

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2020~21

### Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing – OPTION 1

#### About the course

This is a two-year, part-time course equivalent to one year full-time undergraduate degree study at second-year level. Providing two years of intensive part-time study and more than 200 contact hours, the Diploma encourages sustained involvement in a wide range of literary projects. An ethos of breadth and experiment is fostered by concentration on four major categories of literary activity: prose, poetry, drama and analytical reading. At the same time, there is scope for specialisation in areas of each student's individual choice.

The stimulation of group discussion is augmented by regular one-to-one contact between tutors and students. These individual 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, individual tutorials (by arrangement with tutors, twice termly, each lasting for 45 minutes). A once-per-term Sunday day school will be paired with the regular Saturday meeting. There is one six-day summer school (residence possible) at the end of the first year of study, in June.

COURSE STRUCTURE			
Year One			
<i>Term 1</i>	<i>Term 2</i>	<i>Term 3</i>	<i>Summer School</i>
<b>Saturday Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction (1)</li><li>• Life Writing (1)</li><li>• Poetry (1)</li><li>• Drama (1)</li></ul>	<b>Saturday Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading for Writers (1)</li><li>• Fiction (3)</li></ul>	<b>Saturday Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Poetry (2)</li><li>• Drama (2)</li></ul>	(Scope for specialisation)
<b>2 tutorials</b>	<b>2 tutorials</b>	<b>2 tutorials</b>	
<b>Sunday Day School:</b> Reading for Writers	<b>Sunday Day School:</b> Fiction	<b>Sunday Day School:</b> Drama	
Year Two			
<i>Term 4</i>	<i>Term 5</i>	<i>Term 6</i>	
<b>Saturday Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short fiction (2)</li><li>• Long fiction (2)</li></ul>	<b>Saturday Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading for Writers (1)</li><li>• Poetry (3)</li></ul>	<b>Saturday Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Screenwriting (2)</li><li>• Portfolio preparation (2)</li></ul>	
<b>2 tutorials</b>	<b>2 tutorials</b>	<b>3 tutorials</b>	
<b>Sunday Day School:</b> The Novel	<b>Sunday Day School:</b> Poetry	<b>Sunday Day School:</b> 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 three weeks of Reading for Writers, followed by seven weeks of 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 (three weeks) 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 unrivalled opportunity for focused, developmental discussion of work in process. Their one-to-one 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 four term weeks 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 in terms 1 to 6 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 unparalleled 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 and included in the course fee. It starts at lunchtime on Saturday and finishes at lunchtime on Friday. From Sunday, each morning begins at 9.30am and continues to 7pm, with breaks for tea/coffee and lunch. 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 required portfolio

Year Two

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

The weighting is as follows:

Year One		Year Two	
Portfolio	30%	Portfolio	30%
Coursework assignments (six of which the five highest marks are applied)	14% each	Coursework assignments (five, of which the four highest marks are applied)	17.5% each

The examiners will consider for the award of a Distinction those candidates who achieve an overall pass mark of 70% or more and pass each item of assessment at the first attempt.

## Attendance

The course is taught through Saturday day schools (4x termly), tutorials, Sunday day schools (1x termly) and a summer school. Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of 75% of the class based sessions, twelve individual tutorials six day schools and a one week summer school.

## Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions set out above. 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. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

## Expected length of course

2 years

## Annual fees for entry in 2020-21

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College Fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU(including islands)	£2,825	N/A	£2,825
Overseas	£4,840	N/A	£4,840

The fees shown above are the annual tuition fees for this course for entry in the 2020-21 academic year; 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. College fees are not generally payable for non-matriculated courses although a small number of courses may permit college affiliation for which a charge will be made.

Tuition 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 tuition fees).

## Additional cost information

Lunches and the final dinner during the summer school are included in the fee. Accommodation may be available at Rewley House during the residential week at an additional charge.

## 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.

The likely living costs for 2020-21 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

	Likely living costs for 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
<b>FOOD</b>	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465	£3,240	£4,620
<b>Accommodation</b>	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840	£7,560	£9,120
<b>Personal items</b>	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205	£1,560	£2,940
<b>Social activities</b>	£45	£110	£405	£990	£540	£1,320
<b>Study costs</b>	£40	£95	£360	£855	£480	£1,140
<b>Other</b>	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
<b>Total</b>	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850	£13,620	£19,800

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2020-21, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs).