
School of English Literature Language and Linguistics

Lecturer in Creative Writing (Prose)

Grade: F/G Vacancy Ref: B10084A

Academic Job Summary

The University has developed Academic Job Summary Guidance which summarises the range of activities that academic staff may be expected to perform. Academic staff are not expected to be discharging all of the activities all of the time and the actual duties and activities that academic staff are expected to carry out will be determined by the Head of Academic Unit. The Job Summary Guidance document can be found at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/hr/recruitment/role-profiles.php>

Academic Staff Development

Newcastle University accords parity of esteem to teaching and research; aims to deliver teaching and facilitate learning of the highest quality; and invests in excellent staff. A popular course in academic practice is available for staff with responsibilities in teaching and research supervision and new appointees are required to gain the first module. Full details of Newcastle University's Certificate in Advanced Studies in Academic Practice can be found at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/staffdev/devactivities/academic/accredited.htm>

Specific Responsibilities of Position

The School of English Literature, Language & Linguistics wishes to appoint a Lecturer in Creative Writing (Prose). You will be joining a dynamic team of prose writers and be embedded in the School's large and prestigious Creative Writing subject area.

You will be a talented writer of prose with a record of high quality publication who can contribute to undergraduate teaching and participate in the School's thriving postgraduate culture by working on our MA programmes and supervising PhD students. You will also contribute to the development and leadership of the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts, a world-class centre of excellence in the field of creative writing which contributes to the cultural life of the North East via readings, projects, teaching and research.

The School

The School currently has 55 members of permanent academic staff working across the fields of Literature, Creative Writing, English Language and Linguistics. 12 Research Associates and Fellows work alongside these staff and, together with our 750 undergraduates, over 100 taught postgraduates and a similar number of research students, we form a thriving and highly motivated intellectual community, dedicated to excellence and innovation in research and teaching.

At REF2014, English Literature and Creative Writing (UoA29) was ranked 3rd in the UK for GPA, and saw each of its 4 Impact Case Studies graded at 4*, a performance that not only evidences the excellence of the School, but also gives an indication of the calibre of the candidates we expect to attract for this position. Alongside Creative Writing, other areas of strength in the School include Modern and Contemporary Literature, Early Modern Literature and Culture, Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Literature, Scholarly Editing, Archival Work and Book History.

You will be joining an ambitious team of creative practitioners including poets Tara Bergin, W.N. Herbert, Sinéad Morrissey, Sean O'Brien and Jake Polley, prose and fiction writers Ann Coburn, William Fiennes, Lars Iyer and Jackie Kay, the film maker Tina Gharavi and playwrights Zoe Cooper and Margaret Wilkinson. You will also work closely with Sinéad Morrissey as part of the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts, a university research centre based in the School. The NCLA is connected with many non-HEI partners in the field of Creative Writing (the Poetry Book Society, Bloodaxe Books, the Lannan Foundation, the Booker Prize Foundation) and runs an internationally significant programme of readings and events, including an annual poetry festival.

The School is receiving a substantial amount of new investment from the University, supporting doctoral studentships, postdoctoral fellowships and new members of staff in key strategic areas. This has included funding to enhance the School's digital capacity driven by the Animating Text at Newcastle University (ATNU) project, led by Professor Jenny Richards in collaboration with the Digital Institute (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/digitalinstitute/>), and for archival purchases and staffing relating to the NCLA.

Teaching excellence is central to the culture of the School. Creative Writing consistently achieves over 90% overall satisfaction in the NSS, and the BA programme in English Literature with Creative Writing and the MA programmes in Creative Writing and Writing Poetry continue to grow.

Equality and Diversity

Our School is still the only unit in our subject area in the UK to have been awarded Athena Swan Bronze accreditation from the Equality Challenge Unit (<http://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/athena-swan/>), an award that represents our commitment to the advancement of equality and diversity. As a School, we recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas and cultures and that this difference brings great strength. We are committed to the benefits of a diverse intellectual community of staff and students and to promoting the principles of equality and diversity in all of our activities.

Duties and Responsibilities

- To deliver high-quality publications in the field of creative writing with a focus on prose (UK REF 3* and 4*).
- To play an active role in the ongoing development of the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts, working closely with the NCLA's recently appointed Director, Sinéad Morrissey.
- To deliver innovative high quality teaching in Creative Writing (Prose) at UG and PG level.
- To supervise postgraduate research students working in prose.
- To pursue research funding both as an individual and by contributing to collaborative initiatives.
- To work collaboratively with colleagues in the School and across the University.
- To undertake administrative duties as required by the Head of School.

Person Specification

Knowledge (inc. Qualifications)

Essential

- A PhD or equivalent measure of professional standing in a relevant subject area
- A track record in the publishing of significant, rigorous and original creative writing with a focus on prose
- The potential to contribute internationally excellent or world-leading research to the School's return at the next Research Excellence Framework exercise (REF)

Desirable

- Realistic plans for funded research projects

Skills (professional, technical, managerial, practical)

Essential

- Collegiality and skills in collaborative working
- The ability to develop and sustain networks and/or partnerships across the University and externally
- The ability to contribute to the leadership of the NCLA

Experience and Achievements (paid or unpaid)

Essential

- Evidence of high quality teaching at UG Level
- Evidence of contributions to the enhancement of the student experience

Desirable

- Evidence of Arts Management experience, particularly in relation to live literature events
- Evidence of high quality teaching at PG (Masters and PhD) Level
- Evidence of the ability to contribute to the planning, design and development of modules