Academic INSIGHTS

immerse EDUCATION

Creative Writing



AGES AND LOCATIONS

Ages 13-15: Oxford
Ages 16-18: Oxford

Students are taught in separate age groups, with content and pace tailored to each.
Small classes, averaging 7 students.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

The craft of creative writing, covering voice, character, structure, setting, poetry, and revision.

You'll learn how to control voice and structure, edit your own drafts, and present a portfolio of finished pieces.

You'll leave with a completed personal project and a personalised tutor evaluation to draw on in university applications.



EXAMPLE TUTOR

Dr George M

DPhil Old Norse literature, St Anne's College, Oxford; MSt Medieval English, Oxford; BA English Literature, Durham University

George is a lecturer in medieval literature at Magdalen College and St Anne's College, Oxford, and author of *Anger in the Sagas of Icelanders* (OUP, 2025). He has taught Old Norse, Old English, and Middle English across several Oxford colleges.

Creative Writing sample syllabus

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WEEK ONE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	**The blank page** Beat the fear of starting with warm-up exercises and quick-fire short assignments.	**Noticing the world** Practise close observation and freewriting, using Oxford as a creative notebook.	**Narrative voice and perspective** Compare first-person, third-person, and unreliable narrators through published extracts.	**Building characters** Use small details, contradictions, secrets, and desires to make characters feel real.	**Dialogue and conflict** Reveal character through what people say, avoid saying, and do under pressure.
PM	**Reading like a writer** Learn the fundamentals: “show, don't tell”, sensory detail, and avoiding cliché.	**Finding your voice** Experiment with word choice and sentence style to create mood and personality.	**Retelling from another viewpoint** Rewrite the same events through a different narrator and watch meaning shift.	**1:1 tutorial** Talk to your tutor about the areas of creative writing that interest you most, and get suggestions for reading and resources to take them further.	**Setting and place** Treat setting as a character and build the rules of an imagined world.
		Creativity masterclass Explore divergent, convergent, and lateral thinking, then use SCAMPER to generate and pitch original ideas.		**Personal project supervision** Choose a topic for your personal project, plan your research, and start shaping your presentation.	

WEEK TWO

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	**Plot and structure** Map linear, non-linear, and three-act structures onto stories you already know.	**The short story** Examine the structures, challenges, and advantages of short-form fiction.	**Poetry: imagery and metaphor** Explore how poets create meaning through image rather than direct explanation.	**Peer workshop** Share your work and give and receive specific, constructive feedback.	**Personal project presentations** Present your creative writing personal project to your tutor and peers.
PM	**Openings and tension** Hook a reader by beginning in medias res and build momentum through structure.	**Creative non-fiction** Read published essays and apply literary technique to factual writing.	**Rhyme, rhythm, and form** Experiment with free verse, couplets, enjambment, and the shape of a poem.	**1:1 tutorial** Get feedback on your progress, and talk through your academic ambitions and the university courses and careers creative writing can lead to.	**Personal project presentations (continued)** Respond to questions and discuss your peers’ presentations.
	Critical thinking masterclass Examine the attention economy, echo chambers, logical fallacies, and cognitive bias, then debate a live issue.	**Guest speaker evening** Learn from an inspirational speaker from fields such as broadcasting, writing, philosophy, and sport, then question and debate.	**Personal project supervision** Finalise your research and slides and rehearse your presentation ready for Friday.		**Graduation ceremony** Certificates, speeches, and celebration.

Please note: this is an example syllabus and is subject to change.
Not shown: full evening and weekend social and cultural timetable.

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