

Lancaster
University



Creative Writing
Undergraduate Degrees 2026

Welcome

Creative writing at Lancaster has a long and distinguished history, dating back to 1970 when we were one of the very first universities to teach the subject in the UK, and we have since continued to lead developments in the field.

Our creative writing tutors are practising 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 traditional genres (poetry, prose, short fiction, drama, scriptwriting), as well as newer forms such as song lyric, graphic novel, fantasy, science fiction, memoir, and game writing.

You will study creative writing alongside English literature or film and this will feed into and enrich your writing. You will be taught through lectures, seminars and workshops, some delivered by visiting professionals in broadcasting or the publishing industry.

We offer a rich literary environment in which to undertake your studies by providing a wide range of extracurricular activities. This includes ensuring that you make the most of the historic city of Lancaster by, for example, the drama productions we organise at venues such as Lancaster Castle or the Dukes Theatre and our partnering with Lancaster's celebrated city-based LitFest. Our students also contribute by coordinating writing groups, performing readings, and editing four journals: *Flash*, *Cake*, *Lux* and *Errant*. Finally, you can, if you wish, undertake a placement year or study abroad at one of our partner universities.

I hope that you will choose to join us.



Professor of
Creative Writing

Jenn Ashworth

Our creative writing author-tutors are all experienced practitioners and teachers of particular forms and genres. They maintain our long-established tradition of student-centred, workshop-led teaching.

Bailrigg Awards

Thanks to a generous endowment, we can offer some support (up to £150 per award) to creative writing students who are suffering financial hardship. You can apply once or twice a year and, if merited, can receive one award per year.



Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
English Literature and Creative Writing		BA	QW38	3	AAB
English Literature and Creative Writing (Placement Year)		BA	QW39	4	AAB
English Literature and Creative Writing (Study Abroad)		BA	QW40	4	AAB
Film and Creative Writing		BA	PW38	3	ABB
Film and Creative Writing (Placement Year)		BA	PW39	4	ABB
Film and Creative Writing (Study Abroad)		BA	PW40	4	ABB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements lancaster.ac.uk





Made for *learning*

Lectures

The lectures in the first year focus on a whole range of literary devices and techniques, and how they may be used and developed in 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 final years, the lectures focus more on the next stages, such as how to approach publishers, where to send your work, and how to make a living as a writer. Lectures by your Lancaster author-tutors are supplemented with presentations by speakers from the creative writing industry on the professional aspects of being a writer.

Workshops

Workshops have always been at the heart of Lancaster creative writing. Each workshop is led or curated by one of our author-tutors, with students reading and commenting on each other's work. You are then encouraged to revise your writing in the light of this feedback. Workshops also give you the opportunity to respond to the weekly lectures.

Contact hours

You can expect to be in workshops and lectures for around nine hours a week in your first year, depending on which modules you sign up for. In year two and final year, contact time will reduce slightly as you become more independent in your studies. In addition, you will have set reading and assigned writing, and belong to a small, pre-workshop study group. All this results in a full, though flexible, study schedule.

Assessment

Creative writing is normally assessed by the submission of a writing portfolio (developed through the workshop plus feedback from the tutor) along with a reflective essay that demonstrates an understanding of your use of technique and the literary context(s) of your work. We aim to return coursework to you, graded and with comments from your tutor, within four weeks.

“

*A supportive environment
that has really pushed me
to develop my writing.*

”

*BA Hons English Literature
and Creative Writing*

Lancaster University



Charlotte, *third year student*

My time studying English literature and creative writing at Lancaster has been the most rewarding three years of my life. From *Mansfield Park* to *The Skeleton Crew*, each text I have been able to study has widened my reading and enhanced my love for literature.

The modules I have been able to study throughout my years here have opened my eyes to genres that have both fascinated me and provided me with insights I would not have been able to discover without the help of my wonderful tutors.

Workshopping has been one of my favourite parts of the course. Being able to edit and discuss my peers' work as well as my own in a supportive environment has really pushed me to develop my writing, leaving me confident to pursue a career in writing. Indeed, I leave Lancaster with the knowledge that I will always be supported by my former tutors.

Further *opportunities*

There is an extensive range of extracurricular activities and field trips. Some are organised by staff, such as readings from visiting authors in the Castle Quarter, or in association with the city's very own LitFest and Dukes Theatre; others are organised by students, such as open mic nights on campus.

Literary Lancaster

Literature thrives at Lancaster, both on campus and in the city. Here are just some of the free literary activities our students have taken part in this last year:

- Ran their own workshop for the Writer's Society
- Set up reading and writing groups – these currently include Sci-Fi and Fantasy, Literature and Religion, and Queer Fiction
- Attended graphic novel evening event with graphic novelist, Mary Talbot
- Made short promotional video about creative writing at Lancaster
- Attended Jane Austen evening event
- Participated in Folk Horror Symposium at The Dukes Theatre
- Taken part in weekly Games Study Nights in the University Library
- Read a poem at annual May Gathering at Lancaster's medieval Priory
- Discussed their poetry with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Paul Muldoon
- Read their poetry at annual inter-faith GodWords event in the University Chaplaincy
- Read their work at annual LitFest Creative Writing Student Showcase
- Developed new scripts to be performed in annual Script-Writing Showcase at the Dukes Theatre
- Performed in annual four-night summer Shakespeare production at the Castle

Student-run journals

We currently have four 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 literary critical work from students across the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Errant is dedicated to creative-critical writing and hosts occasional special seminars.

Please do follow us on Instagram to see what we are up to @elcw_lancasterwords



“

*You get to
find your
voice and
challenge
yourself.*

”



Emily, *final year student*

**BA Hons English Literature and
Creative Writing**

I have really enjoyed my time studying English literature and creative writing here at Lancaster. You get to experience many different forms of writing and find your voice whilst also being pushed to challenge yourself and grow.

My tutors are very supportive, and they are constantly offering opportunities and events to engage in. During second year I attended many author interviews which really helped to broaden my understanding of my own writing.

During my third year I was able to host a literature event with the help of my tutor. There are many such opportunities for aspiring writers both on and off campus.

Gain *real-world* experience

We know you want to graduate with confidence and ready to step into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.

Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance.

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

With these internships you'll gain sector-relevant work experience and be paid. You can apply in all years of study for opportunities such as publishing assistant, content delivery manager, or assistant events producer. The scheme is delivered by our faculty employability team who are here to support your access to direct work experience while you study.

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 this.



“

I got an insider look at the industry I'm working towards.

”

*Internship as Publishing
& Marketing Assistant at
Comma Press*

Lancaster University



Antoni, *final-year student*
BA Hons Film and Creative
Writing

The internship made the summer of my second year feel more meaningful and gave me loads of extra confidence going into my final year. It was also really exciting to get an early, insider look at the industry I'm working towards — a whole year ahead of schedule.

I particularly enjoyed the research and brainstorming tasks I was given — for example, coming up with ideas for the format of a new sci-fi anthology from a fresh storytelling angle. The opportunity to work from Comma's Manchester office was also fantastic.

In terms of skills development, time management was number one — there were countless daily tasks, with the work never finishing. The crucial thing was to find a balance.

Curiosity was a big asset in the role and meant I got the most out of this industry crash course. Teamwork and communication were also big.



Your global *experience*

At Lancaster, literary study incorporates examining literatures in English produced in other anglophone contexts (such as the USA or Australia) and indeed literatures in translation produced in continental Europe. We thus encourage an international mindset and encourage you to make the most of these opportunities to travel as part of your studies.

Study abroad

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada, Switzerland and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your writing and your preparation for life after Lancaster.

Vacation travel

You can also discover the world during your vacations.

We run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

In addition, you can attend summer schools at one of our many overseas partners.

Find out more at lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

“

Lancaster is a wonderfully diverse place.

”

*International student
from USA*

Lancaster University



Ivy, second-year student
BA Hons English Literature
and Creative Writing

I find Lancaster to be incredibly welcoming to international students! Throughout my degree, I've been able to get to know a diverse group of literature and creative writing students who do not define me by my American nationality.

When I first arrived, I found that there was a bit of a learning curve regarding how to write essays in the UK, as American schools teach literature subjects very differently. However, this was no problem at all, as I found the English Literature and Creative Writing professors to be incredibly supportive and receptive to any questions that I had regarding essay structures.

As a second-year student going into third year, I continue to appreciate the support my professors provide towards my projects. This year, for one of my creative writing modules, I decided to tackle the realm of nostalgia poetry in unique and interesting ways. Writing about fictional and real experiences in the setting of Texas, I received immense encouragement from my tutor to explore a world and culture I am familiar with in innovative ways.

I also belong to and help run multiple societies on campus, all of which have welcomed me unbiasedly and have been the environments where I have made many wonderful, life-long friends. Lancaster is a wonderfully diverse place with lots of encouragement within each subject area and society as well as unparalleled support from the careers team and all of the amazing, friendly staff.

English Literature and Creative Writing

BA (Hons)

Combine studying literature from medieval theatre to the contemporary graphic novel with developing your own writing under the guidance of our many celebrated author-tutors.

In your first year you study literature in relation to both historical change and other art forms and, as a writer, you will focus on developing a portfolio. In addition, you choose from either the World Literatures or British Cinema modules.

In your second year you explore both literature's conceptual dimensions and how it flourishes in the worlds of work and, as a writer, you will focus on developing a portfolio. In addition, you choose three further modules focusing on either literary study or your own writing in a specific genre.

In your final year you explore literature in relation to a major cultural theme and advance your writing skills through the development of your unique portfolio. In addition, you choose further modules focusing on either literary study or your own writing in a specific genre.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Introduction to Creative Writing

This module introduces you to the art of creative writing at university level. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the development of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay.

Literature in Time

This module traces the long history of English literature, exploring a host of authors, including Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, the Romantics, and the Victorians, as well as moderns such as Woolf and contemporary figures such as Grace Nichols and Paul Muldoon.

The Arts and Identity

This module explores the role of the arts in building community, identity and confidence. You will engage with a variety of different art forms (such as painting, theatre, fiction and film) and develop your own voice via collaborative projects such as a podcast, video essay, or presentation.

Optional Modules

- + World Literatures
- + British Cinema



Year 2

Core Modules

Critical Theory

This module explores literary criticism's rich theoretical life via concepts such as the body, race, gender, violence, God, time, death, war and the animal. We consider thinkers such as Marx, Freud and Nietzsche as well as many more recent figures.

Developing Your Writing Practice

This module enables you to develop the art of creative writing at university level. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the writing of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay.

Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact
Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions
Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts
Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

Optional Modules

- + Medieval Literature
- + Early Modern Literature
- + Literary Adaptation
- + American Literature
- + Literature and Sacred Texts
- + Victorian Literature
- + Critical Practice
- + Writing Poetry
- + Writing Fiction
- + Playwriting
- + Writing the Queer

Final Year

Core Modules

Advanced Creative Writing Workshop

This module equips you to advance your writing toward professional levels. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the writing of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay.

Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice
Queer Futures
People Power, Community
Engagement and Collective Action
Confronting the Climate Crisis
The Power of Ideas
Artistic Fusions
Futures Beyond Borders

Optional Modules

- + English Literature Dissertation
- + Shakespeare
- + Romanticism
- + Austen and the Brontës
- + Modernism
- + Gothic and Science Fiction
- + Literature and Environment
- + Postcolonial Literature
- + Special Topics in Theory
- + Writing for Young People
- + Writing Games
- + Writing Graphic Novels

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

Film and Creative Writing

BA (Hons)

Combine exploring the complex world of cinema and practical film production with developing your writing under the guidance of our many celebrated author-tutors.

In your first year, you explore film from both theoretical and practical perspectives and, as a writer, focus on developing a portfolio. You will also study both film and writing in relation to other art forms and choose from modules about British cinema or accessibility and inclusion.

In your second year, you will study global cinema and, as a writer, focus on developing a portfolio as well as explore how your studies relate to the worlds of work. In addition, you choose further modules focusing on either film or your own writing in a specific genre.

In your final year, you will research a film project of your own devising and advance your writing skills through the development of your unique portfolio. You'll also explore your studies in relation to a major cultural theme and choose one further module focusing on film.

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

Year 1

Core Modules

Introduction to Film Studies

This module explores film theory, analysis, and history alongside practical filmmaking. You'll examine cinematography, editing, sound, and performance through case study films while tracing global cinema's cultural and political impact. Hands-on workshops develop technical skills, culminating in a group film project that deepens your understanding of form, storytelling, and cinematic traditions.

Introduction to Creative Writing

This module introduces you to the art of creative writing at university level. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the development of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay etc.

The Arts and Identity

This module explores the role of the arts in building community, identity and confidence. You will engage with a variety of different art forms (such as painting, theatre, fiction and film) and develop your own voice via collaborative projects such as a podcast, video essay, or presentation.

Optional Modules

+ Accessibility and Inclusion in Creative Industries

+ British Cinema

Year 2

Core Modules

Global Cinemas: Forms, Debates, Histories

This module examines global cinema's stylistic, industrial, and cultural diversity, analysing films across historical and regional contexts. Through screenings, lectures, and discussions, you'll explore key cinematic movements, authorship, and genre evolution, developing critical perspectives on film history, digital technologies, and the social, political, and industrial impact of cinema.

Developing Your Writing Practice

This module enables you to develop the art of creative writing at university level. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the writing of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay.

Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact
Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions
Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts
Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

Optional Modules

- + Screenwriting
- + Short Film Production
- + Film Genre 1: Classic Hollywood Genres
- + Film, Gender, Race and Ideology
- + Writing Poetry
- + Playwriting
- + Writing the Queer

Final Year

Core Modules

Film Studies Independent Project

You'll conduct an independent research project on a chosen topic, developing research skills through lectures, seminars, and one-to-one supervision. Previous dissertation topics include Cinematography in *The Dark Knight*; *The Absent Mother* in Disney films; *The Legacy of the Tragic Mulatto*; *The Cinematic Figure of the Vampire*; *How Black Female Filmmakers Are Combatting Mainstream Cinema's Misogynoir*; and *Identity in the Films of Stanley Kubrick*.

Advanced Creative Writing Workshop

This module equips you to advance your writing toward professional levels. Supported by both lectures and tutor-led workshops, you will focus on the writing of your own portfolio, whether that be poetry, prose, drama, or screenplay.

Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice
Queer Futures
People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action
Confronting the Climate Crisis
The Power of Ideas
Artistic Fusions
Futures Beyond Borders

Optional Modules

- + Film Industries: Practices and Movements
- + Film Cultures: Circulation, Exhibition, Audiences
- + Experimental Cinema: Creative Practice
- + Writing Graphic Novels
- + Writing Games

Meet *our staff*

Our creative writing tutors are experienced 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 portfolio of staff profiles is available on our website.



Professor Jenn Ashworth

Professor of Writing, novelist and short story writer

Jenn Ashworth studied at Newnham College, Cambridge and the Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester. Before becoming a writer, she worked as a librarian in a prison. Her first novel, *A Kind of Intimacy*, was published in 2009 and won a Betty Trask Award. On the publication of her second, *Cold Light* (Sceptre, 2011) she was featured on the BBC's *The Culture Show* as one of the UK's twelve best new writers. Her third novel *The Friday Gospels* (2013) and her fourth *Fell* (2016) are also published by Sceptre. Professor Ashworth has also published short fiction and won an award for her blog, "Every Day I Lie a Little."

Her work has been compared to both Ruth Rendell and Patricia Highsmith; all her novels to date have been set in north-west England. In 2019 she published a memoir-in-essays about reading, writing and sickness called *Notes Made While Falling* which was a New Statesman Book of the Year and shortlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize. Her latest novel is *Ghosted: A Love Story* which was shortlisted for the Portico Prize. She lives in Lancashire, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and is a Professor of Writing, specialising in long prose fiction, the memoir and creative-critical writing.





Dr Oliver Langmead

Lecturer in Creative Writing, novelist and poet

Oliver K. Langmead writes science fiction and fantasy across forms. His new verse-novel, *Calypso*, has been shortlisted for a Hugo award and a British Science Fiction Association award, and named one of the best Science Fiction books of 2024 by the Guardian and Esquire magazine. His previous novel *Glitterati* was shortlisted for a British Fantasy Award, and named one of New Scientist's best science fiction books of 2022. His new novel, *City of All Seasons*, co-written with Aliya Whiteley, will be published by Titan Books in 2025. In late 2018 he was the writer in residence at the European Space Agency's Astronaut Centre in Cologne.



Dr Tajinder Singh Hayer

Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing and scriptwriter

Taj has been writer on attachment at the Leeds Playhouse, writer in residence at BBC Radio Drama Manchester, writer on attachment at the National Theatre and was nominated as one of the Royal Court's 50 promising playwrights in 2006-7. He has written for the Leeds Playhouse, Peshkar, Freedom Studios, Menagerie, and Look Left, Look Right Theatre Company. He won the BBC's Spin new writing award in 2003, and has written for CBeebies, BBC Radio Four, BBC Radio Three, Big Finish Productions and the BBC Asian Network. He won the 2021 Papatango Prize with *Ghost Stories from an Old Country*. Most recently he has written the Cyclops episode of The Odyssey as part of the National Theatre's multi-part and multi-region adaptation of Homer's epic poem.



Careers and employability

Throughout your degree, we encourage you to gain work experience that will support you in planning your future. A wide range of placement and internship opportunities are available, and we offer the option of a placement year or study abroad year with all of our degrees, which will boost your employability.

Subject-specific support

A degree including creative writing can underpin many careers and, as well as helping our students make good academic decisions while they are with us, we recognise the need to think ahead to life after graduation. We therefore offer writing-specific careers support, including talks and visits from former students of ours now in various worlds of work, including publishing and editing. Our graduates have gone on to be authors, poets, screen writers, journalists, new media and content writers, as well as working in the professions listed below.

Careers support

Both during your degree and after you graduate the University provides dedicated, specialist support. The Careers Service has connections with some of the world's top graduate recruiters, high-growth businesses and employers across many sectors, and organises careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year. You can be matched with an employer or a previous graduate for one-to-one advice and take part in workshops on topics such as writing a powerful CV, developing a LinkedIn profile or succeeding at psychometric testing. We also have a vast range of online resources as well as an exclusive job search portal.

Graduate destinations

Our excellent careers support is recognised in the league tables where we are joint 10th for Creative Writing graduate prospects (Complete University Guide, 2025).

Our students have gone on to become

- + Writers
- + Publishers
- + Archivists
- + Media and PR professionals
- + Teachers



“

*I wouldn't
be the
writer I
am today
without
them.*

”



Beth Train-Brown, *graduated 2022*

**BA (Hons) English Literature and
Creative Writing**

In 2022, I published my first collection of poetry with Renard Press, *salmacis: becoming not quite a woman*, inspired by a module I studied called 'Poetic Form' led by Paul Farley (Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature) and a module called 'Experimenting with Poetic Genre' led by Eoghan Walls (author of *Pigeon Songs*).

At the launch event in Lancaster Waterstones, all my tutors and lecturers turned up to show their support. Now, I'm working on my debut novel and YA tutor Elen Caldecott (author of *The Blackthorn Branch*) has helped me perfect my pitch while my former workshop tutor Rachel Winterbottom (now Editorial Director at HarperVoyager) put me in touch with a literary agent in London.

The tutors in creative writing at Lancaster are some of the most supportive, enthusiastic, and creative people I have ever had the pleasure of working with.



lancaster.ac.uk/creative-writing

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.