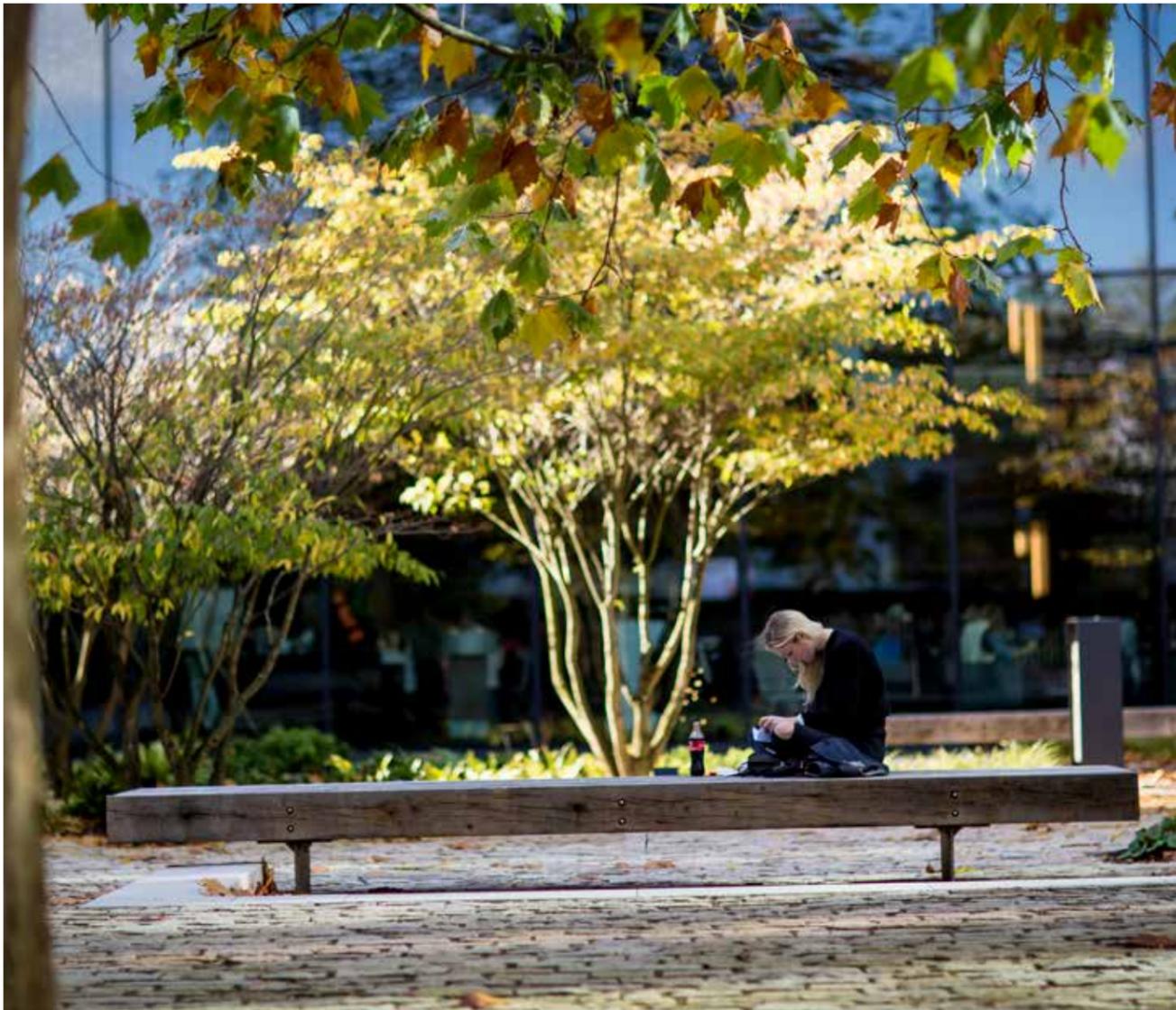


OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

MA CREATIVE WRITING





DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGES

Do you want to take your writing to the next level? Do you aspire to have your writing published? On this course you will join a community of published writers who will help you develop your craft, mature as a writer and give you the opportunity to get noticed by key publishing contacts.

Key features of our programme

- You will be taught exclusively by published and publishing creative writers
- The course culminates in our annual Creative Writing Showcase. Here, you will have the opportunity to present your work to literary agents and publishers
- The course has an excellent reputation for developing the talents of writers who go on to find major literary success
- You can choose to study full-time or part-time.



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WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?

We understand the need for extensive teaching and contact time through lectures, workshops and tutorials. You'll learn from experienced, qualified university teachers and have regular face-to-face contact with your tutors.

Studying at Oxford Brookes gives you access to an excellent library and IT resources, sport and leisure facilities, a dedicated student careers service, a nursery, medical and dental facilities and student support services including academic and personal counselling.



Creative Writing at Brookes

The Creative Writing MA at Oxford Brookes is all about growing your writing in a workshop environment. Our simple aim is to get you writing, then to provide insightful, perhaps challenging, but always supportive feedback. The entire programme revolves around this process. All your teachers here are genuine, commercially-published, practising writers; in every session you'll actually write and get reactions. We believe that this makes our course unique.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer
Creativity, Writing and Textuality: Concepts and Practice	Option 2	
Option 1	Creativity and Textuality: Major Project	

Our course is focused on practical work which aims to improve your writing with a view to publication. You will:

- Undertake a substantial creative writing project
- Practice creative writing and reading skills with a range of writing practitioners, including peers and published writers
- Acquire a practical understanding of the techniques of writing, editing and working within the parameters of the writing and publishing industry
- Engage with theoretical approaches to creativity and creative practice
- Demonstrate an appropriate knowledge of literary conventions, and historical and contemporary contexts for writing
- Explore your own position as a writer within a specific locale and history.

Core compulsory module

The 'Creativity, Writing and Textuality: Concepts and Practice' module is taken by all postgraduate Creative Writing students at the beginning of the course. Through workshops led by our staff and our Creative Writing Fellows, it is designed to take you out of your comfort zone and get you writing in ways you may never have considered before.

Optional modules

- Narrative
- Poetry
- Writing Lives
- Writing Voice
- Independent Study

PGCert and PGDip options

If you choose to take the postgraduate diploma (PGDip), the core module and two electives are taken. For the postgraduate certificate (PGCert), the core module and one elective are taken.

Whichever modules you choose to take, everything is centred on your own writing. Every session will involve live writing and live feedback.

By the end of the course you will have completed an extended piece of creative writing with a self-reflective critical commentary. Your work will be supported by one-to-one tutorials, group workshops, and feedback on your individual pieces of work.

PUBLISHING SUCCESS

This is what really matters. Our graduates' recent achievements – such as Helen Eve's *Stella*, Kit de Waal's securing a major three-book deal with **Penguin**, and Catherine Chanter's *The Well* winning the **Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize** – mean that agents and publishers listen when they hear you're with us.

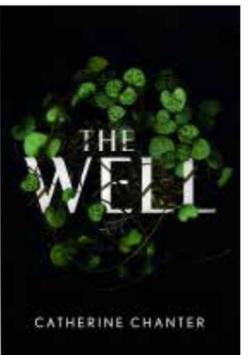
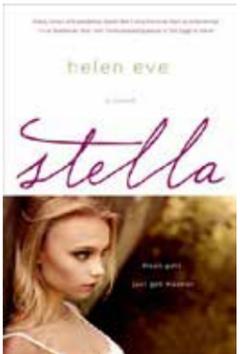
The best three students of the year are guaranteed to be read by independent Oxford literary agency **Felicity Bryan Associates**, with the prospect of full representation for the winner. Top London publisher **Philip Gwyn Jones**, who has commissioned some of the biggest names in fiction, will personally look at every major project which gains a Distinction. People like this are the gatekeepers of literary success; our aim is to get them to open those gates for you.

Recent student successes include...

- Rachel Crowther, *Things You Do For Love*. Rachel's second novel, *Things You Do For Love*, will be published in August this year by Bonnier Zaffre, while her third novel (as yet untitled) is scheduled for publication in August 2017
- Kit de Waal, *My Name is Leon*. Kit's first novel was published to huge acclaim in 2016 as part of a three-book deal with Viking Books, Penguin
- Linni Ingemundsen, who has just signed a two-book Young Adult book deal with Usborne

Find out more about publication success and prize winners on our website:

www.brookes.ac.uk/creativewriting



"I chose to come to Brookes because of the luminous list of Creative Writing Fellows. I was also impressed by the promise of the Annual Creative Writing Showcase as I saw it as an opportunity to network with publishers and agents.

I took the Narrative module last year and it triggered a phenomenal amount of new writing from me. Having written in a vacuum for so long, I recognized that I had cultivated bad habits that were difficult to break and probably dated. My novels tended to be slow off the mark because I over-explained the backstory before getting going. So the work we have done during the course on beginnings has been invaluable."

Lorraine Fergusson, MA Creative Writing graduate. Lorraine is now represented by the Annette Green Agency, London.

CREATIVE WRITING FELLOWS

Be taught by the experts

Our uniquely hands-on approach, led by our core staff of practicing and publishing creative writers, is supported by a fantastic group of distinguished Creative Writing Fellows and guest speakers, including:

- **Philip Pullman**, author of internationally best selling trilogy, *His Dark Materials*
- **Sarah Dunant**, internationally bestselling author of *Sacred Hearts*
- **Patience Agbabi**, star performance poet and author of *Bloodshot Monochrome* and *Telling Tales*
- **Nick Cohen**, top *Observer* journalist and bestselling author
- **John L Williams**, novelist, boss of the Laugharne Festival and literary talent spotter extraordinaire
- **Steven Hall**, author of the internationally-acclaimed *The Raw Shark Texts*.

Unlike at some institutions, our Creative Writing Fellows don't merely pop in for a chat. Between them, they lead a major 2.5 hour workshop session every other week of each semester, on average. You will actually be taught by them all apart from Philip Pullman, whose Q&A session gives you the unique chance to question him up close and personal.



"Among the Creative Writing courses that I've seen – and I've seen quite a lot now – the one I've seen at Oxford Brookes is certainly one of the best."

Philip Pullman, Creative Writing Fellow and best-selling author. Shown below talking to alumna Kit de Waal at the Creative Writing Graduate Showcase.



Staff profile: **Dr James Hawes**

James is the subject-coordinator for MA Creative Writing and author of six novels with Jonathan Cape. The first, *A White Merc With Fins* (1996), was a Sunday Times bestseller, as was his second, *Rancid Aluminium* (1997). This was filmed, starring Joseph Fiennes, whilst Michael Sheen starred in the adaptation of his third novel *Dead Long Enough* (2000). James was an active co-producer on both, and satirized the movie business in *White Powder*, *Green Light* ("Bang on the money" - Daily Mirror) .

The French edition of his 2005 novel *Speak for England* ("deliciously entertaining" - Independent) became the front page news in Le Monde's book supplement. His study of Kafka - *Excavating Kafka* - ("absolutely brilliant and utterly infuriating" Guardian, 2008) was the basis of a BBC documentary televised in November 2008.

James has reviewed in and/or written for every UK broadsheet. In July 2010 he appeared on Newsnight and Channel4 News, discussing the opening of mysterious boxes left by Frank Kafka's literary executor.

James has been working closely with the king of UK adaptation, Andrew Davies (*Bleak House*, *Pride and Prejudice* etc) on a screen version of his fifth novel. His first work of non-fiction, *Englanders and Huns*, was short-listed for the political books of the year 2015 and his latest book is *The Shortest History of Germany* - the whole story, complete with Venn diagrams. He is currently developing an original TV series.



"I was attracted to the course at Brookes because it offered the chance to work with such incredibly talented tutors and creative writing fellows. I also liked the modular structure, the weekly contact time and the fact that I could take the course part time so that I could fit it around work."

Rose Stevens, MA Creative Writing graduate



STUDYING IN OXFORD

English Literature in Oxford

Oxford is the world's most literary city. You can write in the place used as Hogwarts library in the *Harry Potter* films, sit in the very garden where *His Dark Materials* ends so heartbreakingly, or discover the haunts of Evelyn Waugh, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

There are countless competitions, literary open-mic sessions and public readings, not to mention the annual Oxford Literary Festival, one of the biggest events in the publishing calendar.

You will have access to Oxford's world-renowned Bodleian Libraries. You will also find the Man Booker Prize Archive and the Centre for Modern and Contemporary Poetry housed here on campus.

Living in Oxford

Oxford is a beautiful city with historic buildings that would take a lifetime to explore. With over 30,000 students, Oxford is not only a centre

of education and learning but it is also a rich cultural hub with a wealth of cinemas, theatres and museums, far exceeding many other cities of its size.

Oxford has parks, meadows and nature reserves to discover as well as Britain's oldest botanic garden – all ideal spots for a quiet walk or picnic with friends. Your time in Oxford wouldn't be complete without spending a summer afternoon rowing or punting on the river.

Library resources

In addition to our own excellent libraries and resource centres, Oxford Brookes also offers you access to the Bodleian Libraries- one of the oldest libraries in Europe, and home to over 12 million printed items, as well as architecturally beautiful and inspiring reading rooms.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING

Entry requirements

You should normally hold a good honours degree (2:1 or above), or equivalent, in an appropriate discipline and must be able to demonstrate ability in creative writing.

A portfolio of recent creative work must be submitted consisting of 2000 words prose, or five poems, or a proportionate mixture of the two. Applicants may also be interviewed. If it is some time since you completed your undergraduate education and you do not meet the standard requirements, it may be possible to consider your application based on evidence of other relevant personal and professional experience, the support of your referees and your portfolio of written work.

If your first language is not English an IELTS score of 7 is required. If you do not meet this language requirement, Oxford Brookes International offers a number of preparation courses designed to improve your use of English in an academic context. For more information see:

www.brookes.ac.uk/international

How to apply

Please apply directly to Oxford Brookes.

Funding

- Oxford Brookes graduates are eligible for a 10% discount on postgraduate tuition fees
- The UK government offer postgraduate loans to all eligible UK/EU students

Visit our website for details of scholarships, bursaries and other funding sources.

www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance

10%
discount for Oxford Brookes alumni





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Department of English and Modern Languages

For more information
about MA Creative Writing:

www.brookes.ac.uk/creativewriting

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