

MA

Creative and Critical Writing

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Liverpool offers a stimulating environment to study Creative and Critical Writing thanks to our unique placement module at one of our partner institutions and our exciting programme of events. You will develop your skills and knowledge through a combination of creative engagement with prose and drama.

Introduction

The programme offers a unique placement module through which you will have the opportunity to gain practical experience as a writer in residence at one of the University of Liverpool's partner institutions in the city. As a writer in residence in locations such as museums and galleries, you will be able to develop professional skills through activities such as writing in response to exhibitions, or running creative writing workshops.

Assessment will take the form of a portfolio consisting of creative work and reflections on the experience and requirements of the writer-in-residence role. Through core modules on contemporary prose and drama/screenwriting, you will develop your writing ability and professional awareness (i.e. submitting to agents, editorial pitches).

Liverpool offers a stimulating environment in which to study Creative and Critical Writing, thanks to its lively events calendar:

- Including the Liverpool Literary Festival and literary events through the Centre for New and International Writing
 - The University's connections to local literary partners such as the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse
 - The presence of three AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinkers in the Department of English alone
 - Masterclasses with visiting writers such as the Hope Street Writer in Residence.
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What you'll learn

- How critically-informed creative practice engages with a global society, social justice, political and environmental issues and human rights
- How creative and critical forms can complement one another
- A greater theoretical understanding of matters pertaining to socially-engaged writing
- How to develop your own distinctive approach to creative practice
- How to enhance and refine your creative writing
- An awareness of appropriate industry areas, gaining skills and confidence in approaching key figures such as agents and editors.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

You will take four compulsory modules in creative writing, and a mandatory dissertation. Your remaining credits will be made up of four optional modules (two in each semester), which may include an optional work experience placement.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CREATIVE WRITING I: THE SOCIAL TEXT (ENGL792)	15
CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP 1 (ENGL790)	15
Optional modules	Credits
SHAKESPEARE & CO (ENGL751)	15
EDITING THE EARLY MODERN (ENGL752)	15
VICTORIAN MURDER AND OTHER CRIMES (ENGL763)	15
VICTORIAN APOCALYPSE (ENGL764)	15
THE MODERN (ENGL770)	15
LITERATURE AND CRISIS (ENGL771)	15

Optional modules	Credits
GENRE DEFINITIONS (ENGL780)	15
SCIENCE FICTION AND/AS THE ARCHIVE (ENGL781)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CREATIVE WRITING II: THE SOCIAL VOICE (ENGL793)	15
CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP II (ENGL791)	15

Optional modules	Credits
LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE (ENGL750)	15
YORE VICTORIANS (ENGL760)	15
READING VICTORIANS (ENGL762)	15
THE CONTEMPORARY (ENGL772)	15
THE BODY (ENGL773)	15
HAUNTED: SHAKESPEARE AND THE GOTHIC IN RENAISSANCE AND EIGHTEENTH-	15

Optional modules	Credits
CENTURY LITERATURE (ENGL774)	
FICTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY (ENGL782)	15
BODIES IN SPACE (ENGL783)	15
WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT (ENGL795)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

During the summer you will complete a dissertation.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CREATIVE WRITING DISSERTATION (ENGL794)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching is delivered through a combination of seminars and tutorials held on campus. Depending on which module options are taken, there may be lectures and separate seminar sessions scheduled, but all classes will take place on campus in person. Class sizes for Masters programmes in the Department of English tend to be small, and a typical class in English will include between 8-10 students.

How you're assessed

Students will for the most part be assessed by a combination of formative and summative coursework. This will take a number of different forms, including essays, essay plans, research proposals, and a dissertation. In addition, students will be assessed by presentations in certain modules. Other assessment formats may apply also depending on the options modules taken.

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching – learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning – taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment – assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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Careers and employability

The course emphasises both creative and critical practice, so graduates will be able to demonstrate a broad range of skills to potential employers. The placement module will offer employability skills and career opportunities through professional experience as a writer in residence embedded in a partner institution.

There will also be opportunities for you to gain employability skills in the running of literary events through the Centre for New and International Writing and the Liverpool Literary Festival, in addition to honing performance skills through the annual student showcase.

This course will allow you to develop your writing, research and creative thinking skills. You'll also gain skills that are useful in a range of other careers such as:

- Publishing
- Marketing
- PR
- Teaching
- Copywriting
- Creative director
- Editorial roles

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,858 to help with course fees and living costs.

[Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in English Literature or Creative Writing.

Applicants with honours degrees in other subjects will be considered on an individual basis and may be invited for interview.

As part of the application process, irrespective of your degree subject, you should:

- Submit a sample of your creative writing – either 2,000–3,000 words in prose, 3–4 poems, or 8–12 pages of a drama script.
 - Write briefly, in a personal statement, on the writers whose work you admire, as well as the kind of writing you wish to pursue.
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International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MA, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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