



The University of  
**Nottingham**

School of Education

Undergraduate Programme 2012-2013

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## BA (Hons) Creative and Professional Writing

This unique degree course offers you the opportunity to develop your skills, creativity and critical explorations as a writer. You will experience a wide range of contemporary media and experiment with advanced writing techniques and approaches.



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## Introduction

### Special features of the course:

The course aims to ensure that you develop your abilities and potential as a creative and professional writer. The course therefore offers you the opportunity to experience and practise a wide range of contemporary media, and to experiment with and to apply to your writing, advanced techniques and approaches.

The structure and scope of the course will allow you to develop a conceptual understanding of the writing process that will enable you to devise and sustain creative projects, to generate questions, to solve problems, to construct arguments and to communicate these in both verbal and written forms.

The method of course delivery provides regular and consistent tutor/student contact but, as your knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues in creative and professional writing grow, you will increasingly manage and take responsibility for your own creative development. You will, therefore, be encouraged to carry out your own research, and to



organise and present your own ideas. The practical and professionally focused nature of the course aims to extend your linguistic abilities so that you will be able to communicate effectively using a range of written and spoken means. The course is also designed to promote your ability to analyse critically and at a high level, the work of other writers and to relate this analysis to your own creative development. To facilitate the aims of this course, all the tutors are practising writers and specialist teachers of creative and professional writing. Finally, there is a programme of writers' visits and visits from those who work in the writing industry.

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# Module information

*Each year (or maximum 2 years of part-time study) is made up of 120 credits of taught and self-directed study. For part-time study core modules can be studied over maximum 2 years, and, as with the full-time route, the remaining credits are made up from the elective modules.*

All classes take place on Jubilee Campus

Literary Studies Modules\* are also available to students on the BA (Hons) Humanities

## Year 1 (years 1 and 2 of part-time study)

### Creative and Professional Writing Modules

#### Core modules

XX1452

#### Creative Writing: A Foundation Course

30 credits

This module will equip you to establish and reflect upon your own writing practices through writing activities, close analysis and discussion of work by fellow students and published authors, and evaluation of your own work. There will be a particular emphasis on 'finding your own voice' as well as establishing individual writing routines.

XX1458

#### Reading for Writing

30 credits

This module will develop skills in writing practice and a critical, evaluative approach to written texts through the processes of creative and critical reading. Through engagement with the work of a range of published writers from a variety of historical periods, genres and cultures you will reflect on, develop and experiment with your own creative processes with the ultimate goal of producing your own original work.

XX1451

#### Contemporary English Usage: Practical Writing Skills

20 credits

This module provides an introduction to the rules and conventions that govern contemporary Standard English usage. Through an analysis of such technical aspects of the language as grammar, punctuation, syntax and expression, it demonstrates in a practical way how the application of these rules and conventions can enhance, or detract from, the writer's true intentions.

XX 1450

#### Writers' Workshop: Editing Skills

20 credits

Using a workshop environment, this module will focus on developing skills in redrafting and editing in a range of genres. You will be asked to focus on the craft of writing in relation to your own work and to present drafts for appraisal by fellow students and the tutor.

## Elective modules (examples of current selection)

XX 1113  
**Writing Poetry**  
10 credits

This module introduces you to the craft of writing poetry. It will include prescribed writing activities, close analysis and discussion of poems by fellow students and published poetry as well as evaluation of your own work.

XX 1449  
**Writing Fiction**  
10 credits

This module is designed to help you progress in your fiction writing through attention to character, narrative voice and structure, and reflection on your own writing practice and creative reading.

XX 1457  
**Introduction to Lifestyle Journalism**  
10 credits

This module covers a wide-ranging analysis of the heritage, culture, impact and ongoing nature of lifestyle journalism, from its contemporary roots in the 1960s to its online future.

XX 1318  
**Writing for Radio**  
10 credits

This module will develop skills in writing scripts for radio by means of prescribed writing activities, close analysis and discussion of work by fellow students and published authors, and evaluation of your own work. A range of methods and techniques for initiating ideas and developing work in this genre will be explored.

## \*Literary Studies Modules

XX1445  
**Ways of Telling: an introduction to narrative**  
10 credits

This module offers an introduction to the different ways in which narrative may be constructed and will draw on a wide range of material from the Middle Ages to the present day using oral narratives as well as printed texts. The principal emphasis will be on prose fiction, including short stories, the novella and the full-length novel, but some examples will be drawn from non-fiction, drama, poetry, film and television. Texts for study in 2010-11 will include D.H. Lawrence's *The Virgin and the Gypsy* and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* by Alan Sillitoe.

XX1346  
**Poems and Poets: contemporary voices**  
10 credits

This module introduces contemporary British and Irish poetry through analysis and discussion of the work of a range of living poets. Attention will be paid to the language these poets use, the contexts in which they work (and are read) and issues of interpretation.

XX1460  
**Recent British Fiction**  
10 credits

This module provides an opportunity to study novels and short stories produced in Britain over the last 5 years, to examine their language and use of formal and stylistic devices and the contexts in which they have been written and received. It will introduce you to a range of critical viewpoints and develop your skills in close reading.

## Year 2 (years 3 and 4 of part-time study)

### Creative and Professional Writing Modules

#### Core modules

XX2146

#### Writing and Editing - Intermediate

30 credits

In this module you will develop your skills in drafting and editing writing in a range of genres beyond certificate level. You will learn to assess your own written accuracy and style in relation to that of other practitioners, both fellow students and published writers. You will compare, contrast and draw conclusions about the ways in which a wide range of writers develop and edit their work. You will be expected to investigate your own process as a writer and to try out a range of suggested approaches.

XX2106

#### Writing Non-Fiction

20 credits

This core module aims to prepare and equip you to write for specific non-fiction markets. It offers an overview of the publishing industry; the opportunity to develop skills in editing, sessions on researching into and writing for market, plus specialist-led sessions on specific markets. Throughout, the focus is not only on acquiring knowledge but also on preparing your work for the target market.

XX2134

#### Professional Commercial Writing

20 credits

In this practical module you will be given copy to edit, clients' briefs to fulfill and access to the relevant software. Areas covered include practical copywriting and copy-editing skills, proofreading skills, developmental editing (ghost-writing) and advanced writing skills. There will also be a focus on working onscreen (using Word, web and desktop-publishing software), copyright, permissions and plagiarism as well as the practicalities of obtaining employment as a copywriter/editor.

#### Elective modules

#### (examples of current selection)

XX 2117

#### Writing for the Stage

20 credits

This module will introduce you to script writing, specifically scripts for the stage. There will be opportunities to develop original scripts, adapt short stories, analyse published scripts and explore ways of bringing these to performance. The emphasis throughout will be on the practicalities of writing for the stage. To this end you will be encouraged to undertake workshop performances of your own scripts

XX 2095

#### Writing Fiction - Intermediate

20 credits

This module builds on the work undertaken in year 1 through a tutor-led exploration of the structural and stylistic aspects of fiction. While the primary emphasis will be on your written exploration and experimentation with the features of fictional structure, you will also explore narrative frameworks and models through reading and discussion of published works, both fictional and theoretical.

XX 2107

#### Writing Poetry - Intermediate

20 credits

In this module you will be expected to develop your skills in writing poetry by experimenting with language in a range of poetic forms, analysing poetry by other students and published poets as well as developing critical skills in analysing your own poetry and reflecting on your own creative process. You will develop your skills in drafting and editing poetry beyond certificate level. You will be expected to develop your own poetry project and produce a coherent poetry collection.

XX 2135

### **Travel Writing**

20 credits

This module provides a detailed insight into a popular literary genre by analysing the most inspiring travel literature and journalism from the last 40 years. It also provides an opportunity to develop knowledge and skills to enable you to research and write travel features for commercial publishing markets.

XX 2136

### **Writing for Lifestyle Magazines**

20 credits

This module offers a practical and thorough critique of contemporary lifestyle journalism, enabling you to generate relevant feature ideas and write articles aimed at a range of professional magazine titles.

XX 2137

### **Scriptwriting - Intermediate**

20 credits

This module will build on the work undertaken in year 1 through a tutor-led exploration of scriptwriting for performance in radio, film and theatre. Generic elements in scriptwriting, i.e. narrative structures, plotting, character, action and voice will be examined and you will be asked to explore their possibilities in writing for different kinds of media. The primary emphasis will be on your own written exploration and experimentation in this genre but there will also be opportunities to examine and evaluate professional scripts and the process of adaptation.

## **\*Literary Studies Modules (Year 2)**

XX 2139

### **The Language of Literature**

20 credits

In this module you will explore literature through an analysis of its language. In tutor-led classes and workshops, involving the analysis of prose, plays and poetry across a range of genres and periods, you will acquire skills of language analysis which will both develop your critical awareness and vocabulary when discussing literary texts, and will also help you to gain a deeper understanding of the craft of writing.

XX 2140

### **The Literature of Place**

20 credits

Place, whether defined as a house, a village, a town, a city, a region, or a country has always been a central motif in literature. This module offers an overview of the use of place in literature with a particular focus on writing by Thomas Hardy, E.M.Forster, Seamus Heaney as well as recent explorations of this theme in the work of Kiran Desai.

XX 2147

### **Writing Short Stories**

10 credits

This module will focus on writing the short story, the work of others in this form and require students to examine each other's work in regular workshops. It will take your prose writing to a new level in a form of exacting standards.

XX 2145

### **Writing a Short Film**

10 credits

This module will develop skills in writing short films at an intermediate level. Clips from a range of contemporary films will be used to demonstrate these features and to develop your ability to analyse and evaluate film generally. Topics will include film structure, narration, film layout, dialogue in film, evaluation of screenplay and practical issues in film making and opportunities.

## Year 3 (years 5 and 6 of part-time study)

### Creative and Professional Writing Modules

#### Core module

XX 3054

#### Writing Project/Portfolio

60 credits

In this module you will be expected to further develop your skills in writing by developing and collating an individual writing project which reflects your interests and strengths as a writer. This will involve drafting and editing your writing by researching and analysing writing by fellow students and published writers in your chosen genre(s) or on a chosen theme. In the process you will develop sophisticated critical skills in analysing your own writing.

#### Elective modules

##### (examples of current selection)

XX 3050

#### Using Creative Writing 1: Writing in the Community

20 credits

This module aims to develop your skills in designing and delivering writing workshops. This will involve researching and analysing the theory and practice of creative writing, analysing your own teaching practice in a workshop environment and that of other students and practitioners in the context of current theory and practice. Sessions will also cover designing workshops for particular community groups.

XX 3051

#### Using Creative Writing 2: Editing

20 credits

This module will demonstrate and examine the extent and variety of published creative and professional writing in the contemporary world, including traditional print media, online publishing (e-books, websites, etc.), broadcast publishing (radio, TV, film, etc.), corporate publishing, advertising and information services. You will then examine contemporary commercial book publishing in depth and analyse specific editing case studies.

XX 3052

#### Advanced Writers' Workshop

20 credits

In this module you will move from a tutor-led to a student-led workshop environment. You will work together and in groups, initially with tutor facilitation, making use of the editing and drafting skills developed in years 1 and 2 to discuss, negotiate and establish your own workshop procedures, descriptive frameworks and principles for

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sharing and assessing one another's work. You will participate in a series of practical workshops, taking your work to a more polished level and develop your critical reading skills and vocabulary. You will reflect verbally and in writing on the experience, both during the module and in assessed work.

XX 3076

#### The Creative Mind

10 credits

This module explores connections between the mind and writing, the psychology of writing and creating, as well as therapeutic applications of writing. You will be taken through a variety of practical exercises and led to examine your own writing habits, the cathartic nature of writing and how this can be used to help others.

XX 3077

#### Writing for Children

10 credits

This module will focus on writing fiction for the children's and young adult market. It will look at work by successful authors in the field as well as students' own projects with regular workshop sessions.

XX 3078

#### Writing for the Web

10 credits

This module aims to teach you about writing for the web and outlets for your work as well as ways of making money this way. It will cover technical aspects of working on the web, how to build a following, blogging, tweeting, and examples of writers who use the web to enhance or build careers.

### \*Literary Studies Modules (Year 3)

XX 3069

#### Self and Society in Nineteenth Century Fiction

20 credit

The module is based on the study of a number of fictional texts written and published in the 19th century. Three canonical British novels, *Emma* by Jane Austen, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, will provide the focus for the module. You will study the texts in the context in which they were written, published and read, with particular reference to changing notions of identity and the self and their relation to society. You will also be introduced to recent theories and debates in relation to the nineteenth century realist novel.

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# Applying

*Please note that the application procedures for full-time students differ from those for part-time students. Please refer to the appropriate section for your chosen route.*

## Entry Requirements

School leavers should have three A levels at grades BCC (or equivalent) but we also welcome applicants without formal or recent qualifications. All applicants must attend an interview and provide a written piece and two references.

Applicants without 'A' levels or other formal qualifications must evidence their ability to undertake study at this level. This means that we will ask you to provide a full CV.

### English Language Requirements

If English is not your first language, you must fulfill a minimum **one** of the following conditions:  
IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element).  
TOEFL iBT 87 (no less than 21 in listening, 22 in reading, 23 in speaking and 21 in writing)

### Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (APL and APEL)

If you have higher education credits from other institutions you may be eligible to transfer them into your programme. If you do not have formal qualifications but have suitable employment experience (experiential learning), you may also be eligible for some credit exemption.

If you wish to claim credits towards a University of Nottingham course please contact the course administrative team for further details.

## Full-time applications

If you are applying for admission to a full-time first degree course, even if you already hold a first degree or are wishing to transfer from another university, you must apply online through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) [www.ucas.ac.uk/students/apply/](http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/apply/)

The **UCAS** code for this course is **W800**.

Your application should reach UCAS between 1st September and 15th January for entry in the following September to ensure equal consideration. Applications received after this date will be considered if places are still available.

Although you will be asked to provide a reference on your UCAS application, we require two separate references specific to the Creative and Professional Writing course and you should use the form within this prospectus.

## Part-time applications

Applications for part-time study are made directly to the School of Education. Please use the part-time application form and reference form which can be downloaded online.

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# Fees

## Full-time:

Please visit the University of Nottingham Student Finance website for up to date information on fees:

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees/tuitionfees/undergraduatecourses.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees/tuitionfees/undergraduatecourses.aspx)

## Part-time:

Part-time fees are based on a pro-rata of the full-time fees in accordance with the number of credits studied. Most part-time students study 60 or 90 credits per academic year and the fee you pay is also determined by:

- The total number of credits studied (maximum 90 per academic year)
- If you are a new or continuing student with us
- If you are a home/EU or international student

You may be eligible for Student Finance England (SFE) assistance with fees and also bursaries from the University, which together can cover a substantial portion of the fees.

You will also be expected to buy your own materials as appropriate. Details will be sent to those whose applications for admission are successful.

### Who to contact:

If after reading the information, you would like any professional advice, please contact:

**Niki Valentine**

Course Leader

Email: [nicola.valentine@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.valentine@nottingham.ac.uk)

Tel: 0115 951 4518

If you have administrative queries, please contact:

**Susanne Chettle**

Course Administrative Assistant

Email: [susanne.chettle@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:susanne.chettle@nottingham.ac.uk)

Tel: 0115 846 6454

Please note this programme is currently under review for September 2012 and the structure and modules are subject to change.

All our BA programmes are subject to a minimum recruitment. We reserve the right to cancel a course if our minimum numbers are not met.