

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026–27

Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing – OPTION 1 (Face to Face)

About the course

Our two-year, part-time Diploma allows you to strengthen your ability in four major areas of literary activity — prose, poetry, drama and analytical reading — as well as the chance to specialise in the genre of your choice.

The course offers a rich combination of seminars, tutorials and group discussions. The chance to have your work read and analysed by a supportive, suitably skilled peer group is one of the great benefits of the course, offering fresh perspectives and insights on your writing. At the same time, we emphasise the importance of individual voice and vision, and there will be time for one-to-one, in-depth discussion of your work.

The stimulation of group discussion is augmented by tutorial contact between tutors and students. These tutorials, combined with a restriction of student numbers in each year, ensure each student has the opportunity to discover their own particular talents.

The course is built around Saturday sessions, held in Oxford, typically lasting the whole day. There are usually four Saturdays per term in terms 1-5 and two in term 6. A once-per-term Sunday school will be paired with one of the regular Saturday meetings. There is an in-person, seven-day summer school held in Oxford at the end of the first year of study, expected to be held in June.

Most teaching events are usually held in-person, but may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of a pandemic.

EXPECTED COURSE STRUCTURE - Year One			
<i>Term 1</i>	<i>Term 2</i>	<i>Term 3</i>	<i>Summer school</i>
Saturday session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction (1)• Prose (1)• Poetry (1)• Drama (1)	Saturday session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading for Writers (1)• Fiction (3)	Saturday session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poetry (2)• Drama (2)	(Scope for specialisation)
Sunday day school: The Novel	Sunday day school: Poetry	Sunday day school: Getting Published	

EXPECTED COURSE STRUCTURE - Year Two		
<i>Term 4</i>	<i>Term 5</i>	<i>Term 6</i>
<p>Saturday session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short fiction (2) • Long fiction (2) 	<p>Saturday session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading for Writers (1) • Poetry (3) 	<p>Saturday session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screenwriting (2)
<p>Sunday day school: Reading for Writers</p>	<p>Sunday day school: Prose</p>	<p>Sunday day school: Drama</p>

Seminars (Saturday Schools)

YEAR 1

The first term provides an introduction to the three main genres: prose, poetry and drama. From the outset there are opportunities to engage in practical activity and wide-ranging group discussion of aims, techniques and issues. The second term makes a start on refining and developing analytical skills with Reading for Writers, followed by close attention to the structures and approaches of Prose Fiction. The third term concentrates on how to address the challenges of writing Poetry and Stage Drama.

YEAR 2

The aim of the year is to consolidate and broaden the developments in skill, confidence and analytical ability that will have accrued in Year 1. Term four provides in-depth concentration on short and long fiction, while term five focuses on advanced Reading for Writers and further high-level consideration of the craft of poetry. Term six gives students up-to-the-minute experience of how to write Broadcast Drama.

Tutorials

Tutorials offer opportunity for focused, developmental discussion of work in process. Their nature ensures full concentration on the strengths of each student's work as well as on areas which may need improvement. Tutorials centre on work produced in relation to the genres studied during that term. This means that as early as term 1, students have considerable freedom of choice to write on prose, poetry or drama (though you should expect to write on more than one category in that term). Students are usually offered two tutorials per term.

Space for specialisation

At the end of both years, you will be given the opportunity to concentrate more extensively on your own preferred area of interest, through the production of a portfolio of around 6,000 words in the case of prose, around 30 pages of drama, or around 300 lines of poetry. Your second-year portfolio is usually guided by a preliminary tutorial discussion of the content you are proposing, and a review tutorial on completion of the project.

Sunday schools

The Sunday schools introduce, through visiting readers, speakers, and tutors, a wide range of voices to counterpoint and amplify insights and opinions provided by members of the Diploma's teaching team. There are readings by, and discussions with, writers from all genres, as well as related

workshop sessions. These day schools occur once per term, usually on a Sunday adjacent to one of the regularly scheduled Saturday classes.

Summer school

The summer school is a vibrant culmination to your first year of study. Sessions for the whole group will be balanced by individual sessions which allow you to focus on areas of your own choice. There is time set aside for your uninterrupted writing, and guidance will be given, as a group and individually, about how best to focus your efforts during the summer vacation so that you can get the most out of your second year. The summer school provides an opportunity to concentrate as fully as possible on living and working your craft.

The summer school is an integral part of the course. It is expected to start at midday on Saturday and finish at midday on the following Friday. Each full day of the summer school is expected to start at 9.30am and end at 7pm, with breaks during the day. In addition, all students are expected to attend the summer school dinner, usually held on the Wednesday evening.

Accommodation, should you require it for the summer school, is not included in your tuition fee but it may be possible to book accommodation for that period subject to availability.

Assessment

Assessment for the award is through coursework assignments and portfolios of written work. Candidates are required to pass separately in each year of the course. To pass a year a candidate must submit the number of assessments required and obtain a pass on average in the assignments for the year and separately in the portfolio.

Candidates are set the following coursework:

Year One

Six assignments of which they are **required** to submit five, **and** a portfolio

Year Two

Five assignments of which they are **required** to submit four **and** a portfolio

The coursework assignments are each expected to be about 2,000 words of prose, 15 pages of drama, or about 100 lines of poetry.

Each portfolio is expected to be not more than 6,000 words if submitted in prose, not more than 300 lines if submitted in poetry and not more than 30 pages if submitted as drama. Candidates select their own choice of genre for the portfolio.

Attendance

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of 75% of the class-based sessions and the summer school.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course information sheet. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made in circumstances of a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. In addition, in certain circumstances, for example due to visa difficulties or because the health needs of students cannot be met, it may be necessary to make adjustments to course requirements for international study.

You can find full information under “Changes to Courses” (sections 33 to 39) in the [Terms and Conditions for non-matriculated students](#)

Expected length of course

2 years

Annual fees for entry in 2026–27

Fee Status	Annual Course Fees
Home	£4,095
Overseas	£7,025

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. For details, please see [Changes to fees and charges | University of Oxford](#)

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also do not cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Fee status

Broadly speaking, your fee status depends on your nationality, your immigration status in the UK, where you have been living and what you have been doing for the three years prior to the start of your course. Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Information for applicants from the EU, EEA and Switzerland

On 11 May 2021 the UK Council for International Student Affairs published [new regulations and guidance](#) to be used in assessing the fee status of students commencing courses in August 2021 and later. We will be using this guidance to carry out fee status assessments for students commencing courses in 2026-27 and later, including students from the EU, EEA and Switzerland.

If you are an EU national and do not live in the UK then you are likely to be charged Overseas fees. Students with settled and pre-settled status in the UK and some other categories of students who work in the UK can qualify for Home fee status as long as they meet the residence criteria.

Additional cost information

This course has a one-week summer school in Oxford, so you will need to meet any costs (e.g. travel, accommodation, subsistence) you may incur in attending this week.

You will also need a computer which meets our minimum specification, with access to the internet and various other software programmes. Please see the [system requirements webpage](#) for full details.

For most Oxford students and alumni, the [eDocuments](#) service provides electronic versions of your academic documents. These can be downloaded in support of employment or further study applications and shared via with third parties (e.g. verification companies, prospective employers, and other Higher Education Institutions). You will need to register for this service to access your final transcript

- The **eDocuments registration fee for students completing in 2025-26 is £17**. Please be aware that this fee will usually increase annually.
- This fee provides unlimited access to all available documents, and will include any further documents that are issued to you in the future. The service can also be used to print copies of documents at home. Please note that available documents depend on when you commenced your studies and/or your course progression. Please visit the “For Students/Alumni” tab for further guidance.

Your award certificate will be sent to you by post, usually in the January following the ratification of your results. It is your responsibility to ensure that your address is correctly recorded in Student Self-Service when you finish your course, as this is where we will send your certificate. If you have not received your certificate by the end of the April following ratification (for example, April 2027 if you complete in 2026), you must notify undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk within this timeframe. Failure to do so may result in a charge for a replacement certificate.

Living costs (in-person courses)

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

For the 2026–27 academic year, the range of likely living costs for full-time study is between c. £1,405 and £2,105 for each month spent in Oxford. Full information, including a breakdown of likely living costs in Oxford for items such as food, accommodation and study costs, is available on our living costs page at [Fees and funding - living-costs](#). When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2026-27, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 5% or more each year, although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

The living costs above are based on single, full-time students living in Oxford. While it may be the case that, as a part-time student, you will not be based in Oxford during your studies, you will still need to cover your cost of living on a full-time basis. If this applies to you, you should calculate your living costs to be sure that you have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course. In particular, part-time students who are not based in Oxford will need to calculate travel

and accommodation costs carefully. Please note that living costs outside Oxford may be different from those shown above.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk