

**Kingston
University**
London

Creative Writing BA(Hons)

joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/creativewriting



Creative Writing BA(Hons)

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Our programme

- Do you love words?
- Are you fascinated by what language can do?
- Does reading make you want to start writing?
- Is your creative impulse underdeveloped?
- Do you long to write poetry, plays, novels, stories or non-fiction?

Creative writing is the basis of all literature. In contemporary society it forms a major part of both the literary arts and popular entertainment. If you are interested in participating creatively in our culture, a degree course in creative writing gives you an invaluable grounding.

The ability to think and write creatively is increasingly drawn upon in many areas of life, from the writing of personal memoirs to the creation of advertising copy, from teaching to therapy. For many careers and pathways, creative writing provides a hands-on practical and theoretical preparation.

At Kingston, we aim to encourage the development of your own writerly voice. You will be involved in masterclasses given by celebrated writers such as Paul Bailey, Maggie Gee and Liz Jensen. You will have the opportunity of working closely with emerging and newly published writers. There is also a programme of visiting writers who give talks and readings.

The environment

The town of Kingston offers a thriving and developing cultural scene. It has a new theatre, the Rose, and there are fringe theatres and poetry clubs in the surrounding area. The annual Kingston Readers' Festival, supported by the University, brings acclaimed writers to the Borough to read and discuss their work in a wide range of events dedicated to the pleasure of reading. Writers from the 2006 event included Alain de Botton, Diana Melly, Matthew Parris, John Sergeant, Sarah Waters, Alison Weir and the Festival's Patron, Jacqueline Wilson.

There is easy access to London's West End and the South Bank (Waterloo Station is just 25 minutes by train) for theatres, talks, readings and the Poetry Library.

Teaching and support

Kingston has a reputation for excellence in teaching. The course team comprises friendly, experienced and enthusiastic lecturers who are published writers with numerous creative credits. In addition there are more formal academic and pastoral support systems.

How will you be assessed?

Your work will be assessed predominantly by coursework, comprising a variety of methods to encourage analytical and self-reflective practice as well as creativity. Assessments include portfolios of exercises, seminar participation, essays, critiques, pieces of creative writing with commentaries, writing journals, take-home tests and longer pieces of writing.

Careers

Our course will enable you to develop a range of skills desirable to employers:

- communication skills
- self-management
- meticulousness in editing and presentation
- the ability to reflect on your own work and to respond to constructive criticism
- the ability to write for particular purposes
- the ability to work constructively with others.

Apart from pursuing a career as a writer, creative writing students may go on to work in: advertising and marketing, arts management, business, film, journalism, new media, publishing, radio, teaching, television, the music industry and therapeutic fields. Some graduates may go on to take postgraduate masters courses in creative writing or graduate teacher training. Kingston offers an MA in Creative Writing for students who wish to continue with their studies.



Why study Creative Writing at Kingston University?

- This is a joint honours subject at Kingston, so you can combine creative writing with a range of complementary subjects (see overleaf).
- You can explore a wide range of genres: short stories, the novel, non-fiction, poetry and song lyrics, and drama for radio, stage and screen.
- The course has a strong emphasis on practice, from introductory exercises in the craft of writing to increasingly sophisticated levels of rhetorical, theoretical and practical approaches.
- You'll be able to draw upon the talent, experience and expertise of published writers through our writers-in-residence programme, masterclasses and talks from visiting writers.
- Kingston upon Thames has a fast-growing reputation for cultural life, with an exciting new theatre and annual Readers' Festival bringing talented writers to the town.

What you study

The modules you take, and how many, depends on whether you are studying Creative Writing as a major, minor or half field (joint honours). A number of choices are also available, and the module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

Year 1

Year 1 introduces you to the practices and requirements of creative writing as a degree level subject, providing a broad foundation to the basic genres, forms and practices of creative writing. It offers you the chance to develop fundamental skills appropriate to creative writing, to identify and understand qualities of good writing, and to establish habits of self-reflective practice. You will study the work and commentary of other writers, practise writing in a variety of literary forms and work to develop skills in writing, review, criticism and co-operative discussion appropriate to undergraduate work.

Introduction to Creative Writing

This introduces you to the basic skills and techniques associated with creative writing. Reading is vital, and the module emphasises analysis and discussion of writing of all kinds, including regular consideration of your own work. It also focuses extensively on writing skills, through a variety of exercises such as writing in various voices, vocabulary-expanding work or rewriting existing texts in a different style. Daily writing practise is encouraged. The module aims to establish and promote positive workshop participation through presentations, constructive criticism and feedback, and peer review.

Experiments in Form

This is concerned with a variety of traditional and experimental literary forms. In this module you read and study contrasting kinds of poetry, prose fiction, drama and non-fiction, and consider the significance of the conventions attached to each form. You are asked to write imitations and also to experiment with your own writing within (and against) these forms. You might, for example, work on drafting a poem in differing styles such as the haiku, the sonnet and free verse. The aim of the module is to help you to discover, analyse, understand and be able to use for yourselves some of the diverse range of available literary forms and modes of writing.

Reading for Writers

This will introduce you to a range of contemporary literature written in a variety of forms and genres. It will combine the study of selected formal qualities of a range of contemporary writing with analysis of specific novels, novellas, screen plays, poetry, nonfiction and short stories. You might, for example, begin with an examination of the voices and points of view used in contemporary non-fiction and journalism, and then move on to explore the creation of character, setting, cadence, narrative structure and narration in several forms of writing. In each case, the focus of your study will be on learning to identify writerly techniques and specific narrative strategies to add to your developing knowledge of the craft of writing.



Writers on Writing

This focuses on the craft of creative writing through the study of theories, debates and practical techniques discussed and used by writers. The module examines works about writing by authors such as Stephen King, Virginia Woolf, Jack Kerouac, Andre Aciman and our Writers in Residence, and raises questions about the usefulness of various theories and techniques discussed and used by these writers. You are encouraged to experiment in your own writing to find which techniques work best for you, and to develop a set of techniques of your own, both in response to the writers you have encountered and as a result of your own self-reflective practice.

Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS). This scheme provides a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree.

Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts;
- referencing; and
- music theory.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

Year 2

Year 2 allows for more sustained study and development of particular skills in poetry, prose and script writing, while also focusing on the need for rigorous editing and the knowledge of requirements and responsibilities prior to publication or performance. You continue to study existing works and will be asked to write pieces appropriate for the media you are studying: radio, film, poetry and prose, including short stories, longer fiction and non-fiction writing. All students take three modules.

The Editor's Craft

This is concerned with the mechanics of writing, and emphasises practical work in the drafting, criticism and editing of texts.

Independent Creative Writing

This is your first opportunity to work on a sustained creative writing project designed to help you develop the skills and habits necessary to work independently.

Poetry Now: Reading and Writing Contemporary Poetry

This surveys a wide variety of poetic voices and styles, with a focus on employing such techniques in your own writing and in other genres.

In addition, you may choose options from:

- Narrative, Character and Voice in Prose Writing
- Heard not Seen: Writing for Radio
- Scriptwriting



Year 3

Year 3 offers opportunities for more specialist writing, with modules featuring particular genres or media. You have the option to take a study-based module from other subject areas to complement your particular choice of specialist writing modules (eg Children's Literature to go with Writing for Children). You also have the opportunity to work on a major piece of writing to publishable standard.

Writing for a Living

The aim of this module is to enable students to explore the various ways in which creative writing can be used professionally. It will examine the processes and practicalities of creative writing in diverse contexts and diverse media, such as writing publicity and marketing material, writing for the spoken word, copywriting, writing genre fiction for publication, and writing for the Internet. Students will receive guidance towards researching the markets for which they are writing, and in the preparation of work for specific markets.

Specialist writing modules:

- Get a Life: Forms of Autobiography
- Writing for Children
- Biography
- Smells Like Teen Spirit: Writing for Popular Music
- Big Ideas for the Small Screen: Writing for Television
- Scribbling and Script: Writing for the Stage.

Study module options include:

- De-colonising Drama
- Gothic Fiction
- Children's Literature
- French New-Wave Cinema
- Serials and Soaps
- Language and Gender.

Creative Writing Readings

Creative Writing at Kingston sponsors an annual series of readings by poets and novelists from England and America.

Past series of creative writing readings featured:

- Beryl Bainbridge – prize-winning novelist
- Trevelyan Evans – television, radio and screenplay writer
- Lavinia Greenlaw – prize-winning poet and novelist
- Hanif Kureishi – prize-winning novelist, essayist, scriptwriter and director
- Denise Riley – prize-winning poet
- Will Self – best-selling novelist, short-story writer and columnist.
- Toby Litt – award-winning novelist
- Bernadine Evaristo – award-winning novelist

“Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom.”

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



Want to know more?
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
creativewriting](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/creativewriting)

Creative Writing staff

Meg Jensen lectures in creative writing and English literature. Her specialism is British and American literature, 1875–1930. In addition to academic publications she is currently working on her second novel.

Adam Baron is Principal lecturer in creative writing and has written four crime novels, which have been translated into French and German and serialised on BBC Radio 4. He specialises in contemporary fiction and crime fiction.

Siobhan Campbell is a Principal Lecturer specialising in contemporary poetry, the personal essay and writing for publication. She has won awards in the National and Wigtown International competitions and is the author of five books of poetry. Currently, she also acts as Managing Editor of Kingston University Press.

Professor Vesna Goldsworthy is director of the Centre for Suburban Studies and lectures in English literature and creative writing, specialising in autobiography, travel writing and ethnicity in 19th and 20th century British literature. She has written a best-selling memoir about her Serbian childhood and is currently working on a novel.

Winsome Pinnock lectures in creative writing and drama. Her plays have been widely anthologised and produced at the National Theatre and Royal Court Theatre. She specialises in playwriting and scriptwriting, with a particular interest in black British and Caribbean women's experiences.

Professor Norma Clarke teaches 18th century and Romantic literature, poetry and children's fiction. Her research interest is in cultural authority and the female writer.

Scott Bradfield is the author of five novels, three collections of short stories, and numerous screenplays, several of which have been filmed. His most recent books are *The People Who Watched Her Pass By*, a novel, and *Hot Animal Love: Tales of Modern Romance*. He has just completed a collection of personal essays entitled *Why I Hate Toni Morrison's Beloved: Several Decades of Reading Unwisely*.

Rachel Cusk is an internationally acclaimed award winning novelist, memoirist and non-fiction writer. Her publications include *Saving Agnes* (1993), *A Life's Work: On Becoming a Mother* (2001), *The Lucky Ones* (2003), *Arlington Park* (2006), *The Last Supper: A Summer in Italy* (2009), and *The Bradshaw Variations* (2009).

Duncan Macmillan is an award winning playwright and theatre director who also writes for radio, TV and film. His work has been performed at various theatres both in the UK and Internationally.

James Miller teaches creative writing and literature. He is the author of the acclaimed literary thrillers *Lost Boys* (Little, Brown 2008) and *Sunshine State* (Little, Brown 2010). His research interests include contemporary American literature and critical theory.

Paul Perry, poet and fiction writer, is the author and editor of a number of critically acclaimed books including *The Drowning of the Saints*, *Goldsmith's Ghost*, *108 Moons*, *The Orchid Keeper*, and *The Last Falcon and Small Ordinance*, (The Dedalus Press, 2010).

Todd Swift is a poet and an editor. He is the author of four critically-acclaimed collections of poetry: *Budavox*, *Cafe Alibi*, *Rue du Regard* and *Winter Tennis* and the editor of seven international poetry anthologies, including *Poetry Nation*, *100 Poets Against The War*, and *Future Welcome*.

Wendy Vaizey lectures in creative writing and English Literature. Her short stories have been published in magazines and anthologies in the UK and the US. Her research interests are in the inter-relations between literature, psychoanalysis and landscape. In addition to academic publications she is currently working on her third novel.

Our Writers in Residence and Distinguished Writing Fellows include:

Paul Bailey, novelist, biographer, dramatist and essayist, has twice been shortlisted for the Booker Prize and has won a clutch of other awards. He is an acute, sympathetic – and comic – observer of the often grim lives of families and outcasts. He previously taught creative writing at the University of East Anglia and in Italy.

Maggie Gee has been a writing fellow at the University of East Anglia and a teaching fellow at Sussex and is fellow and council member of the Royal Society of Literature. Her fiction is often experimental or futuristic, and her novels have great variety of form and content.

Eva Hoffmann is a scholar, memoirist and non-fiction writer. She is the author of *Lost in Translation: Life in a New Language* (1989), *Exit into History: A Journey Through the New Eastern Europe* (1993), *Shtetl: The Life and Death of a Small Town and the World of Polish Jews* (1997), *The Secret* (2002), *After Such Knowledge: Memory, History and the Legacy of the Holocaust* (2004), and *Time* (2009)

Liz Jensen spent two years as a journalist in Asia before joining the BBC as a TV and radio producer. She is the author of six tragicomic novels, including the literary thriller *The Ninth Life of Louis Drax*, which was serialised on Radio 4 and is being made into a film, adapted and directed by Anthony Minghella. Her most recent novel is *My Dirty Little Book of Stolen Time*.

Hanif Kureishi is a playwright, screenwriter, novelist and film-maker. He is the author of numerous, internationally recognised novels, film scripts and plays, including: *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *My Son the Fanatic*, *The Buddha of Suburbia*, *The Black Album*, *Intimacy*, *Gabriel's Gift* and *The Body and Other Stories*.

Alexander Masters is a screenwriter and biographer. His biography *Stuart: A Life Backwards* won the Guardian First Book Award and the Hawthornden Prize. His biography of the mathematician Simon Norton *The Genius in my Basement* was published in 2011.

Fiona Sampson is a major contemporary poet whose collections include *Folding the Real* (2001); *The Distance Between Us* (2005); and *Common Prayer* (2007), which was short-listed for the 2007 T. S. Eliot Prize. She has also written and edited influential works on the theory of creative writing.

Elif Shafak is an internationally acclaimed novelist and non-fiction writer who publishes work in English and Turkish. She is the author of *Pinhan* (The Sufi) awarded the Mevlana Prize in 1998; *ehrin Aynalari* (Mirrors of the City); *Mahrem* (The Gaze) winner of the Union of Turkish Writers Prize for 2000; *Bit Palas* (The Flea Palace) shortlisted for the 2005 Independent Foreign Fiction prize in Britain; and *A K* (translated as *The Forty Rules of Love*), a best seller in Turkey and an internationally respected novel.



Kingston Writing School

You'll be part of our community of writers, journalists, publishers and academics who form the Kingston Writing School, London's most vibrant accredited writing school. The School provides undergraduate and postgraduate courses across a range of disciplines including Creative Writing, English Literature, English Language and Communication, Journalism and Publishing. With internationally acclaimed staff, high quality teaching, innovative course design and an extracurricular activities programme that includes esteemed guests, writers in residence, short courses, sponsorships, and out-reach programmes that take writing and its benefits beyond the University, the Kingston Writing School has much to offer students, professionals and organisations interested in all types of writing. See www.kingstonwritingschool.com for more information.

"The Kingston Writing School has become one of the most dynamic places for students and writers in the UK. It's a pleasure to be part of it and to have seen it grow so quickly in such a short time".



Hanif Kureishi
Distinguished Writer in Residence



Want to know more?
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
creativewriting](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/creativewriting)



Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Points: 240–360 depending on combination.
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent.
- Subjects: A-level or equivalent to include English Literature/Language/Drama/Drama and Theatre Studies/Performing Arts (60 points required). General Studies accepted as one of three A-levels or equivalent.
- Key Skills: points not accepted in tariff.
- Plus GCSE: Mathematics and English (grade A–C).

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier 4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

- Access course.
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

Combinations with Creative Writing

You can choose to study Creative Writing as a major, half or minor field in combination with one of the following subjects:

- Business
- Criminology
- Drama
- Economics (Applied)
- English Language and Communication
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- History
- Human Rights
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Law
- Media and Cultural Studies
- Politics
- Psychology
- Television and New Broadcasting Media.

UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.
www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

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Student Funding Service

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Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252
 Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447
 F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443
www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia

International Office

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