

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021~22

Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing – OPTION 2

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.

This course offers a rich combination of seminars, tutorials and group discussions, using a variety of media to offer a stimulating and challenging learning environment. 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.

On the online study option, nearly all of the work you do will be through online media and resources. Each of the first five terms is comprised of ten weekly units focusing on individual aspects of the writer's craft. Term 6 has five units instead of ten, mirroring the face-to-face option. Each weekly unit has:

- experiments and exercises in reading, critiquing and practical writing activities as well as lively group discussions in focussed study forums wherein your tutor is an active participant;
- group discussions in forums centred on each other's work. This is because the value of group activity as a catalyst for the creative imagination is a central tenet of the course.

There is a three-week residential summer school at the end of the first year of study, which provides an opportunity to concentrate on living and working your craft. This is an integral part of the course.

The summer school is a vibrant culmination to your first year, allowing dedicated time and space for your writing. Sessions for the whole group are balanced by individual sessions which allow you to focus on areas of your choice. There is time set aside for 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. Nearly every day begins with a plenary lecture by a visiting speaker – most often these are professional writers in various media, but also other industry professionals such as agents, publishers and producers too. There are four face-to-face classes with your tutors every week. The programme usually includes a range of optional activities, such as visits to theatre or similar events, tours of 'literary/historical' sites and so on (where possible depending on the Coronavirus pandemic).

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.

Whilst the summer school is usually held in-person, it may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

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

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 by 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.

Summer school

The residential summer school is a vibrant culmination to your first year, allowing dedicated time and space for your writing. It provides an opportunity to concentrate as fully as possible on living and working your craft.

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

Each term you will have two tutorials. These sessions allow time for concentrated appraisal of your work in progress, giving you feedback on the strengths of your work as well as those areas which may need improvement. The tutorials focus on work you have produced in relation to the genres studied during that term. This means that as early as Term 1 you have considerable freedom of

choice to engage with prose, poetry or drama (though you should expect to engage with more than one category in that term). For those pursuing Option 2 (online) all tutorials are online except for those at the summer school.

Space for specialisation

At the end of both years you will be able to work more extensively in your own area of interest, producing a portfolio of around 4,000 words in the case of prose and drama, or around 200 lines of poetry. Your second-year portfolio is allocated four term weeks for concentrated attention, guided by a preliminary tutorial discussion of the content you are proposing, and a review tutorial on completion of the project.

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 online sessions, and a three-week summer school.

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 three-week summer school in Oxford and you will need to meet any travel and accommodation costs you may incur in attending.

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