



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University



MA & MFA Creative Writing (One Year Full Time)

UCD offers two graduate courses in creative writing, an MA and an MFA. With an ever growing field of applicants for the MA in Creative Writing, it has been possible to construct a class group from a wide variety of backgrounds and with a range of different life experiences. The MA programme includes lectures, seminars, workshops and supervision meetings, providing committed students with taught classes on the theory and practices of writing. These include presentation and editing techniques, creative reading of selected texts as well as supervision of a major writing

project. Among the important issues addressed on an on-going basis are voice and structure. Every effort is made to ensure that a student progresses on these as well as many other fronts.

The MFA programme offers very close supervision (one to three) of a work in progress for the duration of an academic year. It is best suited to students who have a novel/collection of short stories or a collection of poetry at a relatively advanced stage of completion and have a record of sustained engagement with their craft.

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UCD has long been associated with some of Ireland's greatest writers, including James Joyce, Flann O'Brien, Mary Lavin, Anthony Cronin, Maeve Binchy, John McGahern, Neil Jordan, Conor McPherson, Colm Tóibín, Joseph O'Connor, Emma Donoghue and many others. The distinguished playwright, Frank McGuinness, is Professor of Creative Writing, and internationally acclaimed novelist, Colm Tóibín is Adjunct Professor.

Why study at UCD?



Tradition

Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence



Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



Global community

Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD



Global careers

Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa



Safety

Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

Course Content and Structure

Both the MA and the MFA are 90 credit courses.

The MA offers a wider variety of modules including:

- Craft & Composition
- Myth & Folklore in Fiction
- Poetry in Progress
- The Short Story

Please see online for a full list of modules.

The MFA focuses largely on line and structural editing of a work in progress, and offers a two semester module on the theory and practice of creative writing teaching. The MA and MFA also offer a 'Single Text' module in which the construction of a work of fiction – Austen, Joyce, Faulkner, Scott Fitzgerald – is considered in detail for the duration of a semester.



Career Opportunities

Many graduates of the MA and MFA in Creative Writing establish successful writing lives, several securing publishing contracts.

Others opt for roles in the wider community of literature, taking up positions in publishing houses, literary agencies and as book event organisers. Some proceed to PhD in Creative Writing programmes.



Facilities and Resources

A weekly visiting writer/publisher programme brings both MA and MFA students into contact with some of Ireland's finest writers as well as literary agents and publishers. Additionally, every year, a visiting writer-in-residence is appointed, in conjunction with the Arts Council of Ireland, to give a credit based workshop as well as ongoing individual direction to students.

More recently, a joint initiative with NYU saw the appointment of a Laureate for fiction. This position is currently held by Anne Enright who taught on the Creative Writing Programmes of both Universities (2016/2017) as part of her three year tenure.

Apply Now

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at www.ucd.ie/international/apply

Entry Requirements

- Both the MA and MFA Creative Writing require the submission of a 25 page sample of the applicant's writing or 10/15 poems.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English Language proficiency of IELTS 7.5 (no band less than 7.0 in each element), or equivalent.
- MA applicants are required to have a BA Honours degree or equivalent.
- MFA applicants are required to have an MPhil, MA Creative Writing, BFA, BA Creative Writing Major/Joint or equivalent.
- MFA applications will also be considered from candidates with acclaimed published work.

International Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships for further information.

Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- MA in Drama and Performance (Playwriting)

Graduate Profiles

In recent years, several of our students have won prestigious awards. In 2014, Colin Barrett won the Guardian First Fiction Prize with *Young Skins* [Pub. Stinging Fly Press / Jonathan Cape (UK) Grove Black Cat editions (US)] then went on to win both the Frank O'Connor International short story award and the Rooney Prize for Literature. Also in 2015 he was nominated as one of the five under 35 honorees by the National Book Foundation in the US. His stories have appeared in *Five Dials*, *A Public Space* and *The New Yorker*. 2015 has also seen the publication of novels by four of our recent graduates; Susan Stairs, *The Boy Between*, [Pub. Hachette Irl], Paula McGrath, *Generation* [Pub. John Murray Originals], Andrea Carter, *Death at Whitewater Church* [Pub. Constable/Little Brown], Henrietta McKervey, *What Becomes Of Us* [Pub. Hachette Ireland]; Henrietta won both the Hennessy First Fiction Award and the UCD Maeve Binchy Travel Award in 2014. The latest success, Sept 2016, is an outstanding publishing contract, secured by Dan Sheehan [MFA 2012], with Weidenfeld & Nicolson for his debut novel, *Restless Souls*.

Contact Us

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