

MSt in Creative Writing FAQs

Who can apply?

The most important qualification is writing talent, and the writing samples are the first things we look at in the application. A first degree in a relevant subject is helpful, but we have non-standard applicants too, and these are considered equally. Evidence that applicants are currently working with commitment to their writing may be important.

What are my chances of success?

We only take 18 students per year so entry is highly competitive. Nevertheless, if you feel you have a genuine talent for writing and a strong commitment to the work involved, you should certainly consider applying.

Who would be teaching me?

All tutors are professional writers or other professionals from the world of broadcasting and publishing.

Can you describe a typical student?

There is no typical student: previous cohorts have included students aged 22 to 69 from all walks of life and from Australia, New Zealand, the US, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Lebanon, the West Indies as well as the UK and Ireland.

What is a master of studies?

An MSt (peculiar to Oxford and Cambridge) is the same level as an MA (Master of Arts) in other universities.

What does the first year of the MSt involve?

The first year involves four residential sessions at Madingley Hall; each of these lasts four days. There are eight writing assignments in the first year - half are creative writing and half are critical writing.

What does the second year involve?

The final assignment (Dissertation) which forms the student's work in the second year consists of 15,000 words (4,000 words for poetry) of creative writing in a genre of the student's choice (subject to agreement by ICE staff) plus a 3,000-word critical commentary. Students receive five supervisions in the second year (each lasting about an hour) - these consist of one-to-one sessions with their supervisor, face-to-face or by Skype if the student lives some distance from Cambridge.

If the MSt is not for me are there other creative writing courses the University offers at ICE?

We offer an Undergraduate Certificate in Creative Writing, Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing, a Summer School in Creative Writing and a range of short term and online courses in the subject. Click on the links below for further information:

[Undergraduate Certificate in Creative Writing: Fiction and Writing for Performance](#)

[Undergraduate Certificate in Creative Writing: Creative Non-Fiction](#)

[Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing: Advanced Fiction and Non-Fiction](#)

[Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing: Historical Fiction, Crime Writing and Writing for Performance](#)

[Creative Writing Summer Programme](#)

[Short courses](#)

[Online courses](#)