitably skilled peer group is one of the great benefits of the course, offering fresh perspectives and insights on your writing. At the same time, we emphasise the importance of individual voice and vision, and there will be time for one-to-one, in-depth discussion of your work.

The stimulation of group discussion is augmented by regular contact between tutors and students. These tutorials, combined with a restriction of student numbers in each year, ensure each student has the opportunity to discover his or her own particular talents.

The course, built around four day-long Saturdays per term, offers a rich combination of workshop seminars and tutorials. A once-per-term Sunday day school will be paired with the regular Saturday meeting. There is one six-day summer school at the end of the first year of study, in June.

Most teaching events are usually held in-person, but may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

COURSE STRUCTURE - 2021 ENTRY			
Year One			
<i>Term 1</i>	<i>Term 2</i>	<i>Term 3</i>	<i>Summer School</i>
Saturday Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction (1)• Life Writing (1)• Poetry (1)• Drama (1)	Saturday Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading for Writers (1)• Fiction (3)	Saturday Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poetry (2)• Drama (2)	(Scope for specialisation)
2 tutorials	2 tutorials	2 tutorials	
Sunday Day School: Reading for Writers	Sunday Day School: Fiction	Sunday Day School: Drama	
Year Two			
<i>Term 4</i>	<i>Term 5</i>	<i>Term 6</i>	
Saturday Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short fiction (2)• Long fiction (2)	Saturday Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading for Writers (1)	Saturday Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screenwriting (2)• Portfolio preparation (2)	

	• Poetry (3)	
2 tutorials	2 tutorials	3 tutorials
Sunday Day School: The Novel	Sunday Day School: Poetry	Sunday Day School: Getting Published

Seminars

YEAR 1

The first term provides an introduction to the three main genres: prose, poetry and drama. From the outset there are opportunities to engage in practical activity and wide-ranging group discussion of aims, techniques and issues.

The second term makes a start on refining and developing analytical skills with Reading for Writers, followed close attention to the structures and approaches of Prose Fiction. The third term concentrates on how to address the challenges of writing Poetry and Stage Drama.

YEAR 2

The aim of the year is to consolidate and broaden the developments in skill, confidence and analytical ability that will have accrued in Year 1. Term 4 provides in-depth concentration on short and long fiction, while term 5 focuses on advanced Reading for Writers and further high-level consideration of the craft of poetry. Term 6 gives students up-to-the-minute experience of how to write Broadcast Drama.

Tutorials

Tutorials offer opportunity for focused, developmental discussion of work in process. Their nature ensures full concentration on the strengths of each student's work as well as on areas which may need improvement. Tutorials centre on work produced in relation to the genres studied during that term. This means that as early as term 1, students have considerable freedom of choice to write on prose, poetry or drama (though you should expect to write on more than one category in that term).

Space for specialisation

At the end of both years you will be given the opportunity to concentrate more extensively on your own preferred area of interest, through the production of a portfolio of around 6,000 words in the case of prose and drama, or around 200 lines of poetry. Your second-year portfolio is allocated two Saturdays for concentrated attention, and is guided by a preliminary tutorial discussion of the content you are proposing, and a review tutorial on completion of the project.

Day schools

The six day schools introduce, through visiting readers, speakers, and tutors, a wide range of voices to counterpoint and amplify insights and opinions provided by members of the Diploma's teaching team. There are readings by, and discussions with, well-known writers from all genres, as well as related workshop sessions. These day schools occur once per term, on a Sunday adjacent to the regularly scheduled Saturday classes.

Summer school

The Summer school is a vibrant culmination to your first year of study. Sessions for the whole group will be balanced by individual sessions which allow you to focus on areas of your own choice. There is time set aside for your uninterrupted writing, and guidance will be given, as a group and individually, about how best to focus your efforts during the summer vacation so that you can get the most out of your second year. The summer school provides an opportunity to concentrate as fully as possible on living and working your craft. Although it is largely non-residential, you may book accommodation, subject to availability.

The summer school is an integral part of the course. It starts at midday on Saturday and finishes at midday on Friday. From Sunday, each morning begins at 9.30am and continues to 7pm, with breaks during the day. All students are expected to attend the summer school dinner on Thursday evening.

Assessment

Assessment for the award is through coursework assignments and portfolios of written work. Candidates are required to pass separately in each year of the course. To pass a year a candidate must submit the number of assessments required and obtain a pass on average in the assignments for the year and separately in the portfolio.

Candidates are set the following coursework:

Year One

Six assignments of which they are **required** to submit five, **and** a portfolio

Year Two

Five assignments of which they are **required** to submit four **and** a portfolio

The length of each coursework assignment is to be not more than 2,000 words if submitted in prose, not more than 100 lines if submitted in poetry and not more than 15 pages if submitted as drama.

The length of each portfolio is to be not more than 6,000 words if submitted in prose, not more than 300 lines if submitted in poetry and not more than 30 pages if submitted as drama. Candidates select their own choice of genre for the portfolio.

Attendance

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of 75% of the class-based sessions.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course page. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made in circumstances of a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. In addition, in certain circumstances, for example due to visa difficulties or because the health needs of students

cannot be met, it may be necessary to make adjustments to course requirements for international study.

You can find full information under “Changes to Courses” (sections 29 to 41) in the [Terms and Conditions](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/terms-and-conditions-for-entry-in-2021-2022-for-non-matriculated-courses.pdf) for this course (<https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/terms-and-conditions-for-entry-in-2021-2022-for-non-matriculated-courses.pdf>).

Expected length of course

2 years

Annual fees for entry in 2021~22

Fee Status	Course Fee
Home (UK/Republic of Ireland/ Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£2,938
Overseas (including EU)	£5,031

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. For details, please see our [guidance on likely increases to fees and charges](#).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also do not cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

EU applicants should refer to our detailed [fee status information](#) and the [Oxford and the EU webpage](#) for details of the implications of the UK’s exit from the EU.

Additional cost information

This course has a one-week summer school in Oxford, so you will need to meet any travel and accommodation costs you may incur in attending this week.

You will need a computer which meets our minimum specification, with access to the internet and various other software programmes. Please see the [course webpage](#) for full details.

Living costs

In addition to your fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

For the 2021-22 academic year, the range of likely living costs for full-time study is between c. £1,175 and £1,710 for each month spent in Oxford. Full information, including a breakdown of likely

living costs in Oxford for items such as food, accommodation and study costs, is available on our [living costs](#) page. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2021-22, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

The living costs above are based on single, full-time students living in Oxford. While it may be the case that, as a part-time student, you will not be based in Oxford during your studies, you will still need to cover your cost of living on a full-time basis. If this applies to you, you should calculate your living costs to be sure that you have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course. In particular, part-time students who are not based in Oxford will need to calculate travel and accommodation costs carefully. Please note that living costs outside Oxford may be different from those shown above.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk