



University of
Reading

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

MA CREATIVE WRITING

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Creative writing can simultaneously be a vocation, a career and a transferable skill.

Students, alumni, career professionals and mature learners who are looking to enhance their creative writing skills for the next stage in their development, can apply for our exciting postgraduate creative writing programme at Reading.

MA Creative Writing focuses on the multiple roles that writing can play in your life. Whatever career or personal outcome you are seeking, this programme will help you:

Develop your inspiration, creative writing craft, and self-reflective intelligence

On the Project Development core modules, your studies will focus on the planning, developing, drafting, revising, and completing of a mid-length creative work devised with the support of a mentor.

In the summer term and summer, you will concentrate on completing your dissertation which will consist of the writing project developed through the previous two terms and an accompanying critical commentary.

Advance your writing with a range of research techniques and skills

On the Material and Textuality core module, you will learn research skills required in using archives, including work with authors' papers, the editing of unpublished work, exploring examples of material culture, and the dissemination of writing.

You will also have a range of literary resources available to you, including unique original manuscript collections, journals, the Museum of English Rural Life and its archives, a Royal Literary Fund Fellow, rare collections of books, and much more.

Learn from experts, our award-winning poets and prose writers who will mentor you

- **Peter Robison** – Creative Writing at Reading was founded by Professor Peter Robison, described in reviews as 'the finest poet of his generation' and 'a major English poet'. Peter, who is programme director of the MA Creative Writing, has been awarded the Cheltenham Prize and the John Florio Prize. He has also published **Foreigners, Drunks & Babies: 11 Stories** and the novel **September in the Rain**.

- **Conor Carville** – In 2007 Conor won the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Prize. His first collection of poems, **Harm's Way**, came out from Dedalus in 2013. His second, **English Martyrs**, is published by Two Rivers Press.
- **Golnoosh Nourpanah** – Golnoosh is the author of **The Ministry of Guidance and Other Stories**, which was shortlisted for the Polari Prize. Her most recent poetry collection, **Rocksong**, was published by Verve Poetry Press in 2021. Her work has also appeared in Granta and the Columbia Journal amongst others. Golnoosh regularly performs at literature festivals and events across the UK and internationally.
- **Shelley Harris** – Shelley is a bestselling novelist whose first book, **Jubilee**, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Prize. It was featured on Radio 4's Book at Bedtime and selected as a Richard and Judy Book Club Choice. She is also the author of **Vigilante**.

Study in a related field as part of the course

You can choose from optional modules which provide the opportunity to explore careers involving creative writing, for example, publishing and journalism:

- Publishing and the Business of Books
- Persuasive Writing

You may also choose modules that help deepen your knowledge of themes and issues for your creative project.

Build your professional network and experience while you study

We can help you to secure work placements with publishers, news outlets or journals, and we invite applications from those interested in pursuing, or already involved in, education.

- During your degree, you will have the opportunity to meet other writers and publishing professionals. All our teaching staff have links with professional writing communities. We regularly invite published authors to read from their work or deliver guest lectures. We'll also help you to become a published writer. During the year we publish our own creative arts magazine, containing work from within and beyond the University, chosen and edited by our students.

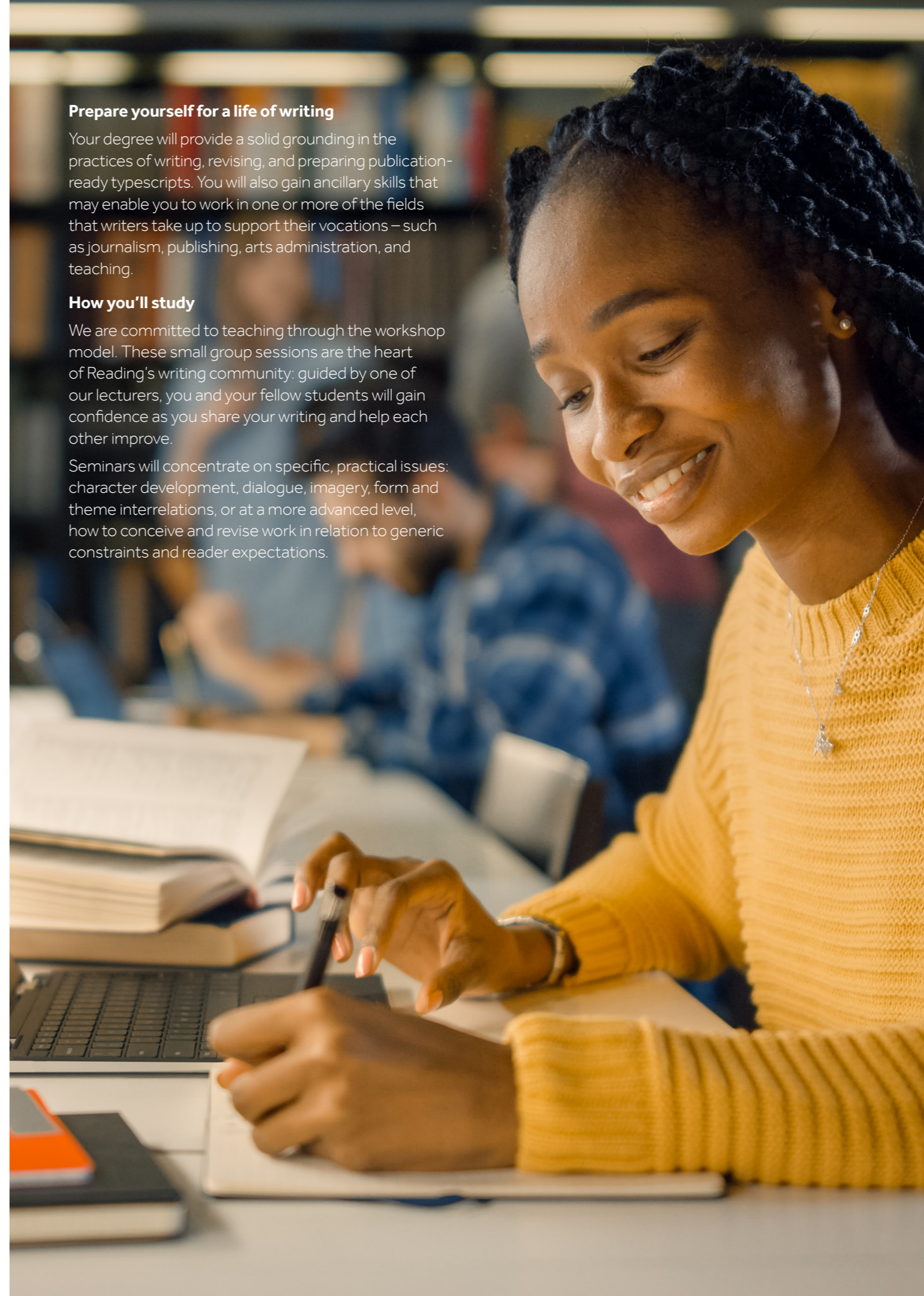
Prepare yourself for a life of writing

Your degree will provide a solid grounding in the practices of writing, revising, and preparing publication-ready typescripts. You will also gain ancillary skills that may enable you to work in one or more of the fields that writers take up to support their vocations – such as journalism, publishing, arts administration, and teaching.

How you'll study

We are committed to teaching through the workshop model. These small group sessions are the heart of Reading's writing community: guided by one of our lecturers, you and your fellow students will gain confidence as you share your writing and help each other improve.

Seminars will concentrate on specific, practical issues: character development, dialogue, imagery, form and theme interrelations, or at a more advanced level, how to conceive and revise work in relation to generic constraints and reader expectations.



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i For more information, please contact:

Department of English Literature

p.robinson@reading.ac.uk

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Ask us a question

www.reading.ac.uk/question