



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

O L L S C O I L L U I M N I G H

# UL CREATIVE WRITING

## MA IN CREATIVE WRITING

The University of Limerick offers a Master of Arts in Creative Writing. Our Chair of Creative Writing is **Prof. Joseph O'Connor** (author of nine novels including *Ghost Light*, *The Thrill of it All*, the million-selling *Star of the Sea* and the forthcoming *Shadowplay*, June 2019).

Our outstanding teachers include twice Booker-Prize-longlisted **Donal Ryan**, (author of *The Spinning Heart*, *The Thing About December* and *From a Low and Quiet Sea*), widely acclaimed **Rob Doyle** (*Here Are the Young Men* and *This is the Ritual*), award-winning poet **Martin Dyar** (*Maiden Names*) and **Prof. Sarah Moore Fitzgerald** (*The List of Real Things*), internationally published Young Adult author and lecturer on self-motivation for writers.

This one-year programme enables students to develop their Creative Writing skills through consideration of the work of established writers; through study of the many aspects of a piece of successful Creative Writing; through assignments that foster strategies for revision of work; and through an understanding of the requirements of the redrafting, submission and publication processes.

*Marian Keyes in conversation with Joseph O'Connor at UL*



Our Creative Writing students enjoy teaching-visits and readings from outstanding contemporary authors. Visitors to UL Creative Writing have included Colum McCann, Anne Enright, Louise O'Neill, Claire Keegan, Colin Barrett, John Boyne, Kit de Waal, Kevin Barry, Julian Gough, Mary O'Malley, Sara Baume, Liz Nugent, Marian Keyes and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford.

Students gain practical experience through working on our literary journal *The Ogham Stone*, through meeting publishers, editors and literary agents, and in the preparation of their dissertation portfolios.

Our Creative Writing student cohort is always diverse and has attracted students from the United States, Puerto Rico, Australia, Brazil, India, South Africa and the UK as well as Ireland. Mature students are always a welcome part of our MA class.

Local literary attractions include Limerick's Frank McCourt museum, the Limerick Literary Weekend in Honour of Kate O'Brien; the Doolin Writers' Weekend, the Eigse Michael Hartnett Poetry Arts and Literary Festival; Cuisle, the Limerick International Poetry Festival, the Ennis Book Clubs Festival, and the world-famous Listowel Writers' Week in north County Kerry.

*Julian Gough and Kevin Barry visiting UL Creative Writing*



Contact: **Prof. Joseph O'Connor** // Email: [joseph.oconnor@ul.ie](mailto:joseph.oconnor@ul.ie)

Dáin, Daonnachtaí agus  
Eolaíochtaí Sóisialta  
Arts, Humanities and  
Social Sciences



## How to Apply

Many applicants for our Creative Writing MA have a first or second class Level 8 honours degree (NFQ or other internationally recognised equivalent) but application is open to everyone, including applicants who do not have a primary degree but have what might be considered equivalent experience, perhaps in the arts, publishing, bookselling, writing, creativity or some related activity. Please note, we always receive more applications than we have places to offer.

Applicants must accompany their formal online application with a 3,000 word sample of their creative writing (this can be one single piece or several pieces totalling 3,000 words) and a one-page letter setting out why they would like to work with us on our MA programme as opposed to the many other Creative Writing MA programmes now available. Previous experience of Creative Writing workshops is helpful.

The Application Portfolio is assessed by a small committee of staff, who judge submissions on their originality, technique, and readability. Please note that we are not in a position to offer feedback to applicants who are not offered a place.

Applicants must satisfy the English Language Requirements of the University. Visit [www.ul.ie/graduateschool/prospective-students](http://www.ul.ie/graduateschool/prospective-students) for details.

Applications should be submitted online. Further details can be found at: [www.ul.ie/graduateschool](http://www.ul.ie/graduateschool)

## Fees

**EU students:** €5,000 \*

**Non-EU students:** €10,708 \*

Full information on fees can be found here: <http://ulsites.ul.ie/finance/student-fees>

## Our Graduates

Recent graduates of our Creative Writing MA have been published nationally and internationally and have won or been short-listed for major literary prizes, including the prestigious Hennessy New Writer of the Year Award, the RTE Francis McManus Award, the Listowel Writers' Week Bryan MacMahon Short Story Award, the Arts Council Next Generation Award and the Irish Writers' Centre Novel Fair Award.

## PROGRAMME CONTENT \*

Autumn semester	Spring semester	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative Writing 1: A Weekly Workshop</li> <li>- Creating A Literary Journal 1</li> <li>- Project Development for Creative Writers</li> </ul> <p><b>Electives (choose 1):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Literary Modernism</li> <li>- Gender and Sexuality in Irish Writing</li> <li>- Literature, Film and Human Rights</li> <li>- Literature of Migration</li> <li>- Comparative Literature: Cultural Constructions of the Past</li> <li>- Writing Memoir, Biography and Autobiography</li> <li>- Principals of Professional and Technical Communication and Information Design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative Writing 2: A Weekly Workshop</li> <li>- Creating A Literary Journal 2</li> <li>- Writerly Reading: Aspects of Storytelling</li> <li>- Individual Creative Writing Project with Dissertation Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Electives (choose 1):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Writer in the Community</li> <li>- Issues in Modern and Contemporary Poetry</li> <li>- Politics and American Literature</li> <li>- Post-Colonial Theory and Literature</li> <li>- Feminist Literary Theory.</li> <li>- Textual Constructions of Cultural Identity</li> <li>- Utopian Theory and Texts</li> <li>- Workplace Issues in Technical and Professional Communication</li> </ul>	<p>Dissertation portfolio. 15,000 words of Creative Writing.</p> <p>Recent students have offered work in a wide range of creative genres, from memoir to short stories, chapters of novels, collections of poems and albums of songs.</p> <p><i>Full details of all modules can be found at <a href="http://bookofmodules.ul.ie">bookofmodules.ul.ie</a></i></p>

\* may be subject to change