Creative Writing

Undergraduate Degrees 2021
Creative Writing at Lancaster University has a long and distinguished history. We were the second university in the UK to begin teaching the subject, and we have continued to lead developments in the field. Our Creative Writing tutors are practicing authors, many of them award-winning, who will not only help you to develop your writing but will also advise you on professional development, including how to approach publishers and agents. Many of our graduates go on to publish and broadcast their work, in some cases winning national and international awards.

We cover all of the core genres (poetry, prose, short fiction, drama, scriptwriting), as well as offering training in writing for new media. You will study Creative Writing alongside another subject (English Literature, English Language, Film, Theatre, or Fine Art) and this will feed into and enrich your writing. You will be taught through lectures, seminars and workshops, some delivered by our Visiting Distinguished Professors such as poet Paul Muldoon and graphic novelist Benoît Peeters, and some by invited professionals in broadcasting or the publishing industry.

The Department offers a rich, creative environment in which to undertake your studies by supporting a wide range of extra-curricular activities for its students. Members of staff lead reading groups, organise public lectures and special workshops, and ensure that our students make the most of our proximity to the historic city of Lancaster by organising drama productions at venues such as Lancaster Castle or in the Dukes Theatre. Our students also contribute by coordinating writing groups, performing readings, and running three student-led journals: Flash, Cake and Lux. Finally, you can take advantage of opportunities to undertake a placement year or study abroad at one of our partner universities.

I hope that you will choose to join us.
Everything you want from your Creative Writing degree

#1

1st for Creative Writing
Complete University Guide, 2021

Our Creative Writing lecturers are experienced, published practitioners in their chosen specialist areas. We have a long-established tradition of student-centred, workshop-led teaching.

#1

1st for Creative Writing graduate prospects
Complete University Guide, 2021

Our degrees combine practical and academic skills for careers in writing, publishing and many more fields. We offer credit-bearing work placement modules, placement years, and internships in some of the leading publishing houses in the UK.

Perform

Perform your work at both on- and off-campus events, and attend readings and literary events such as the Lancaster Words Festival, with its rich program of invited writers, open mic evenings, and the North West Literary Salon series.

Publish

Publish your work in student-run journals such as Cake, Flash, and Lux.

Push your creative limits

I have loved every second of Creative Writing here at Lancaster. The workshops are incredibly diverse; you are exposed to many kinds of writing, which really inspires and challenges you to push your creative limits. The Department is friendly and supportive, and the course has such an active presence on campus. In my second year, I was Secretary of Lancaster University Writers’ Society and in my third year, I was an Editor for Cake Magazine, the University’s in-house literary journal. The opportunities for writers here are endless...

Daisy Brown
BA (Hons) English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice, Year 3
## Degrees and entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Literature, Creative Writing Practice</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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### Placement year and study abroad degrees

You can take a placement year with the majority of our degree programmes. With specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Check online for the relevant UCAS codes and find out more here: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year)

You can apply for a study abroad year when you arrive at Lancaster. On our 3-year study abroad degrees you spend your second year studying at one of our international partner universities. Find out more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad)

### Lectures

The lectures in the first year focus on the tools and techniques applied by other writers and how these techniques may be applied to your own work. Genre-specific concerns – such as tools for effective dialogue, poetic form and stagecraft – are studied, alongside broader lectures on craft, such as methods for dealing with writer’s block. In the second and third years, the lectures focus more on the next stages; how to approach and how to make a living as a writer. Lancaster staff are supplemented by speakers from the creative writing industry who give lectures which explore what it takes to get published as well as the wider literary contexts of being a writer.

#### Creative writing workshops

Our creative writing staff bring a wealth of experience from the worlds of writing and publishing to enrich their teaching. Creative writing workshops are at the core of our teaching. You meet regularly in small groups with a tutor to read and comment on each other’s work and to revise it in the light of this feedback. You will also have the opportunity to respond to the weekly lecture topics here.

#### Contact hours

You can expect to be in class for around nine hours a week in your first year, depending on which courses you sign up for. Classroom contact time is similar in your second and third years. You will have set reading and assigned writing for each of these classes, so this results in a full, though flexible, study schedule.

### Assessment

In Creative Writing, most modules are assessed by the submission of a writing portfolio, developed through the workshop group with feedback from the tutor, along with a reflective essay to show an understanding of the market and literary contexts of your work. We aim to return coursework to you, graded and with comments from your tutor, within four weeks. Other subjects that you combine with Creative Writing will be assessed by a combination of coursework and end-of-year examinations.

For information on fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

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### Your global experience

**Study abroad**

Grow in independence and confidence while immersing yourself in a new culture and way of learning. At Lancaster, you can apply to study abroad for the whole of your second year, providing a unique experience to add to your CV. Our current partner universities are located in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Switzerland and the USA. You register your interest and apply for your preferred destination once you arrive at Lancaster. Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

**Vacation travel**

Discover a new world in the Easter and Summer vacation periods with our short trips to destinations around the globe. You will return with a CV that truly stands out from the crowd in the increasingly global world of work.

In the Easter vacation, we typically offer a ten-day trip to New York and Boston in which you join fellow students and lecturers from your faculty to take part in academic, cultural and personal development activities.

During the summer, we usually run three-week trips to destinations such as Malaysia, India, Ghana and China. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as academic study and cultural discovery. For a classroom-based experience, you can also attend summer schools delivered by one of our many overseas partner universities.

Find out more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience)
Creative Writing at Lancaster is always taken as a joint major or a minor alongside another subject. It benefits greatly from being in combination with other subjects, and we offer many flexible pathways. In the module breakdown that follows, you will see how Creative Writing is combined with the study of English Literature:

**BA (Hons) English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice (50/50% split)**

On this joint major degree, you will spend as much time on Creative Writing as you do on English Literature. Creative Writing workshops, lectures, and readings will help you to develop your own writing, and this will be accompanied by a rigorous and inspiring study of Literature.

**BA (Hons) English Literature with Creative Writing (75/25% split)**

This major-minor degree comprises three-quarters English Literature and one-quarter Creative Writing. This means that a very intensive focus on English Literature is accompanied by a Creative Writing workshop.

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and regularly introduce and update modules. In any academic year, the modules offered may therefore differ from those presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, in response to curricular developments and following consultation with students. Please check our website for the latest information: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

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**Year 1**

**Core** Introduction to Creative Writing

You will examine the basic techniques of prose and poetry. Divided into two parts, ‘Approaching Writing’ and ‘Putting it into Practice’, each is assessed by a portfolio of your work.

**Core** English Literature

A broad range of literature is addressed, from the Middle Ages to the contemporary period. This module is a taster of famous and infamous texts through the Renaissance, Victorian, Romantic, and modern periods and the many and varied possible approaches to reading literature. You will be introduced to the key debates in literary study and given a foundation in the skills, tools, and knowledge that can open up new and exciting ways of reading.

**Optional** World Literature

You will explore a wide and exciting range of texts from world literatures in English that have influenced the development of English Literature, including the Bible and classical writers such as Ovid, Homer, and Dante. You’ll look at modern world authors in translation, like Kafka, and at today’s culture through contemporary authors such as Salman Rushdie and Maniama Bâ, as well as new media writing and the graphic novel.

**Optional** Minor module

You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies in Creative Writing. Your department will provide a list of module options prior to starting your studies at Lancaster along with information on how to register for your preferred choice.

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**Year 2**

**Core** Intermediate Creative Writing Workshop

In a series of weekly lectures, you will study more advanced techniques and approaches to various literary forms, encouraging you to push the boundaries of your work, with an eye towards entering the wider literary context and the public eye. You’ll put the lectures into practice in your weekly writing workshop. Assessment is by portfolio.

**Core** The Theory and Practice of Criticism

This module encourages you to reflect on your approach to the study of literature. Key concepts in contemporary literary studies such as ideology, the unconscious, discourse, and biopolitics are studied through the work of major thinkers such as Marx, Freud, Foucault, and Derrida.

**English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice students take:**

**Optional** Select 2 term-long specialist Creative Writing modules

- Short Fiction: Genre and Practice
- Poetry: Genre and Practice
- Creative Non-Fiction: Genre and Practice
- Writing Place and Landscape
- Writing for the Stage

**Optional** Select 1 year-long English Literature module

+ Late Medieval to Early Modern Literature
+ Victorian Literature

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**English Literature with Creative Writing students take:**

**Optional** Select 1 English Literature module

+ Late Medieval to Early Modern Literature
+ Victorian Literature
+ American Literature to 1900
+ British Romanticism
+ Literature, Film and Media

**Optional** Select 1 further English Literature module

+ American Literature to 1900
+ British Romanticism
+ Literature, Film and Media
Year 2 Modules

Specialist Creative Writing Modules
Students of English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice (50/50 split) choose two-term-long modules in Year 2. This list is indicative of current and future options, but these remain subject to change from year to year depending on staff availability.

Short Fiction: Genre and Practice
You will gain experience in reading, writing, workshop and reflecting on the short story, as well as flash fiction. The module seeks to develop a knowledge of the history and development of the form, current theoretical approaches to reading, and an awareness of their own literary context. During the module, you are also expected to keep a journal, in which you reflect upon your writing and reading. The journal will form the basis of the reflective element of your final portfolio.

Poetry: Genre and Practice
This is an intensive ten-week study of poetic form and technique, coupled with a workshop where you will give and receive feedback on your own poems. The emphasis is on reading as well as writing poetry: it will explore how our own experience translates into poetry and how poetry becomes an experience generated by language, memory, imagination and form. The writing of poetry is dependent on your abilities as a reader and interpreter of poems and on the textures of lived experience.

Writing for the Stage
The module enables you to write for the theatre and to develop your awareness of the processes by which a written script makes its way to performance, culminating in a performance showcase in which you will be actively involved. You will be taught through weekly seminars/creative writing workshops to explore the effects of different staging approaches and performance strategies have on your scripts. Over the course of the module, you will develop your own writing styles and gain an awareness of the professional requirements of playwriting.

Creative Non-Fiction: Genre and Practice
This module specialises in memoir, travel writing, reviewing and the personal essay, and explores the ways in which non-fiction writers use creative writing techniques in their work. You will explore the writing of creative non-fiction through the development, in a workshop environment, of your own work, combined with the directed reading of a selection of contemporary work and secondary texts.

Writing Place and Landscape
This module develops a well-rounded sense of Romanticism, a movement that includes the poetry of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Shelley, but also relates to the development of Gothic writing (which has been undergoing something of a renaissance in recent years). You will be encouraged to consider your own work as part of a larger, ongoing literary conversation about place. The module also contains an element of fieldwork, linking the act of physically walking through a landscape to the practice of reading and writing about it.

Late Medieval to Early Modern Literature
You will examine the literature of a century of revolutionary change, both in politics and culture. The focus is generically and historically wide-ranging, from Spenser’s provocative Elizabethan verse epic The Faerie Queene, to the brilliant and edgy theatre of the likes of Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson and the prose writings of revolutionaries like John Milton and monarchist libertines like Aphra Behn.

Victorian Literature
What is a ‘Victorian attitude’? You will address this question by examining the role played by literature in the defining cultural debates of the time, concerning progress, science, religion and gender. You will examine a wide range of Victorian literature, including novels, poetry, short stories, drama, social criticism, travel writing and children’s fiction.

American Literature to 1900
What do we mean by ‘American Literature’ and how do we define America and ‘the American experience’? How has American Literature evolved from its colonial origins? You will answer these questions by engaging with many different voices, many conflicting and contrasting views, a diversity of complex experiences, and a great range of writing in form and style.

British Romanticism
This module develops a well-rounded sense of Romanticism, a movement that includes the poetry of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Shelley, but also relates to the development of Gothic writing (which has been undergoing something of a renaissance in recent years). You will be encouraged to consider your own work as part of a larger, ongoing literary conversation about place. The module also contains an element of fieldwork, linking the act of physically walking through a landscape to the practice of reading and writing about it.

Literature, Film and Media
You will survey formal, generic, historical, cultural, narrative and theoretical relationships between literature and film across a range of periods, genres, topics and cultures, examining the practice and analysis of literary film adaptation. You will also study other modes of literary adaptation, such as television or graphic novels. Questions of originality, authorship and intertextuality will be addressed across the course as a whole.

The above modules are only available if you study Creative Writing as a joint major, rather than a minor, subject.
Year 3

Core
Advanced Creative Writing Workshop

A series of lectures will look at the practicalities of life as a writer, including approaching editors, publishing in magazines, and getting work commissioned for the stage. Our core staff are typically joined by guest speakers from the industry. This will feed into further workshops, developing a portfolio with an experienced and practicing tutor.

English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice students will take:

- Longer Fiction: Skills and Techniques for Approaching a Novel
- Creative Non-Fiction II
- Writing/Reading Poetry
- Narrative and New Media
- Advanced Short Story: Form and Practice
- Poetry and Experiment

Optional
Select 4 Creative Writing modules

Optional
Select modules in English Literature to make up 60 credits

See pages 14-15 for module options.

You may also choose to complete a dissertation: a 10,000 word project on a subject of your choosing.

English Literature with Creative Writing students will take:

Core
Dissertation

This is a long essay on a subject of your choice. It could be something that caught your attention earlier on in the course that you want to approach in more depth, or a long-standing enthusiasm that you would like to study in a more systematic and focused way. Whatever you choose, you will be helped by regular supervision from a member of staff.

Optional
Select 2 x 15-credit English Literature modules such as:

- Science Fiction in Literature and Film
- Women Writers
- Victorian Gothic

See page 14-15 for more module options.

Optional
Select further modules in English Literature to make up 30 credits

See page 14-15 for module options.

Year 3 Modules

Specialist Creative Writing Modules

Students of English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice (50/50 split) choose four term-long modules in Year 3.

This list is indicative of current and future options, but these remain subject to change from year to year depending on staff availability.

Creative Non-Fiction II
You will develop your practice across a range of creative non-fiction forms and topics and extend your reading in this area.

This module will concentrate on reviews, essays, and cultural reflection. The module should be considered to have a cumulative effect, in that the books discussed earlier in the term (as well as those discussed in the second year Creative Non-Fiction module) may be drawn upon in later weeks to illustrate different aspects of writing.

Narrative and New Media
This module will provide the space for you to work on a creative project that utilises opportunities afforded by new interactive media. During the module we will examine new media narratives. The topics will respond to your own project ideas and interests, but may include: interactivity and immersion; space, place, mapping and journeying; the problem of character; or explore the question of authorship in collaborative fictions. You do not need to have any special computer programming skills – only an interest in the opportunities afforded to writers by new media forms.

Poetry and Experiment
This module challenges the received structures of language in your own poetry through a close reading of experimental poets. The first hour of every seminar will assess how poets from Alice Oswald to Ezra Pound stretch or break the lyric formula. We will encourage you to experiment either as a continuation of the radical departures first implemented by the poets in question, or to break from comfortable notions of confessional or lyric poetry.

Advanced Short Story: Form and Practice
You will study structure, time, genre and endings and write your own short fictions. This module provides the opportunity for you to develop your knowledge and skills of the short story form, history and practice with a more advanced course. Each week you will discuss, in detail, one or two specimen short stories, as well as workshop your own creative work. Topics covered will include: plot, narrative and ‘the twist in the tale’; the epiphany and other ways of ending; writing extreme experiences, and rewriting fairy tales, folk tales and myth.

Longer Fiction: Skills and Techniques for Approaching a Novel
During this module you will examine, through the set reading and in-class writing prompts and tasks, the unique features of long fiction (novellas and novels). Through seminar discussion of set texts, the workshopping of creative writing in progress and the writing of synopses and other planning documents, you will develop competence in approaching a long fiction project. This includes: strategies for planning and structuring, choosing point of view and tense, developing plot, addressing theme and characterisation, experimenting with form and considering an ending.

Writing/Reading Poetry
This module will deepen your engagement with both the writing and the reading process. Both closed and open forms will be explored through a wide-ranging selection of poems. A portion of each seminar will be spent discussing the set poems for the week. The dual assessment (a portfolio of your own poems plus a close reading of two of the syllabus poems) reflects the course emphasis on the inter-relationship between reading and writing.

The above modules are only available if you study Creative Writing as a joint major, rather than a minor subject.

www.lancaster.ac.uk/creative-writing
This list, therefore, is offered as a snapshot of some of our current research of members of staff, and so are subject to frequent changes. These half-unit modules are typically designed around the current strategies of Jane Austen's fiction and are subject to frequent changes. These full-unit modules are taught over the course of two terms.

### Year 3 Modules

**English Literature**

**15-Credit Modules**

These half-unit modules are typically designed around the current research of members of staff, and so are subject to frequent changes. These half-unit modules are typically designed around the current research of members of staff, and so are subject to frequent changes.

**Science Fiction in Literature and Film**

You will trace the development of science fiction, providing an insight into the conventions of the genre and in particular how key themes have been successfully adapted for the screen. You will interrogate themes such as war and trauma (Starship Troopers, The Forever War, Akira), encounters with the alien or other (War of the Worlds, Monsters) the imagination of dystopia (The Disposessed, Children of Men, Moxylan), and questions of human subjectivity, transcendence, love, and loss.

**Jane Austen**

This module will give you the opportunity to study some of the most celebrated novelists in English literary history. It will combine close attention to the stylistic textures and narrative strategies of Jane Austen's fiction with broader consideration of key themes and preoccupations such as friendship, desire, matchmaking, snobbery, illness, resistance, transgression and secrecy.

**Victorian Gothic**

In the Victorian period, the decaying castles, corrupt priests, and ancestral curses that were so prominent in the first phase of the Gothic novel gave way to an increased emphasis on spectral and monstrous others: ghosts, werewolves, vampires, mummies and other creatures of the night. You will explore these phenomena in their historical, cultural, and literary contexts, with particular focus on emerging discourses of gender, sexuality, colonialism and class.

**Postcolonial Environments**

This module explores how postcolonial writing grappling with environmental change, crisis and collapse. You will read a wide range of twentieth and twenty-first century literature from places such as South Africa, Nigeria, Israeli/Palestine, and Indigenous North America, and therefore develop an understanding of modern and contemporary postcolonial/world literatures, and the environmental sensibilities they articulate and contest. Topics may include land, enclosure, waste, toxicity, climate change, and urban space.

**Literature and the Bible**

This module considers the Bible as literature and looks at the reciprocal relationship between the Bible and other literary texts. We will consider the ways in which knowledge of biblical texts provokes more profound readings of literature and ask whether rewritings of the Bible refine or subvert the original text.

**Women Writers**

Virginia Woolf famously asked ‘what would have happened had Shakespeare had a wonderfully gifted sister?’ and went on to explore the obstacles to literary success encountered by women writers. This module follows Woolf’s lead by seeking to redress the historical marginalisation of women writers in the English literary canon through an exploration of how women have come to writing at different historical moments, what they have chosen to write, and how.

**Modernism towards Post-modernism**

You will look at a range of experimental Anglo-American writing from the early twentieth century – the period of modernism proper – to the emergent post-modernism of the 1960s. Through close examination of path-breaking works from T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, and Wallace Stevens through to Samuel Beckett and Thomas Pynchon, you will examine the meaning and usefulness of two of the most powerful aesthetic concepts of the last century.

**Shakespeare**

This module examines Shakespearean drama in its own time, as a platform on which early modern debates about agency and government, family and national identity were put into play. By examining texts from across Shakespeare’s career, we will explore their power to shape thoughts and feelings in their own age but also in ours. Texts might include Julius Caesar, Twelfth Night, Henry IV Part 1, King Lear, and The Tempest.

**Contemporary Literature**

You will encounter the explosion of new literatures from the decolonising/novel post-colonial world and the rise of new literary forms in the post-war period. The module foregrounds literature in English in its international dimensions, from South Asia and the Caribbean, as well as from multicultural and devolved Britain. Recurrent themes include margins, haunting, migration, and metamorphosis. Texts include Achebe, Things Fall Apart; Salvin, The Lonely Londoners; Atwood, Oryx and Crake; Coupland, Hey Nostradamus!

**Employability - 15-Credit Modules**

You can select one of the following modules which offer hands-on opportunities to apply your knowledge and skills in a real-life environment. These opportunities aim to help you approach your professional life with more confidence.

**Schools volunteering module**

If you are considering training to be a teacher, this module gives you invaluable hands-on experience of working alongside a teacher in the classroom for half a day a week over the course of a term. You will devise a special activity to do with students and reflect on the experience in an end-of-placement essay.

**Placement in local creative and heritage industries**

There are opportunities to undertake an assessed work placement module in the Lent term. The placement takes place at a relevant host organisation, with typically 30-40 hours being spent on placement. Previous students have been placed at organisations such as publishers, museums, newspapers, heritage sites and arts venues.

**English Literature**

**30-Credit Modules**

These full-unit modules are taught over the course of two terms.
### Creative Writing

#### joint major degrees

In addition to English Literature, you can combine Creative Writing with:
- English Language
- Fine Art
- Film
- Theatre

You can refer to the details on the previous pages for the Creative Writing and English Literature modules; details for your second subject can be found online at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study).

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#### Year 1

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Creative Writing</td>
<td>Intermediate Creative Writing Workshop</td>
<td>Advanced Creative Writing Workshop</td>
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- English Language
- Film
- Fine Art
- Theatre

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#### Year 2

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<td>Your joint major core module</td>
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- Short Fiction: Genre and Practice
- Poetry: Genre and Practice
- Creative Non-Fiction: Genre and Practice
- Writing Place and Landscape
- Writing for the Stage

- Longer Fiction: Skills and Techniques for Approaching a Novel
- Creative Non-Fiction II
- Writing/Reading Poetry
- Narrative and New Media
- Advanced Short Story: Form and Practice
- Poetry and Experiment

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#### Year 3

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<td>Select 2 specialist Creative Writing modules from:</td>
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- World Literature
- English Literature
- Minor subject

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</table>
- Film
- Fine Art
- Theatre
- Film
- Fine Art
- Theatre
Meet our staff

Our Creative Writing lecturers are experienced, published practitioners in their chosen specialist areas, including poetry, the novel, short fiction, script writing, creative non-fiction, and new media. They have won multiple national and international awards. Our full selection of staff profiles is available on our website. Here are introductions to three of them:

Paul Farley has received widespread acclaim for his poetry, including the Whitbread Prize, the Somerset Maugham Award, the Cholmondeley Prize, the E. M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, two Forward Prizes and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year. His Selected Poems was published by Picador in 2014. As well as writing poetry, his award-winning non-fiction book Edgelands (2011), a series of journeys into England’s overlooked wilderness, was a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week. Paul has also written more widely on the arts and literature for The Guardian, Granta, Art Review and others, and is a well-known broadcaster, having written and presented many arts features and documentary programmes for radio and television, as well as writing several original dramas and adaptations. He also presents BBC Radio 4’s contemporary poetry programme, The Echo Chamber. Paul’s book Deaths of the Poets (2017), is a series of non-fiction journeys into the myth of the doomed poet.

Jenn Ashworth won the Betty Trask Award for her first novel, A Kind of Intimacy (2009) and on publication of her second novel, Cold Light (2011), she was featured on the BBC Culture Show as one of Britain’s 12 best new novelists. Her third novel The Friday Gospels (2013) is published by Sceptre and her fourth book, Fell – called ‘Dark, compelling, beautifully written’ by the Guardian – was published in 2016. As well as writing novels and short stories, Jenn also reviews contemporary literary fiction for The Guardian and the Independent and is co-founder of the writers’ and artists’ collective, Curious Tales.

Internationally celebrated literary scholar and cultural theorist, Distinguished Professor Terry Eagleton chats to students after a talk at Lancaster Priory, 2019.

Tajinder Singh Hayer
Lecturer in Creative Writing, scriptwriter

Taj has been writer on attachment at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, writer in residence at BBC Radio Drama Manchester, and was nominated as one of the Royal Court’s fifty promising playwrights in 2006-7. He has written for the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Peshkar, Freedom Studios, Menagerie, and Look Left, Look Right Theatre Company. He won the BBC’s Spin new writing award in 2003 with People Like Me, and has written for BBC Radio Four, Radio Three and the Asian Network. He has also written for the CBeebies channel, and his short films have been shown at festivals around the world. He is currently Director of Lancaster Words (the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing’s literary festival).
Life on the degree

Student-run journals

We have three in-house, student-run, creative writing journals. The print publication Cake publishes poetry, flash fiction, and reviews of work from established poets and newcomers alike. Flash is an undergraduate-run online and print journal which publishes fiction, poetry, critical and hybrid work by current Lancaster undergraduates. Lux is an interdisciplinary journal that seeks to showcase incisive and original work from students across the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

There are many other opportunities for writing in Lancaster. Here are some of the activities our students have taken part in recently:

- Run their own workshops in the Writer’s Society, one of the student-run societies at Lancaster.
- Set up reading and writing groups, such as the Graphic Novel Reading Group, or the Sci-fi Reading Group.
- Attended and organised monthly literary salons with nationally and internationally acclaimed authors in Lancaster city centre under the auspices of ‘Stories at the Storey’.
- Developed new scripts in the Dukes Theatre in Lancaster.
- Attended guest readings of poets and writers such as Vahni Capildeo, A J Blakemore, Paul McVeigh and PJ Harvey.
- Taken a student production of the Canterbury Tales to the Edinburgh Festival.
- Made major contributions to the volunteering programmes of Lancaster University Students’ Union.
- Made short promotional films about life in the Department.

Volunteering and the Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates.

Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates these.

Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award

Meet Thom

I think one of the most important parts of studying Creative Writing at Lancaster is the fact that every single tutor and staff member shares exactly the same passion that you do for writing. They might not always have expertise or experience in a specific area, but the department is very well connected and you will always be directed to where you need to be.

I’ve taken part in Flash, the student-run flash fiction and poetry journal that I am an editor for, and that’s been a brilliant exercise in publication and editorial work that will do me wonders going into any work that requires those skills.

Thomas Lingard
BA (Hons) English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice, Year 1

– Illustration by Tanyaporn Lusaniriyakulchai, MA Design Management, Lancaster University
I completed a 5 week placement with Carcanet Press as part of a third year module. The experience gave me a whole new breadth of insight into marketing new book releases, and also the publishing industry as the complex creature that it is. Overall, I’m grateful to Carcanet and the University for giving me the opportunity to gain such experience, which in turn has helped me to shape my career prospects after graduation.

Kayla Jenkins
BA (Hons) English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice, graduated 2019

I enjoyed the ‘Writing for the Stage’ module. It gave me the chance to see my work performed professionally and establish contacts in the industry. The tutor, Taj Hayer, was very passionate about the subject. I had never really tried writing scripts before and Taj’s workshops were expertly delivered and feedback was concise and honest, showing where you needed to improve quite clearly. This, combined with the professional experience of working in the Dukes theatre in Lancaster, collaborating with actors and directors in a professional environment made the module very valuable. It allowed me to develop my writing skills whilst gaining experience in a career environment something which very few other creative writing courses do.

Abbie Grundy
BA (Hons) English Literature, Creative Writing and Practice, graduated 2018