



Find out more

To discuss these details and for further information, please contact the course director: Dr John Kenny
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Course Facts

CAO Code: GY 111

Course level: 8

Duration: 4 years

Entry requirements: Minimum Grade HC3 in two subjects and passes in four other subjects at H or O level in the Leaving Certificate including: Irish, English, another modern language and three other subjects recognised for entry purposes. Additionally you must meet the CAO entry points for the programme.

Minimum entry points 2011: 505

Average intake: 15

Course Overview

The BA with Creative Writing is a four-year degree which provides you with a unique opportunity to study the art of creative writing and literary expression. Through a system of small-group workshop classes, you will follow a defined set of modules giving you weekly training and practice in fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction. You may also avail of an opportunity to experience and write about the literature and creative traditions of a second language. As well as classes, you will have regular opportunities to meet and discuss your ideas with professionals from a wide variety of fields within the writing and publishing industries.

All assessment is based on continuous exercises, project work and portfolio expansion – there are no end-of-term papers or exams for Creative Writing. Whether you are a beginner with a growing interest in creative articulation, or an improver who would like to strengthen your existing work and experience in the field, the BA with Creative Writing is an ideal combination of structured progression and the facilitation of independent ventures.

What other arts subjects should I take with Creative Writing?

The preferred choice of degree subjects for those doing Creative Writing may be English, Philosophy, History or Classics, but you may choose from across the broad spectrum of Arts offerings. It is desirable for students of Creative Writing to include a European language* among their other subjects.

Placement

There are a number of possibilities open to you for your third year of Creative Writing and you can discover with your Programme Director the learning environment that will best facilitate your own commitments and writing practice. There are three main structures available, and various combinations of these are possible:

Study at a university abroad

The location in this case will be regulated by whether you are studying a European language, but if you are not studying a language you may also avail of opportunities to visit English-speaking universities.

Independent Project

You will embark on an independent writing project that may constitute new work or a significant development of portfolio work you have already completed within this programme. Students will be assigned a genre-specific editor of professional standing in the writing industries who will be responsible for full editorial response to your work. Alternatively, your project may be completed in conjunction with on-site professional work experience in the creative fields, in which case your portfolio project may be combined with written reflective work on the profession or placement involved.

Performing Arts/Career and Composition

This combination of modules is designed for Creative Writing students who wish to avail of the optional *CONNECT* Performing Arts programme in semester 1 of this third year. You will have an opportunity to engage with the Performing Arts as part of your programme of work in Year Three. Your course of study will allow you to develop your specialist interests by working with professionals in the fields of Creative Writing, Dance, Film-making and Theatre. The ultimate outcome will be a creative multi-media performance written and staged by students themselves. As part of this option, you will also engage in an independent project on a contemporary writer of your choice. This project may involve some archival work, or you may carry out an interview with your chosen writer, while through the career concentration you will familiarise yourself with the various areas of the writing industries (agents, editors, publishers, publicists, reviewers etc.) as they currently impact on the professional development of writers.

Career opportunities/Further education

The expertise acquired through a BA with Creative Writing will benefit you in your other degree subjects, will help open doors of employment upon graduation in all those fields where communication is important, and will foster the ambition and talent necessary for a career as a published author. The skills you will acquire are applicable to a wide range of professional and creative activities, for example in media, literature, publishing, journalism or advertising. Your specialism will also make you a highly-valued candidate for postgraduate programmes that focus on writing and literature. At NUI Galway, for example, it is now possible to study and practice creative writing at all levels, from your undergraduate period into the MA with Writing. The University is also currently working towards developing a practice-based Ph.D. The BA with Creative Writing is the perfect foundation for your long-term commitments in this field.

* For the implications of studying a modern European language please see paragraph titled "Requirements on choosing a Modern Language" on page 3

Course Outline:

Year One

Module 1: The Forms of Fiction

Module 2: Exploring Nonfiction

Module 3: Writing Professions

Year Two

Module 1: The Voices and Styles of Poetry

Module 2: Dramatic Ideas

Year Three

Study at a university abroad

Independent Project

Performing Arts/Career and Composition

Refer to Work Placement

Year Four

Completion of the two other traditional Arts subjects

What students say

"Our initial reaction to this course was: finally a BA with Creative Writing! And this unique experience within arts education has lived up to all our expectations. We are able to develop our own chosen fields of writing while also expanding into areas which are new to us or outside our comfort zones. Classes with both resident and visiting writers mean that we are exposed to many different styles while we are also encouraged to develop our more personal projects. The course structure is ideal, because as well as being guided by teachers and practising professionals with ongoing experience in writing and publishing, we have become closely acquainted with each other's work and interests and this provides an excellent basis for mutual support. And the great thing is that the writing skills we have developed through our weekly workshops in a small group are also of enormous benefit when it comes to writing for all our other subjects – given our specialist training, we feel we have an edge!"



Students of the BA with Creative Writing who were awarded University Scholarships for their performance in First Arts: (left to right) Kate Quigley, Catherine Carey, Kevin Boyle, Cathy Hogan, Neasa O'Callaghan.