



**WORLD-CLASS COURSES
GLOBAL VOICES
FUTURE FORMS**

50 years of Creative Writing
at University of East Anglia



CREATIVE — WRITING — AT UEA

Home to the UK's first Creative Writing MA, the University of East Anglia has been at the forefront of pioneering excellence in creative writing for the past 50 years. With more published writers than any other institution in the UK, our esteemed, prize-winning alumni have become some of the most distinguished voices of the contemporary era.

During the academic year 2020-21 we will celebrate the past, interrogate the present and spark ideas about the future as we mark five decades as a global leader in creative writing.

Founded by Malcolm Bradbury and Angus Wilson in 1970, UEA's Creative Writing MA was the first of its kind in the UK. It remains one of the most prestigious creative writing programmes in the world, with an increasingly international enrolment.

Ian McEwan was the first student and our list of eminent alumni include the 2017 Nobel Prize Winner for Literature, Sir Kazuo Ishiguro OBE, Anne Enright, Tracy Chevalier, Louise Doughty, Ayòbámi Adébáyò, Emma Healey, Tash Aw, John Boyne and Deepa Anappara.

Situated in Norwich, England's first UNESCO City of Literature, our equally illustrious roster of faculty and visiting professors has included Rose Tremain, Angela Carter, Lorna Sage, Sir Andrew Motion, Timberlake Wertenbaker, Margaret Atwood, Ian Rankin, Ali Smith and Caryl Phillips.

Over the years the department has continued to innovate, moving into scriptwriting, non-fiction, poetry and crime fiction, while developing hugely popular BA and PhD programmes. We are looking forward to the next 50 years. We will explore new voices, forms, and ways of writing and reading for future generations.

Find out more about getting involved in our national and international programme of events, activities and new initiatives:

www.newwriting.net

www.uealive.com

www.futureandform.net

www.uea.ac.uk/literature/creative-writing

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Sir Kazuo Ishiguro
© Joanna Millington

KAZUO ISHIGURO

When I arrived at UEA to register myself as an MA student in Creative Writing, the admin person behind the desk asked me to repeat the name of the course. He couldn't quite believe such a thing existed. 'I thought you said "crazy writing";' he laughed. 'What kind of subject is that?' Fair enough. Back then, in 1979, no other university in the country offered such a course. In previous years, it hadn't run because nobody had applied.

Now aged fifty, UEA Creative Writing is justly proud of its glittering alumni; of vital contributions made at key moments to many distinguished careers. But the course's greatest achievement, I believe, has been the transformation brought about in the wider culture of this nation. Not so long ago, 'creative writing' – in contrast, say, to music, painting, football or drama – was not perceived as something to be encouraged at grass roots level. Considered irrelevant for the majority, it was an activity surrounded by an intimidating mystique, pursued only by a sanctioned elite.

The UEA course was genuinely pioneering, and in its early years, frequently derided

– even by those within UEA faculties. But it kept faith with the beliefs of its founder, Malcolm Bradbury, and today the 'subject' has become ubiquitous, offered in every kind of educational institution, in prisons and in various community settings. Writing of all genres is practised at every level, on every kind of kitchen table and in every kind of study bedroom. The result is not only a significantly raised standard of published writing (you can't hope to win football World Cups if the game isn't played in your playgrounds and local parks), but a more engaged and sophisticated reading culture. The course's success hasn't been just about those who became celebrated. It's as much about the many who benefitted in less obvious ways, and took what they learned back into various walks of life.

Academic courses often aspire to bring about real change for the better in the wider society. Few can claim to have done so to the extent achieved by UEA Creative Writing.

Sir Kazuo Ishiguro, OBE, FRSA, FRSL



DAVID RICHARDSON

— *Vice-Chancellor* —

The Creative Writing programme is one of the great success stories of our university. UEA's motto is 'do different'. We have always sought to be an innovative, forward-thinking institution, egalitarian and promoting of original thinking and new ways of doing things.

Our creative writing programme was founded on these principles. It was, at the time, something of a gamble in early 1970s Britain, and since its inception it has proved to be both a talking point and a hugely exciting and rapidly successful departure.

Highly acclaimed and prize-winning writers have emerged from our increasingly international courses. Many return to teach and talk to new generations of writers, including Sir Kazuo Ishiguro, whose generous foreword opens this celebratory booklet. Students now join us from all over the world, very often supported by valued scholarships and bursaries. Their voices in turn become champions of free literary expression far and wide.

The publishing successes of our creative writing graduates nationally and internationally is unparalleled. We are immensely proud of our alumni, our lecturers and indeed our present and in-coming students in 2020-21. This historic year, while providing unprecedented challenges, also reminds us of the importance of community, creativity and imagination.

It is a great pleasure to see the programme turn 50, and with such an emphasis on looking to the future and how to embrace fast developing technologies in a rapidly changing world.

UEA's creative writing programme continues to innovate and build on its quest for knowledge, excellence and creative expression.

*Professor David Richardson,
Vice-Chancellor, UEA*



© Getty Images

**“My year at UEA
was one of the
best of my life.”**

Ian McEwan

**“I thought that if I got into
UEA I’m not going to go
anywhere else because it’s
the one, it’s *the* creative
writing course.”**

Emma Healey



© Emily Gray Photography



© Canongate

**“I was able to create
and experiment like
never before. I cannot
overestimate how pivotal
that year was for me.”**

Ayòbámi Adébáyò

“My writing career truly began at the University of East Anglia where I was given the support and encouragement I needed. I have a lot to thank it for.”

John Boyne



© Chris Close



© Jonathan Drori

“Doing the MA was a turning point in my writing life. I felt like I was learning to play an instrument I had only ever messed around with before.”

Tracy Chevalier

“I am deeply grateful to the faculty at UEA and the friends I made among my fellow students. By reading their writing, and listening to their feedback, I learnt more about the possibilities of fiction than I could have ever grasped on my own.”

Deepa Anappara



© Liz Seabrook



2020/21 CELEBRATORY — EVENTS —

October 2020 – June 2021

An ambitious international programme of events, projects and initiatives will celebrate the programme's extraordinary heritage, explore key trends shaping literature today, uncover the next generation of global voices, and push the boundaries between contemporary writing and creative technology to ask the question: where will writing be going over the next 50 years?

1 OCTOBER 2020

CW50 online launch, with exclusive videos of alumni, faculty and associated professors and fellows.

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2020

UEA Live: Autumn 2020. A season of online literary events featuring UEA alumni and associated writers, including: Bernardine Evaristo, Lee Child, Diana Evans, Ian McEwan, Raymond Antrobus, Joe Dunthorne, Ingrid Persaud, Ayanna Gillian Lloyd, Tessa McWatt, and Louise Doughty.

NOVEMBER 2020

UEA / New Networks for Nature Conference, an annual gathering bringing together artists, academics, nature writers and activists to discuss the state and future of nature.

FEBRUARY–MARCH 2021

UEA Live: Spring 2021. A season of literary events featuring UEA alumni and associated writers, including: Ali Smith, Inua Ellams, Christie Watson, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Future and Form panel and Booker Prize conversation with Gaby Wood and Anne Enright.

APRIL–MAY 2021

Future and Form, an online and multi-venue exhibition of new work and interactive literary installations by six writers and creative technologists, working with local partners and venues including: Norwich Castle Museum, National Centre for Writing, Norwich Theatre Royal, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

MAY 2021

Futures for Creative Writing Online International Conference, featuring Booker Prize winner Bernardine Evaristo and internationally acclaimed poet Carolyn Forché as keynote speakers. Presented by UEA and the EACWP.

Republic of Consciousness Symposium and Prize.

JUNE 2021

UEA New Forms Awards prize, in partnership with the National Centre for Writing.

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S VOICES

INTERNATIONAL CHAIR OF CREATIVE WRITING

— *Tsitsi Dangarembga* —

As we celebrate 50 years of award-winning, global literature at UEA, we are proud to launch the International Chair of Creative Writing and Global Voices Scholarship Programme.

Beginning in 2021, the new position of International Chair will be offered to five prominent writers, over five years, in five global regions. Each will have a year-long remit to help find, nurture and promote emerging new writers.

As well as our dedicated and inspirational Chairs, we will create 50 new creative writing scholarships through the Global Voices Scholarship Programme.

With the support of one visionary philanthropist, we are pleased to say that the first year of the programme is ready to begin. We are excited and gratified to welcome UEA's very first International Chair of Creative Writing, Tsitsi Dangarembga, who will be joined by 10 Global Voices scholarship students from the continent of Africa.

Dangarembga is an internationally acclaimed Zimbabwean novelist, playwright and filmmaker. Her most recent novel,

This Mournable Body, was shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize. Supported by UEA colleagues, she will deliver an ambitious programme of literary events, classes and workshops across the African continent and in the UK.

But our African year is just the first. With further philanthropic support we hope to invite four more Chairs and 40 more scholarship students from other regions to work to change the faces, and voices, of global literature for the next 50 years.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

The inaugural year has been fully-funded by one generous philanthropist with a passion for global literature. Because of their support Tsitsi Dangarembga is able to take up her role of Chair and 10 writers from Africa will each receive a scholarship for UEA's prestigious creative writing MA.

Find out how you can be part of this story by getting in touch with UEA's Development Office:

+44 (0) 1603 592 945
giving@uea.ac.uk
www.uea.ac.uk/difference



Tsitsi Dangarembga
© Hannah Mentz

ROC PRIZE

The Republic of Consciousness Prize (RoC) was established in 2016 by author Neil Griffiths to support and celebrate the work of small presses. Free to enter, it is open to both translated and English-language literary fiction and gives the majority of the award money directly to small press publishers.

Since 2018, it has been sponsored by UEA through UEA Publishing Project. This sponsorship contributes to the vital role small presses play in diversifying literary culture, particularly apposite in the year of CW50, through supporting the prize's ongoing innovations in the field.

In 2020-21, students on the Creative Writing MA Publishing Module will engage with the judging process - alongside Eley Williams, Guy Gunaratne, and John Mitchinson - and collaborate with the organisers, shortlisted publishers and writers.

Submissions will close on 30 November 2020, and the 2021 prize will be awarded on Saturday 1 May, 2021.



Guy Gunaratne

For more on RoC:
www.republicofconsciousness.com/prize

For more on UEA Publishing Project:
www.ueapublishingproject.com/

UEA NEW FORMS AWARD

In collaboration with National Centre for Writing (NCW), the UEA New Forms Award exists to champion bold innovation in craft, rewarding a daring new voice in fiction. This new award, inaugurated in 2020, recognises and celebrates University of East Anglia's extraordinary global reputation for creative writing spanning half a century. It forms part of a suite of Early Career Awards delivered by NCW, along with the Desmond Elliott Prize and the Laura Kinsella Fellowship.

One winning writer receives a cash prize of £4,000, along with a bespoke period of development, which may include mentoring, learning opportunities and promotional platform, depending on the writer's ambition and need.

Entries for 2021 will open in autumn 2020, and the winner will be announced June 2021.

The winner of the inaugural 2020 UEA New Forms Award, is Taylor Beidler, whose project explores non-traditional storytelling and aims to synthesise her work as a playwright, performance artist and creative non-fiction writer. Taylor holds an MA (Distinction) in Scriptwriting from University of East Anglia.



Taylor Beidler
© Quetzal Maucci

For full info, visit:
www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/uea-award/

RATHBONES FOLIO PRIZE FELLOW

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, creative writing at UEA is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Rathbones Folio Prize. Our partnership offers the exceptional authors championed by the Academy-backed, genre-crossing Writers' Prize a £5000 UEA/Rathbones Folio Creative Writing Fellowship at UEA.

The only prize governed by an international academy of distinguished writers and critics, the Folio Academy, the Rathbones Folio Prize rewards the very best writing of any given year. It is borderless and open to all genres – fiction, non-fiction and poetry – and strongly invested in spotting talent and building a greater diversity and variety of voices in our literary culture. In 2020, the previous year's winner Raymond Antrobus joined us, and in 2021 UEA will offer the fellowship to the 2020 prize winner, Valeria Luiselli.



Raymond Antrobus
© Caleb Femi

For full info, visit:
www.uea.ac.uk/about/school-of-literature-drama-and-creative-writing

FUTURES FOR CREATIVE WRITING ONLINE CONFERENCE

The half-centenary of creative writing innovation at UEA presents an opportunity both to reflect on the development of the discipline of creative writing nationally and internationally and to consider how the discipline may develop over the next 50 years.

This online conference seeks to bring together PhD research students, creative writing tutors and graduates, writers and scholars to explore the varieties of practice in our discipline now, the points of convergence and contention, and, crucially, the opportunities for future development and the forces that may shape the nature of writing in the academy over the next several years. Central to the conference will be an acknowledgement of the importance of literature and drama in helping us navigate challenging moments in history. Our Keynote Speakers include Bernardine Evaristo, Carolyn Forché and Andrew Cowan.

Dates: Friday 21 May–Sunday 23 May 2021



Bernardine Evaristo
© Jennie Scott

Contact: Andrea.Holland@uea.ac.uk and
T.Mcwatt@uea.ac.uk for further information

In association with EACWP (European Association of Creative Writing Programmes)



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James McDermott
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Mona Arshi
© Amanda Pepper Photography

FUTURE — AND — FORM



Mitch Johnson
© Harriet Johnson



Ayòbami Adebayò
© Canongate



Tash Aw
© Tara Sosrowardoyo

What will writing look like in 50 years? What role will authors play in the future? The anniversary year's flagship project, Future and Form, generously supported by Arts Council England, explores the interface between contemporary literature and creative technology.

Future and Form brings together UEA alumni Ayòbámi Adébáyò, Mona Arshi, Tash Aw, Imogen Hermes Gowar, Mitch Johnson and James McDermott with UEA faculty, creative technologists, cultural organisations and schools to explore the relationship between contemporary literature, creative technology and space. The project aims to increase engagement with literature among new and traditionally hard to reach audiences, while providing prototypes for possible literary futures.

The resulting work will be exhibited in a series of virtual and physical installations in April and May 2021. Cultural partners are National Centre for Writing, Norfolk & Norwich Festival, The Forum Trust, Norwich Millennium Library with Norfolk County Library and Information Service, Norwich

Theatre Royal, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Museum Service with Norwich Castle Museum, Ormiston Academies Trust, British Archive for Contemporary Writing and the Sainsbury Centre.

Technology partners are Mutiny and Guildhall Live Events, with support from GRIT, Immersive Studios and StoryFutures Academy.

Hedley Swain, Area Director for the South East at Arts Council England, said: 'It will be really exciting to see how Future and Form will harness digital technology and UEA's range of national and international partners to take new works of literature into places it's never been before. I hope these new works will inspire people to explore creative writing, both through reading and as writers in their own right.'

This highly innovative and exciting landmark project has been in development since April 2020, leading to the exhibition in spring 2021.

For more information please follow the link: www.futureandform.net



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ENGLAND**



A MESSAGE FROM UEA LIVE CO-DIRECTORS

For almost 30 years, the UEA Literary Festival has brought some of the world's foremost writers to Norfolk's doorstep, to share with the University and the wider community, in-depth insights into the stories behind the stories. The festival itself has helped to define what we know writing to be.

As we look towards the future of Creative Writing at UEA, our new iteration of the festival, UEA Live, will seek to broaden this definition - across disciplines, across continents, across experiences - while maintaining the curiosity, integrity and energy of the original festival.

Now, in the 50th year of Creative Writing at UEA, a year of extraordinary global change, is the perfect opportunity to look to the next 50 years of writing, both from UEA and beyond, and acknowledge the need to make more space for marginalised and underrepresented voices and stories.

We're grateful for the work of Chris Bigsby and Philip Langeskov, and we hope to build on their success in bringing edgy, world-class writers to Norfolk. At the same time we promise to bring our own intersectional and inclusive perspectives, and enthusiasm, to a new reimagined festival.

We look forward to sharing this new adventure with you all.

Kate Moorhead,
Lecturer in Creative Writing, School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing

Dr Alison Winch,
Lecturer in Media Studies, School of Art, Media and American Studies

UEA Live Co-directors

UEA Live is a different kind of literary festival. Our legacy is longstanding. Our voices are inclusive. Our events are experiences.

Previously known as the UEA Literary Festival, UEA Live has been welcoming the world's finest writers and thinkers to Norwich since 1991. That makes us the longest-established university-based literary festival.

We're proud of our broad, dynamic, inclusive programmes, unique heritage, and curious, charismatic community that brings the festival to life. In autumn 2020 and spring 2021, UEA Live will host two special event series, celebrating 50 years of Creative Writing at UEA.



Ayanna Gillian Lloyd
© Mark Gellineau

AUTUMN 2020 LINE-UP

Wednesday 7 October – Lee Child: The Reacher Guy with Lee Child and his biographer Heather Martin, chaired by Henry Sutton

Wednesday 14 October – Bocas Lit Fest Celebrates Caribbean Women's Writing with Ayanna Gillian Lloyd, Tessa McWatt and Ingrid Persaud, chaired by Alison Donnell

Wednesday 21 October – Diana Evans in conversation with Jean McNeil

Wednesday 28 October – Ian McEwan in conversation with Jon Cook

Wednesday 4 November – Poems, Perseverance and Positivity with Raymond Antrobus and Joe Dunthorne, chaired by Lewis Buxton

Wednesday 11 November – Lorna Sage: 20th Anniversary of Bad Blood with Louise Doughty, Victor Sage and Sharon Tolaini-Sage, chaired by Kathryn Hughes

Wednesday 18 November – Bernardine Evaristo in conversation with Claire Hynes

All events for UEA Live: Autumn 2020 will be online and available for free.

SPRING 2021 LINE-UP

Announced so far:

- Ali Smith
- Inua Ellams
- Christie Watson
- Tsitsi Dangarembga
- Future and Form panel
- Booker Prize conversation with Gaby Wood and Anne Enright

The full UEA Live: Spring 2021 line-up will be released later in the year. Keep up-to-date at www.uealive.com



The British Archive for Contemporary Writing

Supported by the
Foyle Foundation &
the Doris Lessing Estate

The British Archive for Contemporary Writing, founded in 2015, is an incredibly rich, diverse and growing collection of literary archives from some of the most critically and commercially acclaimed writers to be associated with UEA.

Visitors, students and researchers are truly inspired by their encounters with original manuscripts, correspondence, video interviews and working papers charting the creative process of some of the major works of English literature as well as the important cultural, social and political landscapes from which they emerged.

Our most notable collections include the archives of Nobel Laureate, Doris Lessing, the crime writer, Lee Child and acclaimed and prize-winning writers such as: Naomi Alderman, Tash Aw, Malcolm Bradbury, Amit Chaudhuri, Adam Foulds, Charlie Higson, J.D. Salinger, Roger Deakin,

Lorna Sage, Mark Cocker, W.G. Sebald and the acclaimed playwright, Snoo Wilson. Our aim is to continue building a truly contemporary collection and UEA's unique flexible loan model allows us to acquire discrete material from writers much earlier in their career.

The BACW holds exhibitions as part of Noirwich, the international crime writing festival, and in 2019 hosted the centenary of Nobel laureate, Doris Lessing, with an international exhibition and conference at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts. We also work in partnership with the National Centre for Writing, Heritage Open Days, Norfolk Festival of Nature and Norfolk County Council's Library and Information Service to bring our collections to new audiences and communities through exhibitions, events and workshops.

"I'm delighted that my archive will be stored at UEA. I have very happy memories of my year of MA study, which really changed my life, helping to form my writing and my working habits. Many of my papers relate to my time there - and it seems the natural home for them. I'm thrilled to be in such distinguished company, and to be working with a team who are helping to make sense of the objects and papers of my life."

Naomi Alderman



Naomi Alderman
© Annabel Moeller

CREATIVE WRITING SCHOLARSHIPS — AT UEA —

Our undergraduate, Master's and PhD degrees continue to have unparalleled success for our students, and attract world-class writers as lecturers and visiting fellows.

Thanks to the generous support of donors and supporters UEA is able to offer a number of creative writing scholarships and bursaries to talented students who may not have otherwise been able to attend their course.

To apply for a scholarship visit:
www.uea.ac.uk/creative-writing-scholarships



We would like to acknowledge the donors who have generously supported creative writing scholarships and bursaries in our 50th anniversary year.

- Annabel Abbs
- Kate Birch
- Booker Prize Foundation
- John Boyne
- Jane Donaldson and the donors who support the Seth Donaldson Memorial Bursary
- Louise Doughty and the many donors who support the UEA Crowdfunded Writers' Scholarship
- Caroline Heiser and the donors who support the Bryan Heiser Memorial Bursary
- The John Jarrold Trust
- David and Sarah Kowitz
- Elizabeth Macneal
- The Malcolm Bradbury Trust
- Generous donors to the Malcolm Bradbury Memorial Scholarship
- The Miles Morland Foundation
- The Novelry (Louise Dean)

We also thank all of our donors who, over the past 50 years, have passionately committed to nurturing writers from diverse backgrounds, supporting them to develop their unique voices through scholarships, bursaries and prize offerings.

PAST UEA/UNESCO CW VISITING PROFESSORS AND FELLOWS INCLUDE:



CARYL PHILLIPS

© Laurent Denimal



IAN RANKIN

© Hamish Brown



MARGARET ATWOOD

© Dave Guttridge

C



ALI SMITH

© Sarah Wood

5



INUA ELLAMS

© Andy Lo Pò

W



PRETI TANEJA

© Ben Gold

O

List of current and past faculty:
www.uea.ac.uk/about/school-of-literature-drama-and-creative-writing/creative-writing



WITH THANKS TO:

Prof Henry Sutton, Director
of Creative Writing

Prof Jean McNeil,
International co-ordinator,
Literature, Drama and
Creative Writing

Kate Moorhead,
Co-Director UEA Live

UEA Arts and Humanities
Festival and Events Team:
Molly Taylor, Sophie Scott,
Charlotte Reeve

Design by Ark:
www.designbyark.co.uk

UEA Development Office

UEA Creative Writing Staff
– past and present

UEA Creative Writing Alumni
– all students, past and present

Sir Kazuo Ishiguro

Prof David Richardson,
Vice-Chancellor

FMcM Associates

The School of Literature,
Drama and Creative Writing

University of East Anglia (UEA) is a UK Top 25 university and is ranked in the top 50 globally for research citations. Known for its world-leading research and good student experience, it was awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and is a leading member of Norwich Research Park, one of Europe's biggest concentrations of researchers in the fields of environment, health and plant science.

www.uea.ac.uk