

Oxford University Creative Writing Summer School 2009

July 26-August 15, 2009

Overview

The Creative Writing Summer School is a broadly-based course for anyone wishing to explore and enhance their ability as a writer.

Description

The academic programme consists of:

- a daily programme of lectures, talks and readings given by established authors, agents, editors and others.
- study in small workshops, led by tutors who are both published authors and experienced teachers

Applicants choose two workshops from: Reading for Writers; Writing Fiction; Writing for Young Adults; Writing Lives; Writing Poetry. (See course descriptions)

Workshops will involve writing exercises, group discussion, and the development of a portfolio of creative writing.

Each workshop has two two-hour meetings per week, and classes will usually contain no more than twelve participants.

Social Programme

A range of optional excursions and social events will be offered throughout the programme. These are likely to include: a walking tour of Oxford, after-dinner talks, open mic nights, and weekend excursions to sites of literary and historical interest.

(Please note that where these activities have a cost, that is not included in the programme fee.)

Level and Demands of the Programme

- Applicants may not necessarily have yet achieved publication, but will have written regularly and read widely over a sustained period.
- Applicants should be keen readers, and bring an open-minded, questioning approach to both reading and writing.
- Normally applicants will have a first degree, or equivalent, although in some cases other evidence of suitability may be acceptable.

This is an intensive programme of study taught to an informed international audience. Applicants should be confident that they are academically and linguistically prepared for such a programme.

Non-native speakers of English are required to submit evidence of their English language competency with their application (IELTS 6.5 or proof of an equivalent level of competence).

Participants are expected to:

- Undertake preparatory reading in advance of the programme.
- Attend all plenary sessions and relevant workshops
- Be actively engaged with their workshop topics
- Submit an assignment for each workshop taken
- Undertake approximately 96 hours of private study during the programme (elements of private study will include: reading, writing and other preparation between workshop meetings, work in the library, writing papers, etc)

Disabled Students (including those with mobility difficulties)

OU DCE`s aim is to treat all participants equally and welcomes applications from people with disabilities. Individuals` needs are taken into account as far as possible, providing reasonable adaptations and assistance within the resources available. We ask that people let us know of any disability or special need (confidentially if required) so that we can help them participate as fully as possible.

When applying for OU DCE`s college-based summer schools, prospective participants with mobility difficulties or visual or hearing impairments may want to make preliminary enquiries to the Programme Administrator, as the age and layout of these colleges often makes them user-unfriendly (although adaptations are often possible). Oxford, as an ancient city, tends to be difficult to navigate for people with disabilities. The number of very old buildings, designed in an age less sensitive to issues of disability, makes access to much of the city centre difficult. However, OU DCE will do as much as it is able to make study with the Department possible.

Participants should contact us if they will have problems gaining access to a bedroom or a teaching room that is located on upper or basement floors, or to the college dining hall (which is reached via a flight of stairs).

Accommodation

Location

Founded in 1314, Exeter College is one of the University`s oldest colleges and is situated in the heart of Oxford.

Participants who choose to be resident on the summer school will have a single study bedroom in Exeter College and will take meals in the college dining hall.

Bedrooms are located up the four to nine floors of a staircase; bath and/or shower and toilet facilities on each staircase are shared.

Participants cannot be accommodated at Exeter College either prior to or beyond their programme dates. Family members and/or friends who are not enrolled on this summer school cannot be accommodated in college.

Participants who choose to be non-resident on the summer school are responsible for finding their own accommodation. Information on accommodation in Oxford can be found on the Internet at: www.visitoxford.org and www.stayoxford.co.uk

Please be aware that demand for accommodation in Oxford during the summer months is high.

Exeter College has rooms which can be taken on a self-catering basis in Stapledon House, roughly one mile away from the main college site. For further information please contact the Accommodation Manager by email: sandra.crook@exeter.ox.ac.uk

(GLS STUDENTS – The fee for the course includes room and board. Permission to stay outside of college must be approved by the GLS office and is at the student`s expense)

Libraries

Participants will have access to the library of the Department for Continuing Education.

IT Facilities

Students will be eligible to use IT facilities at Exeter College.

Fees (GLS Students must follow this fee schedule which has been modified for Duke GLS students)

- Duke Tuition - \$3111
Tuition will be charged to your bursar account and is due according to summer tuition schedule. **This is the only part of the cost covered by MALS scholarship.**
- Oxford Fees (paid directly to GLS) - \$2139*
accommodation and meals (except lunch on Saturday and Sunday and meals during optional weekend excursions)

Applicants are required to pay a **non-refundable registration fee of \$500 (paid directly to GLS)**. Please note that the registration fee is part of the overall programme fee (\$2139*), and participants will be must pay the remaining fee of \$1639 within 30 days of confirmation of acceptance and notification of course choice.

Cancellations (Read VERY Carefully)

If you wish to cancel you must inform the Programme Administrator at Oxford and the GLS office **in writing**.

The following cancellation policy applies **in all cases**:

- Registration in the corresponding course must follow the Duke add/drop deadline for Duke University

Cancellation of Oxford Registration

- All cancellations received prior to 15 June 2008 – Oxford retains 300 GBP registration fee; other fees will be refunded.
- All cancellations received between 15 June and 1 July 2009 - Oxford retains 60% of the fees paid.
- All cancellations received after 1 July 2009 – no refund.

***Please note that Oxford fees are approximately \$3753.75 and not the \$2139 noted above which includes a GLS supplement. GLS students are responsible for this amount to Oxford in the case of cancellation but will not be charged Duke tuition.**

In that no refunds are offered after 1 July 2009, applicants are **very strongly recommended to take out vacation cancellation insurance**, and should consult their travel agent and/or insurer for information and advice. Please note that OUDCE does not provide any insurance cover.

Alteration or Cancellation of a Course by OUDCE

Oxford University Department for Continuing Education reserves the right to alter details of any course should illness or any other emergency prevent a tutor from teaching, and to cancel a course or seminar if exceptionally low enrolment would make it educationally unviable.

The status of courses will be reviewed on **1 May 2009**. If it is likely that a course may be cancelled, all those enrolled on that course will be notified in writing within seven days, and possible options clearly explained.

If students have not heard from OUDCE by 15 May 2009, they should assume that their course will be running; there is no need to contact us to confirm. They are recommended to delay finalising their travel arrangements until after this date.

Application Procedure

- Download the application from the GLS web site. **Submit application, supporting materials and deposit of \$500 directly to the GLS office.** Application deadline for **Creative Writing is March 1, 2009.**

The application must be accompanied by:

- A brief statement of purpose (350-400 words) detailing your reasons for wishing to attend the summer school. This should include what you feel the programme would offer you and your writing, and what you feel you could bring to the summer school. It may also include details of creative writing courses you have previously taken, or the relevance of the summer school to your present course of study or professional development. It is essential that applicants clearly state their reasons for wishing to enroll on specific workshops.
- Samples of your work relevant to each of the workshops you have chosen (no more than 1000 words of prose fiction per sample, or 3 poems).
- *In the case of non-native speakers of English*, official evidence of English language competency.
- A letter of recommendation from a person who can comment on your suitability for the summer school, and on any writerly achievements. Where this is not appropriate, the letter may be from someone who can vouch for your motivation, commitment to writing, and potential for development. In addition, GLS students must have their application materials reviewed by the GLS Director who will put approved applications forward to Oxford University.
- Four passport-sized photographs (ie 3 x 3.5cm, or 1¼ x 1½in), with your **full name** printed on the back of each. These are for library registration and administrative purposes.
- A non-refundable registration fee of \$500.

Applications must be submitted to the GLS office – not Oxford.

Oxford University operates a 'gathered field' closing date system by which applications are considered on a fair and equal basis at specific dates throughout the admissions period. Duke applications will be submitted in the first gathered field.

There is a limited number of places available on every course within each gathered field, and in assigning successful applicants to seminar groups the admissions panel will pay particular attention to applicants' personal statements.

You will normally be notified of the admission panel's decision within 14 days of the gathered field deadline. Notification will be sent by email or, if no email address has been provided, by fax or post.

For further information, contact Margaret Dennis (mdennis@duke.edu)