

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016~17

Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing

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 offers a rich combination of workshop seminars, individual tutorials, day schools (held on a Sunday, one each term) and a six-day summer school at the end of the first year of study.

COURSE STRUCTURE			
Year One			
<i>Term 1</i>	<i>Term 2</i>	<i>Term 3</i>	<i>Summer School</i>
Seminars Introduction (1) Life Writing (3) Poetry (3) Drama (3)	Seminars Reading for Writers (3) Prose Fiction (7)	Seminars Poetry (5) Stage Drama (5)	(Scope for specialisation)
2 tutorials	2 tutorials	2 tutorials	
Day School: Reading for Writers	Day School: Prose	Day School: Drama	
Year Two			
<i>Term 4</i>	<i>Term 5</i>	<i>Term 6</i>	
Seminars Short Story (5) Novel (5)	Seminars Reading for Writers (3) Poetry (7)	Seminars Broadcast Drama (5) Student's choice of genre under tutorial guidance (4) Review session (1)	
2 tutorials	2 tutorials	3 tutorials	
Day School: The Novel	Day School: Poetry	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 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 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, 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 day school in the first term focuses on how the activity of reading may begin to be channelled to the practising writer's creative advantage. This prepares the way for Reading for Writers seminars in Term 2. The four day schools in terms 2 to 5 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. The day school in the final term focuses forward to give in-depth consideration to how the publishing world works, and how you as a writer can best operate within it.

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.

The summer school is an integral part of the course and included in the course fee. 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 night.

Assessment

In year one of the course students will submit 6 coursework assignments, the best 5 of which will be counted. In year two students must complete a minimum of four coursework assignments.

A more extended portfolio of work, reflecting your particular interests, is submitted for evaluation at the end of each year.

The twice-termly coursework submissions will be expected to be about 2,000 words in prose, 15 pages of drama, or about 100 lines in the case of poetry. The end-of-year portfolio submissions will be no more than 6,000 words of prose, or 30 pages of drama or 300 lines of poetry.

Attendance

Students are required to attend a minimum of 75% of the class based sessions; twelve individual tutorials, six day schools and one 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 2016-2017

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College Fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU(including islands)	£2,425	N/A	£2,425
Overseas	£4,210	N/A	£4,210

The fees shown above are the annual tuition fees for this course for entry in the 2016- 17 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 2016-17 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
Food	£265	£298	£2,384	£2,673	£3,177	£3,565
Accommodation	£469	£667	£4,221	£6,002	£5,627	£8,006
Personal items	£119	£244	£1,073	£2,187	£1,429	£2,915
Social activities	£60	£107	£539	£960	£718	£1,280
Study costs	£36	£73	£314	£661	£418	£880
Other	£19	£44	£197	£410	£265	£547
TOTAL	£970	£1,433	£8,727	£12,894	£11,636	£17,191

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2016-17, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2% each year.