



MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



CREATIVE
WRITING AND
CONTEMPORARY
LITERATURE

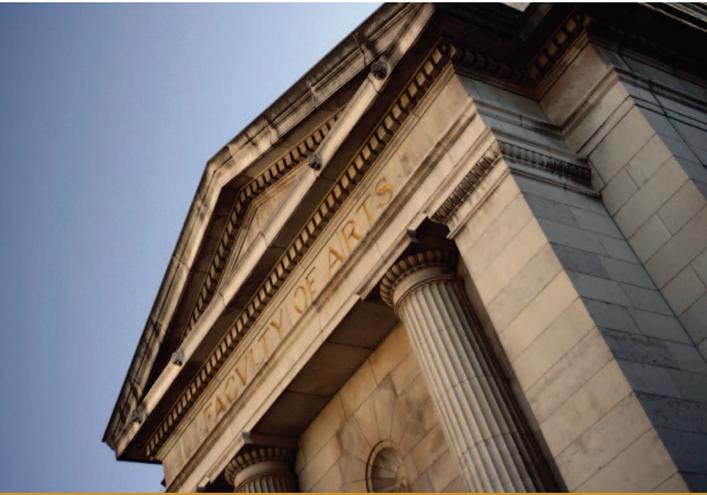
POSTGRADUATE BROCHURE 2013

SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



THE FACTS

- Dedicated Centre for New Writing offers world-class resources and support
- Pioneering teaching from celebrated contemporary authors and poets
- Various short internships in the writing industry
- £650 million investment in university facilities for research and study
- 4 million books in one of the UK's best-resourced university libraries
- Nationally acclaimed University Careers Service with postgraduate support
- Exciting and diverse environment in one of the best student cities in the world



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"The University of Manchester provides an enjoyable, dynamic and exciting working environment, full of enthusiastic people, and with a positive attitude towards research and postgraduate study."

Annette Allen,
postgraduate student 2012



OUR UNIVERSITY

Making things happen

At Manchester, we are proud of both our academic excellence and a pervasive 'can-do' attitude of staff and students that turns enthusiasm into achievement and ground-breaking theory into cutting-edge practice. With research that is internationally renowned across a huge range of disciplines, we work with partners across the world to effect real change in commerce and society.



Our University has leapt 38 places in the influential Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) survey in the past seven years, from 78th to 40th in the world, and sixth in Europe, confirming us as a progressive and world-class teaching and research centre. We are also ranked third in the UK for 'research power', and research in more academic areas than any other UK university.

Learn more about us:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus

Unrivalled investment

We've recently invested £650 million in facilities and resources for our academic community – with more still to come. Our newest development is the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons, in which we invested £24 million to create a multitude of innovative, technology-rich facilities dedicated to student-led learning across all disciplines.

Find out more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/library/learningcommons

Multidisciplinary collaboration

As the biggest university in the UK, we are proud of the advantages our size brings: a fantastic breadth and depth of knowledge, the cross-pollination of skills and disciplines, and the buzz of a large, diverse academic community. We habitually collaborate and share knowledge, expertise and resources, both across the University and with our numerous external partners in industry, business, the arts and the public and not-for-profit sectors.

This is particularly valuable for our postgraduates, whose specialist areas of study at the cutting edge of research often transcend traditional discipline boundaries, and who benefit considerably from our connections with external partners across the globe.

Find out more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/research

Fuelling ambition

At Manchester, you will study programmes packed with the latest research findings, meet leading global experts from academia and industry, use cutting-edge equipment in modern facilities, and polish skills that postgraduate employers from all fields want.

Whether you're a committed researcher wanting to further the human quest for knowledge, a career-focused professional seeking a specialist qualification, or a burning enthusiast for higher learning and understanding, a postgraduate degree at The University of Manchester will help you to realise your ambitions.

Find out more

Access online or order a copy of our 2013 prospectus:
www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/prospectus



CREATIVE WRITING AND CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE AT MANCHESTER

The Centre for New Writing is a dedicated contemporary writing hub within The University of Manchester's English and American Studies subject area, in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures. It offers you specialised teaching and supervision, world-class resources, an internationally recognised teaching staff, a strong interdisciplinary orientation and a stimulating intellectual environment.



The Centre is home to the MA and PhD in Creative Writing and the MA in Contemporary Literature and Culture, plus nine academic staff and up to 46 taught and 15 research postgraduates.

It has been designed as a place where writers and critics of contemporary literature and culture meet and exchange ideas and opinions, and is founded on the principle that good writing and good reading go together.

Students based in the Centre enjoy the following:

- Weekly workshops and seminars with our distinguished teaching staff (see pages 9)
- Fortnightly masterclasses and regular events with world-renowned Professor of Creative Writing
- Workshops in fiction and poetry writing led by celebrated visiting writers
- Intensive, one-to-one instruction from the writer-in-residence
- Free entry to 'Literature Live', a regular reading series bringing some of the best contemporary novelists and poets to Manchester
- Range of seminars focusing on the literature and culture of the last 25 years
- Series of talks by visiting agents and representatives from the publishing industry

The Centre is also home to online journal The Manchester Review:

www.themanchesterreview.co.uk

The 2008 Research Assessment Exercise placed Manchester's subject area of English (including Creative Writing) as joint second in the UK; a result that recognised the overall excellence of our discipline, the international quality of the creative and critical work produced in Manchester and its impact on the larger world of letters.

TAUGHT COURSES

Our MAs

To achieve an MA, you must gain a total of 180 credits: normally four course units, each worth 30 credits, plus a dissertation, worth 60 credits.

Full-time students take two course units in semester one and two course units in semester two, and complete a dissertation of 15,000 words (fiction), or of 16 to 25 poems (poetry), between the end of semester two and early September. Part-time students take one course per semester over two years and write their dissertation between the end of semester two of the second year and 1 May in the third year.

Contact hours for each course unit normally constitute 22 to 30 hours, comprising tutorial or seminar work, with supplementary library visits, private discussion of assessed work, video showings, or other contact opportunities appropriate to the specific course unit. Each MA student is assigned a personal tutor. MA course units are generally taught in seminar or tutorial groups of eight to 12 people (although groups may be larger or smaller than this).

In order to get the most from your degree, you are encouraged to take charge of and responsibility for your own learning.

For further details, visit:

www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting



MA in Contemporary Literature and Culture

Duration

Full-time one year

Part-time two years

This degree covers a range of literature written in English over the last 25 years, and is taught by seminar and dissertation. The course has a truly contemporary perspective, considering literature produced from 1970 to the present day, with a particular focus on the period since 1990.

Course units

Course units change from year to year, but you will usually take one compulsory core unit and a number of option units chosen from a list.

The core unit, Reading the Contemporary, introduces **key ideas and concepts** in the study of contemporary literature and culture. It considers a range of critical perspectives, but also the material contexts in which contemporary literature is produced and received, along with topical themes such as identity, nationalism, history, trauma culture, and literature and terrorism.

Optional units will generally focus upon a **specific theme or genre** within contemporary writing, such as contemporary life-writing, or the treatment of history in contemporary literature. A diverse range of options is on offer, allowing you to work on: contemporary British, American, Irish and postcolonial literature and culture; specific topics, such as gender or sexuality; or specific forms, such as film, poetry, or the novel.

Options include:

- The American Body: Race and Sexuality in the 20th Century
- Black Cultural Studies in Post-Civil Rights America

- Contemporary Fiction
- Contemporary Poetry
- Contemporary Scottish and Irish Fiction
- Postcolonial Narratives: Space, Mobility and Diaspora
- Queer Cinema and Beyond

Since the MA is located in the Centre for New Writing, you have a unique opportunity to learn from and interact with the very writers you are studying by attending Literature Live events and master-classes.

Our aim is to create synergies rather than barriers between creative and critical writing.

Dissertation

As part of the MA, you will produce a dissertation of approximately 15,000 words on a topic of your choosing, within the field of contemporary literary studies.

Tutors

Course units will be taught by staff based in the Centre for New Writing, as well as colleagues in English and American Studies.

Course director **Kaye Mitchell**'s research focuses particularly on gender and sexuality, critical theory and narratology. Recent publications have included books on theories of intention and authorship (Continuum 2008) and the fiction of AL Kennedy (Palgrave 2007), and chapters and articles on contemporary writers, including BS Johnson and Alan Hollinghurst. She has burgeoning interests in popular fiction, the relationship between gender and genre, and the dialogue between the creative and the critical. Having taught for several years at the University of Westminster, she joined The University of Manchester in 2007.

TAUGHT COURSES

MA in Creative Writing

Duration

Full-time one year

Part-time two years

This degree consists of two strands, fiction and poetry. Both focus on practice. Course units provide regular deadlines and a committed, supportive readership among fellow students and tutors.

Containing up to 36 students, this course is taught by a dedicated staff of eight published writers. We see students through the year for consultation and advice, in both group and individual sessions.

The course also features our Literature Live series of reading events, which includes student sessions with visiting writers, including in recent years, Seamus Heaney, Paul Muldoon, Ali Smith, David Peace, Jorie Graham, CK Williams, Jen Hadfield, DBC Pierre and Will Self. Our alumni include poets Sophie Hannah, Evan Jones and Ian Pople, and novelists Jenn Ashworth, Susan Barker, Anna Davis, Chris Killen, Joe Pemberton, Charlene Sawit, Jonathan Trigell and Tod Wodicka.

Course units

The fiction and poetry strands focus on **weekly workshops**, during which the work-in-progress of two or three students is discussed. The other elements of the course are:

- **Weekly seminars** in Contemporary Fiction and Contemporary Poetry, for which one text (a novel or poetry collection, depending on which strand you choose) is read per week and one essay (6,000 words) written
- **Regular skills-related sessions** during the second semester focusing on approaching agents and publishers, including a series of visits from authors and professionals in the publishing industry (this has included agents Mulcahy & Conway and Curtis Brown, and publishers including Bloomsbury, Tindal Street Press and Comma Press)
- **Fortnightly workshops and Q&As with writers**, previously including Sarah Waters, Colm Toibin, Paul Muldoon, Jorie Graham, Michele Roberts, Will Self, Hilary Mantel, John Banville and Jeanette Winterson
- Choice of first semester **options**, including Forms of Fiction and Reading Poems 1, as well as optional units on research skills and an introduction to the Modern Literary Archive at the University Library

Dissertation

This consists of an extract from a work of fiction of at least 15,000 words, or an equivalent amount of poetry. The major literary agency Mulcahy & Conway awards an annual prize of £1,000 for the best work in fiction by a graduating student.



Staff

Centre co-director **John McAuliffe**'s poetry collections include *A Better Life*, shortlisted for the Forward First Prize in 2003, *Next Door* (2007) and *Of All Places* (2011). He was RTE Poet of the Future in 2000, and Sean Dunne National Poetry award winner in 2002. He previously directed Ireland's leading poetry festival, Poetry Now, in Dún Laoghaire and he writes about poetry regularly for *The Irish Times* and literary journals in the UK and Ireland.

Centre co-director **Ian McGuire** has published stories in *The Paris Review*, *The Chicago Review* and other journals. His first novel, *Incredible Bodies*, was published in 2006, and he has also published work on Whitman, Melville and Howells. He was previously a lecturer in American Studies at The University of Manchester, and is particularly interested in the American realist tradition since the 1880s.

Canadian author **Geoff Ryman**'s science fiction includes *The Unconquered Country* (winner of the World Fantasy Award and British Science Fiction Association Award), *The Child Garden* (Arthur C Clarke Award, John W Campbell Memorial Award and British Science Fiction Association Award) and *Air* (John W Campbell Memorial Award). His mainstream fiction includes *Was*, a novel about the American West via *The Wizard of Oz*; 253, which won the Philip K Dick Memorial Award for best novel not in hardback; and *The King's Last Song*. He was previously Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Northumbria.

Vona Groarke has published poetry collections including *Shale* (1994), *Other People's Houses* (1999), *Flight* (2002, shortlisted for the Forward Prize in 2002) and *Michael Hartnett Award* winner in 2003, and *Juniper Street* (2006). Her other prizes include the Hennessy Award, Brendan Behan Memorial Prize, Strokes town International Poetry Award and *Stand Magazine Poetry Prize*. Her newest volumes are a translation of the *Lament for Art O'Leary* (2008) and *Spindrift* (2009).

MJ Hyland is a prize-winning novelist who joined the Centre as a Lecturer in Creative Writing in 2007, having recently been awarded the Hawthornden Prize and the Encore prize for best second novel for *Carry Me Down* (2006). The book was also shortlisted for the Man Booker and the Commonwealth Writers prizes. Her work has been acclaimed by Ali Smith, Hilary Mantel and JM Coetzee, and she is considered one of the leading members of the new generation of British and Irish novelists. Her third novel *This is How* appeared in 2009.

Prof Jeanette Winterson was born in Manchester, England, and adopted by Pentecostal parents who brought her up in the nearby mill-town of Accrington. After reading English at Oxford University she wrote her first novel, *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*, when she was 23. It was published a year later in 1985. Since then she has published more than a dozen books including, most recently, the memoir *Why be happy when you could be normal?* and *The Daylight Gate*, and has won various awards around the world for her fiction and adaptations, including the Whitbread Prize, UK, and the Prix d'argent, Cannes Film Festival.

In 2006 Jeanette Winterson was awarded an OBE for services to literature. She writes regularly for various UK newspapers, especially *The Times* and *The Guardian*. She was appointed Professor of Creative Writing at Manchester in September 2012.

Writers in Residence

Each year we also have a writer-in-residence at the Centre. Recent fellows include Jenn Ashworth, Marli Roode, Nick Laird, Trevor Byrne, Gwyneth Lewis and Joe Stretch.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The School of Arts, Languages and Cultures is eager for its research students to become able and professional academics, as well as excellent scholars, if you want to take that route. To that end, all postgraduates have access to the valuable career and transferable skills courses organised by the University's Careers Service.

The periodical *ManuScript*, run by and for postgraduates, is produced from within the subject area by a cooperative of graduate students. It provides not only a forum for publications by postgraduates, but also an opportunity for you to perfect transferable skills in publishing, reviewing, marketing and teamwork.

Our PhD students also form part of the editorial board of our own journal, *The Manchester Review*, contributing regular reviews of the latest books, plays, films, music and visual arts releases.



ENTRY, FUNDING, TRAINING AND CAREERS

Entry requirements

Our usual entrance requirement to our MA courses is an Upper Second class Honours degree, or its equivalent, in English or a subject closely allied to it. We are very happy, however, to entertain applications from candidates with alternative qualifications.

Please note that applicants to the MA in Creative Writing are required to submit 2,000 to 3,000 words of their prose writing (eg a short story, or chapter of a novel), or an equivalent amount of poetry, with their application form.

Funding

Arts and Humanities Research Council

Students from the UK or Europe can apply to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for postgraduate studentships to support MA or doctoral study. Studentships for UK students cover the tuition fee and provide a maintenance grant. Studentships for EU students usually cover fees only. Postgraduates intending to study at Manchester have recently been very successful in the AHRC competition and we aim to help students prepare their applications carefully.

Further funding sources

Research students from beyond the EU are generally eligible for Overseas Research Studentships, a national scheme that pays the difference between foreign fees and home fees. For students who have already been accepted onto a programme of study, the University offers a limited number of awards for postgraduate study, usually on an annual basis; however, these are few and highly competitive.

Further information on School and University awards is available on our website:

www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/funding

You are urged to enquire and to apply to your chosen degree as early as possible and certainly no later than 15 February. Candidates not intending to apply for funding may apply up to 31 August.

Postgraduate education and skills training

At the heart of all our programmes stands a commitment to helping students develop the skills they need to thrive at postgraduate level and beyond.

MA students are encouraged to participate fully in the School's research community, enhancing their own skills through encounter with more experienced practitioners. Students' employability is nurtured through our innovative work placement scheme, which is available to all MA students in the School.

MA students complete an enquiry-based learning project, through which they develop the skills needed to complete their research proposal. These sessions, facilitated by a PhD leader, enable you to explore the resources available to you while addressing the perspectives of several disciplines, sources and methods.



Career prospects

The University Careers Service provides services and events specially designed for postgraduates, which you can find out more about online:

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/pg

To find out more about studying at the Centre for New Writing, please contact our Postgraduate Admissions team using the contact details on the back cover.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

For further information about the courses, or about qualifications, please contact:

Postgraduate Admissions
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Mansfield Cooper Building
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
United Kingdom

tel +44 (0)161 306 1259

email masalc@manchester.ac.uk

For the most up-to-date course information, please visit our website:

www.manchester.ac.uk/arts/newwriting

SCHOOL OF ARTS, LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

The newly formed School of Arts, Languages and Cultures is the largest grouping of arts, languages and humanities scholars in the UK. It is home to some 6500 students, of which about 1000 are postgraduates, and around 350 academic staff working at the forefront of seventeen disciplines:

- Archaeology
- Art History and Visual Studies
- Classics and Ancient History
- Drama
- East Asian Studies
- English and American Studies
- French Studies
- German Studies
- Linguistics and English Language
- History
- Italian Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Music
- Religions and Theology
- Russian and East European Studies
- Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
- Translation and Intercultural Studies

The School is also home to the University Language Centre.

The School's interests are in the fields of human cultures, beliefs, institutions and languages (from the most widely spoken global languages to those which are endangered). Its work embraces the material, visual, linguistic, textual, social and performative dimensions of human society past and present, and as such fosters a rich interdisciplinary culture led by world-renowned scholars with a diversity of expertise, from analysts to creative artists, from formal linguists to cultural critics, from historians to cultural theorists. The units which make up the School have an outstanding research profile as demonstrated by the fact that two of those units were ranked top in their subject area in the UK, following the results of the government's Research Assessment Exercise in 2008, and a further two were ranked in the top 3. Overall, more than 50% of our research was rated 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'. Our commitment to research enriches our teaching, by bringing renowned international speakers to the School and sustaining a culture of research seminars, workshops and conferences. It also ensures that our curriculum is continually refreshed.

Our programmes are designed to teach people how to think, and our students tell us they find them challenging and rewarding, as well as good preparation for careers or further study. The student experience combines the advantages of belonging to a specific subject community with the extensive choice that a large and diverse School can offer. We use a wide range of teaching methods, both traditional and innovative. These include lectures, small-group seminars, and tutorials as well as various on-line activities which draw on the latest technology.



We strive to integrate work-related skills and experience into our degree programmes, and we encourage our students to think about and develop their career interests, aims and abilities, through both academic and extra-curricular activities. Our awardwinning Careers Service will work in partnership with you throughout your degree to improve your employability and prepare for the competitive jobs market.

Research and teaching in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures are supported by rich resources within the University. These include the John Rylands University Library, with its unique Special Collections housed in the refurbished Deansgate building; the University Language Centre, with its own language multi-media resource library; the Race Relations Archive; the Manchester Museum; the Whitworth Art Gallery, as well as other distinguished Manchester archives and museums. Other cultural assets at the University of Manchester include the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama, Jodrell Bank Observatory, and, new for 2012, the Alan Gilbert Learning Commons.

We maintain a network of partners in research training that involves a wide range of major cultural institutions across the North West. The University and the city also offer superb facilities for almost any academic or recreational interests you might wish to pursue. High profile festivals are a major part of Manchester's cultural life, and the School is involved in many of these, including the Manchester Literature Festival, Manchester Histories Festival and Manchester International Festival.

The School has a strong interdisciplinary orientation and houses the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts and Languages (CIDRAL).

Conclusion

The new School of Arts, Languages and Cultures is determined to become a global beacon for the study of Arts and Languages. Our objective is to create a top quality educational environment within which all our students will thrive. We have a strong commitment to social responsibility and public engagement. We want our graduates not only to be highly sought after by employers but also ready to play a constructive role as citizens in wider society. Through our research we seek to create and develop knowledge that makes a difference in the world; through our teaching we want to inspire our students to achieve their full human potential.



FIND OUT MORE ONLINE

Our University website holds a wealth of information on the many varied aspects of postgraduate student life. Here are some of the most popular topics – use the links for full details.

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Accommodation – Discover your potential new home:

www.manchester.ac.uk/accommodation

Admissions and applications – Everything you need to apply to Manchester:

www.manchester.ac.uk/pgapplication

Alan Gilbert Learning Commons – Our brand-new, ultra-modern student learning environment:

www.manchester.ac.uk/library/learningcommons

Careers – Many major recruiters target our postgraduates; find out why:

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers

Childcare – Support for students who are also parents:

www.manchester.ac.uk/childcare

Disability support – For any additional support needs you may have:

www.manchester.ac.uk/dso

Funding and finance – Fees, scholarships, bursaries and more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/fees

www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/funding

International students – Discover what we offer our multinational community:

www.manchester.ac.uk/international

IT services – Online learning, computer access, IT support and more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/itservices

Library – One of the UK's largest and best-resourced university libraries:

www.manchester.ac.uk/library

Manchester – Britain's 'original modern' city is right on your doorstep:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/manchester

Maps – Visualise our campus, city and University accommodation:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/travel/maps

Prospectus – Access online or order a copy of our 2013 prospectus:

www.manchester.ac.uk/pg/prospectus

Sport – Clubs, leagues, classes, facilities and more:

www.manchester.ac.uk/sport

Support – Dedicated academic, personal, financial and admin assistance:

<http://my.manchester.ac.uk/guest>

Students' Union – Societies, events, peer support, campaigns and more:

www.manchesterstudentsunion.com

Videos – See and hear more about our University:

www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/video

www.youtube.com/user/universitymanchester

Disclaimer

This brochure is prepared well in advance of the academic year to which it relates. Details of courses may consequently vary with staff changes. We therefore reserve the right to make such alterations to courses as are necessary. If we make you an offer of a place, it is essential that you are aware of the current terms on which your offer is based. If you are in any doubt, please feel free to ask us for confirmation of the precise position for the year in question, before you accept our offer.

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