FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
FOR APPLICANTS TO UL'S MA IN CREATIVE WRITING

What is UL's MA in Creative Writing?
It is a postgraduate, masters level, accredited programme that provides a stimulating and inviting learning environment for writers who want to deepen and develop their craft. Taught by novelists, poets, academics and creatives, it is conducted in a climate that is both nurturing and ambitious affording writers the opportunity to enhance their creative writing skills, knowledge, and range.

How long is the programme?
For full time students, the MA is completed in a single year, starting in September and finishing the following August. For part time students, the same programme of study is spread over two years.

What modules are offered?
See the module offerings in Appendix 1. Note that there are core and elective modules, and that a dissertation is completed over the summer.

How much time would I need to be on campus for this programme?
For **full time students,** expect to be on campus for **up to 12 hours of face-to-face tuition/class time per week,** with additional time for one-to-one meetings that can be arranged to take place online. In effect (depending on what days modules are scheduled), this could mean three to four days per week of classes on-campus during term time. **Part time students** should expect to be on campus **one to two days per week** during term time with approximate face-to-face time of **6 hours of tuition time per week** with additional time for one-to-one meetings that can be arranged to take place online.

What are the UL semesters?

Semester 1 runs from September to December; Semester 2 runs from end of January to early May. The summer semester runs from May to August.

What is the weekly timetable?
The timetable is issued by UL scheduling at the end of the summer, so we won't know the weekly schedule until then.

Do I need to have an undergraduate degree to apply for the MA in Creative Writing?
An undergraduate degree is normally required, and it certainly helps to have this. However, if you don't have a degree but are an experienced writer with evident achievements in the field of creative writing, then we will be delighted to consider your application and recognise the prior learning involved. For all applicants we also look for evidence of commitment to creative writing

and/or achievements in writing in other genres. If you are a total beginner, then we usually suggest you spend some time building a writing portfolio before applying for the MA.

What size is the MA class?
We take a maximum of 24 incoming students per year (a mix of full time and part time). For the core workshop modules this group is divided into two smaller workshop groups of 12 each. We rarely exceed this number and make every effort to ensure that each student gets time and space for the development of their craft and plenty of guidance from tutors.

How do I apply and what are the fees?
The application process is completed through the UL online postgraduate application portal. All information about the required documentation, any language requirements, fees and so on are available at this link. Please pay particular attention to these guidelines.
https://www.ul.ie/gps/course/creative-writing-ma

What elements of the application are most important?
Ensure that you submit everything you are asked to include in the application. Note that your supporting statement/cover letter should show that you have knowledge of the profiles and publications of the core teaching team, and an understanding of why working with this team represents a good match for your own writing goals. The supporting statements of most applicants tend to be no more than two pages long. We also ask you to submit a 3000 word sample of your work, and it is useful to know that we spend a good deal of time considering this as a key part of your application.

Do I have to be a published writer to be considered?
No. There is no need to have published work to be considered but if you have published work then it is very useful to include reference to this. Apart from your required writing sample/portfolio, please do not submit any further tracts of writing. Single-line citation or links to your published work will suffice. The application process is competitive and we prioritise applicants who show the most promise as creative writers, so more generally, make sure to include any achievements or activities that reflect this.

Who is on the teaching team for the MA in creative writing?
The MA is taught within the English group and you'll have access to expertise in literary theory, literature and a range of other subjects, themes and specialisms. The core creative team is made up of novelists, poets and short story writers, all of whom are experienced mentors and facilitators. The list of core team members is included in **Appendix 2**. Please note that, depending on the year you apply, or on particular schedules in a given year, you won't necessarily be taught by all of these team members.

Are there any opportunities to apply for funding or scholarships?
Yes. This year, the faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences has announced the **Professor Tom Lodge Bursary**. There are ten bursaries on offer across all taught programmes, each worth €5000. To be eligible you must be resident in Ireland or the EU; be applying for the full time version of the programme; have, or expect to have a 2.1 or higher in a level 8 undergraduate degree; and have entered education through a recognised access route. Closing date for applying is May 22nd 2026. All further information available here: https://www.ul.ie/gps/scholarships-and-bursaries

Who do I contact if I have more questions about the programme or if I want to talk more about my application process?
For all questions relating to language requirements, fees, and the online application system, contact UL postgraduate applications office.
For queries about the programme curriculum and pedagogy, contact the programme director, who is currently Prof Sarah Moore. Email: sarah.moore@ul.ie

APPENDIX 1: PROGRAMME OUTLINE MA CREATIVE WRITING AT UL
COURSE CODES:
FULL TIME: MACRWRTFAD
PART TIME: MACRWRTPAD

Blue = part time first year
Green = part time second year
Full time students complete all four modules in semester 1 and all five modules in semester 2

NOTE: List of elective options may be subject to changes from year to year

Semester 1 (Autumn 2025)	Semester 2 (Spring 2026)	(Summer 2026)
Core: EH6051 Creative Writing 1: 3-hour weekly workshop (9 credits) EH6061 Project Development for Creative Writers (6 credits). 2 to 3 hours weekly. Two Writing and Reading Weeks in which no classes take place. EH6091: Creative Writers in the Community 1: Planning and Preparation, (3 credits). Module runs Weeks 6 – 12 inclusive. Electives (choose one): three hours weekly, all 9 credits each. *EH6021 Gender and Sexuality in Irish Writing* *EH6031 Literature, Film, and Human Rights* *EH6072 Situating Irish Gothic*	Core: EH6082 Creative Writing 2: 3-hour weekly workshop (9 credits) EH6112 Individual Creative Writing Project / Dissertation Rehearsal (6 credits). Mainly one-to-one meetings, some group gatherings. EH6152: Creative Writers in the Community 2: Engaging and Implementing. (3 credits). Module runs Weeks 1-6 inclusive. EH6132 Principles of Storytelling and Writerly Reading (6 credits) 2 hours weekly Electives (choose one): three hours weekly, all 9 credits each. *EH6021 Politics and American Literature* *EH6032 Issues in Modern and Contemporary Poetry* *EH6042 Feminist Literary Theory* *EH6062 Irish Americas in Literature and Culture*	Core: EH6013 Creative Writing Dissertation (30 credits).

APPENDIX 2: THE UL CREATIVE WRITING TEAM

JOSEPH O'CONNOR
DONAL RYAN
SARAH MOORE
EMILY CULLEN
EOIN DEVEREUX

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF YOUR TEACHING TEAM

The programme also includes inputs from writers, editors, booksellers, publishers and literary agents throughout the taught elements of the programme. These visiting speakers/facilitators are confirmed and announced early in the first semester.

On the electives, students also work with our wonderful School colleagues in charge of the menu of electives. Other colleagues' details are available at the website for the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. https://www.ul.ie/artsoc or by googling their names.