

COURSE CONVENOR BACKGROUND



Darran is convenor of the MA in Creative Writing. He chairs the prose workshop in semester one, and teaches 'Life Writing' in semester two. A novelist with an interest in drama, his historical novel, *After the Lockout*, was published internationally by Fourth Estate in 2012, while his play, *Confession*, was produced at the Brian Friel Theatre in 2008. His research interests are wide, but he has a particular interest in historical fiction. He is currently completing his new novel.

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SCHOOL OF
ARTS, ENGLISH AND
LANGUAGES



MA ENGLISH (CREATIVE WRITING)

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EXTRAORDINARY
HERITAGE

SHAPING
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MA ENGLISH (CREATIVE WRITING)

From award-winning novelists to Oscar-nominated – and BAFTA-winning – screenwriters, English at Queen's has a world-wide reputation for the writers it produces.

The MA in English (Creative Writing) focuses on prose fiction and scriptwriting. This

course will encourage your development as an independent writer and self-reflective lifelong learner. You will gain a broad understanding of the literary marketplace and of the commercial aspects of literary production.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The following lists are indicative of the sort of modules that are likely to run.

Compulsory Modules

- Creative Writing: Craft and Technique (Prose or Scriptwriting)
- Dissertation: Creative Writing
- Creative Writing Workshops
- Scriptwriting: Creative Writing
- Fiction: Creative Writing Work

The following lists are indicative of the sort of modules that are likely to run.

Dissertation

Dissertation of up to 15,000 words prose, 80-90 pages of drama; portfolio of Creative Writing for the MA.

Optional Modules

- From Page to Stage
- Life Writing

Assessment - written portfolios

SPECIAL FEATURES

Creative Writing students are taught by experienced novelists, playwrights and screenwriters. They attend workshops with visiting authors, publishers, editors and agents, and have a number of opportunities to present their work, including at public readings, conference attendance, and in the biennial *Blackbird* publication.

Graduates from these programmes have a good employment record. Professions including publishing, journalism, public relations, teaching, advertising, the Civil Service, business, industry and the media all recruit from our pool of graduates. Some

students choose to continue their studies to PhD level on a chosen, specialised topic in Creative Writing.

Queen's postgraduates reap exceptional benefits. Unique initiatives, such as Degree Plus and Researcher Plus bolster our commitment to employability, while a flourishing culture of creative writing in the Seamus Heaney Centre supports a programme of regular readings, delivered by the emerging talents of our postgraduate students and visiting, internationally-acclaimed authors alike.

“My tutors challenged me and treated me more as a peer than a student. The encouragement I received made me want to succeed. I'd recommend the Creative Writing MA to anyone interested in learning about the craft of writing. It was one of the most important years of my life.”

Brendan McLoughlin

MA English (Creative Writing)



“I had already begun a journey into the wideness of the world. This in turn became a journey into the wideness of language, a journey where each point of arrival – whether in one's poetry or one's life – turned out to be a stepping stone rather than a destination...”

Seamus Heaney

