

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023~24

### 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 modules (each comprising three-to-seven distinct units), tutorials and forum 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 is expected to have:

- 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 two-week in-person 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 and is expected to be held in Oxford. Please note that accommodation is not included in the course fee.

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 additional sessions focused on prose, poetry and drama. 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. Every day begins with one or two plenary lectures by visiting speakers – most often these are professional writers in various media. There are five classes with your tutors in the first week, and ten classes in the second week.

The stimulation of group discussion is augmented by regular 1:1 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.

| EXPECTED 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"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Life Writing</li> <li>• Poetry</li> <li>• Drama</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading for Writers</li> <li>• Fiction</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poetry</li> <li>• Drama</li> </ul>                        | (Scope for specialisation) |
| Year Two  |  |  |                            |
| <i>Term 4</i>   | <i>Term 5</i>  | <i>Term 6</i>  |                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short fiction</li> <li>• Long fiction</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading for Writers</li> <li>• Poetry</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screenwriting</li> <li>• Portfolio preparation</li> </ul> |                            |

## 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 in-person summer school allows 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*

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). Students are usually offered two tutorials per 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 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 expected to be allocated four term weeks for concentrated attention, usually 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 coursework assignments are each expected to be about 2,000 words of prose, 15 pages of drama, or about 100 lines of poetry.

Each portfolio is expected to be about three times the length of the coursework assignments.

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 the summer school.

### **Changes to courses**

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course information sheet. 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 such as an 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 40) in the [Terms and Conditions](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/cont-ed-non-matriculated-student-ts-and-cs-for-2023-24-entry_1.pdf) for this course ([https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/cont-ed-non-matriculated-student-ts-and-cs-for-2023-24-entry\\_1.pdf](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/cont-ed-non-matriculated-student-ts-and-cs-for-2023-24-entry_1.pdf)).

### Expected length of course

2 years

### Annual fees for entry in 2023~24

| Fee Status   | Course Fee |
|--|------------|
| Home (UK/Republic of Ireland/ Channel Islands & Isle of Man) | £3,295     |
| Overseas   | £5,650     |

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.

### Information for applicants from the EU, EEA and Switzerland

On 11 May 2021 the UK Council for International Student Affairs published [new regulations and guidance](#) to be used in assessing the fee status of students commencing courses in August 2021 and later. We will be using this guidance to carry out fee status assessments for students commencing courses in 2023~24, including students from the EU, EEA and Switzerland.

If you are an EU national and do not live in the UK then you are likely to be charged Overseas fees. Students with settled and pre-settled status in the UK and some other categories of students who work in the UK can qualify for Home fee status as long as they meet the residence criteria.

### Additional cost information

This course has a three-week summer school in Oxford and you will need to meet any costs (e.g. travel accommodation, subsistence) 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 [system requirements 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 2023-24 academic year, the range of likely living costs for full-time study is between c. £1,290 and £1,840 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 2023-

24, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 5% or more each year, although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

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](mailto:undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk)