

PROGRAMME CONVENOR BACKGROUND



Fran's research is in the field of modern British and Irish poetry, with particular interests in war literature, literary modernism, the work of Robert Graves, and contemporary poetry. She is author of *The Great War in Irish Poetry* (OUP 2000), *Reading Michael Longley* (Bloodaxe 2006), and co-editor of *Last before America: Irish and American Writing* (Blackstaff 2001), *Modern Irish and Scottish Poetry* (Cambridge UP, 2011), *Incorrigibly Plural: Louis MacNeice and His Legacy* (Carcenet Press, 2012) and *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Poetry* (Oxford UP, 2012). Most recently, she edited Robert Graves's war memoir *Good-bye to All That* for Penguin Classics (2014) and a volume of literary criticism by the late Michael Allen, *Close Readings: Essays on Irish Poetry* (Irish Academic Press, 2015).

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Leontia Flynn has published three collections of poems with Jonathan Cape. Her first book, *These Days* (2004) won the Forward prize for best First Collection, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Poetry Prize, and saw her named one of twenty 'Next Generation' poets by the Poetry Book Society. Her second collection *Drives* (Jonathan Cape) was published in 2008, when she won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, and her third collection, *Profit and Loss* was Poetry Book Society Choice for Autumn 2011, and shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize. Leontia Flynn has also been awarded the Lawrence O'Shaunnessey Prize for Irish Literature (2013) and the AWB Vincent American Ireland Fund Literary Award (2014), and has published a study of Medbh McGuckian with Irish Academic Press.

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MA ENGLISH (POETRY)

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MA ENGLISH (POETRY)

Drawing on our long-standing reputation for producing distinguished critics and outstanding poets, this programme combines creative and critical work, making it suitable for a new generation of poets and critics alike. As a student on the course you can choose to follow either a critical or a creative pathway, or a combination of the two. Students who follow a critical pathway will

be joining an academic environment with a long-standing reputation for the critical appreciation, reception and understanding of poetry from Ireland, UK and the United States. Poets who come to develop their own creative writing have the unique opportunity of working with some of Ireland's most renowned poets.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Students take 3 taught modules in each semester (the core 'Reading and Writing Poetry' module in semester 1 is a 'double' module) followed by the dissertation/portfolio. In semester 1 students explore a range of writings – both poetry and criticism – through concepts and themes such as: Conflict; Politics; Death; Sickness; Things; Animals; Tradition; Confession; Work. Poets studied in the seminars include Yeats, Plath, Auden, Eliot, Bishop, Larkin, and Heaney. Students are also introduced to the form and language of poetry, as well as to the historical dimensions of, and contexts for, various poetic forms – both traditional and experimental. The writing workshops involve detailed discussion of students' own poetry, which they can bring to class for feedback from the tutor and other students. In semester 2 students study contemporary poetry collections, focusing on the ways in which the structure of a given poetry collection contributes to the overall meaning of the work, as well as choosing from specialist options which include Irish poetry, American poetry, and writing workshops.

Core Modules

- Reading and Writing Poetry
- Structure and Serendipity: form in poetry
- The Poetry Collection

Optional Modules

- Poetry workshop
- Irish Poetry
- American Poetry from
- Dickinson to today
- Fulbright special option

Dissertation

Dissertation of up to 15,000 words or a poetry portfolio on an agreed topic.

Assessment

Portfolios and essays.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The programme is unique in bringing together poets and critics, and students benefit enormously from the shared creative/critical conversation which this MA enables amongst both students and staff.

Poetry is, quite simply, the activity for which Queen's University is most famous around the world. Alumni include the late Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney, along with Ciaran Carson, Paul Muldoon and Medbh McGuckian. The MA programme is based in the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, the first centre of excellence for poetry in Ireland, which provides resources

for emerging poets and critics, and which ensures that the dynamic tradition of poetry in Ireland extends to a wide audience.

Graduates of the programme have a good employment record, entering professions such as publishing, journalism, arts administration, events organisation, the media, public relations, teaching, advertising, business and industry. The programme has an excellent track record of student success in publication, and of graduates continuing their studies into (funded) PhDs in modern poetry or creative writing (poetry).



“By working with amazing staff, the MA in Poetry at Queen's gave me the chance to explore and refine both my critical and creative voices.”

Caitlin Newby,
MA in Poetry

“To do the MA in Poetry at Queen's, with its uniquely holistic approach to the study of poetry, was, for me, the best decision I could have made: the climate of serious engagement with poetry fostered by the staff and students caused a notable improvement in the quality of my own poems, while also developing greater complexity in my critical thinking.”

Padraig Regan

