

MASTER OF ARTS CREATIVE WRITING

Duration:

Full-Time — 1.5 Years (3 Semesters)

Part-Time — 3 Years (6 Semesters)

Award:

Master of Arts

Creative Writing

Mode:

Full-Time or Part-Time

Classes will be conducted

mostly in the evenings

Intake:

January



1 Programme Leader, Dr Darryl Whetter guiding group critique



2 Vicky Chong, Class of 2018



3 Olivier Castaignède, Class of 2018



4 Class of 2018, reading at Shophouse: A Reading by the First Cohort of MA Creative Writing Students



5 Class of 2018, reading at George Town Literary Festival 2017



6 Dawn Lo, Class of 2018

"I teach writing because I couldn't live without literature. Most of my soul is made of books. To be able to accelerate a postgraduate student's journey into that kind of heightened self-awareness and communicative power can be, quite simply, beautiful. Programme graduates will deepen their abilities to think, feel and communicate."

*Dr Darryl Whetter
Programme Leader, MA Creative Writing*

Delight in the revelatory power of an unforgettable phrase, the delicious slipperiness of language, the myriad satisfactions of story, and the adaptability of narratives that migrate from page to stage and screens large or small. As a postgraduate student of Creative Writing at LASALLE, you will study alongside a rich community of visual artists, filmmakers, designers, dancers, photographers, actors and other arts professionals in a programme validated by celebrated arts university, Goldsmiths, University of London. Elsewhere, Creative Writing students and faculty are isolated from other campus artist-researchers or overshadowed by science and business programmes. At LASALLE's vibrant, downtown campus our MA Creative Writing students work in a creative milieu devoted exclusively to artists and art professionals.

The MA Creative Writing Programme is available in two modes: full-time for three semesters over one-and-a-half years or part-time for six semesters over three years. Writing students gain both breadth and depth through workshops devoted to all the major genres (fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama) followed by a creative thesis project written in the genre of their choice. This sustained study of writing, editing and publishing also provides students a critical, theoretical and historical framework for the analysis of literature, art, communication and arts pedagogy.

Intensive graduate writing workshops and dialogue with visiting writers improves writing, reading and editing abilities while also providing meta-lessons in perception, creative problem solving, social-emotional intelligence, communicative precision, interpersonal diplomacy, community, empathy, and, yes, human nature. Timeless philosophical questions about identity, knowledge, individuality, work, community, family, nationality, love, ethics and meaning, etc., arise and evolve through sustained, informed and self-aware writing in addition to consultations with our published writing faculty, workshop peers, guest writers and industry professionals. LASALLE offers all its students a steady parade of visiting artists and art professionals devoted to aesthetic perfection, informed creativity and passionate enquiry.

We prepare the writers, editors, publishers, cultural curators and writing teachers of tomorrow within and beyond dynamic, energetic Singapore. With its international partnership with Goldsmiths, its rich history of arts education and exciting new MA Programmes Arts Pedagogy and Practice, Art Therapy, Asian Art Histories and Arts and Cultural Leadership, LASALLE is proud to provide the first taught MA Creative Writing in Singapore while also aligning Singapore and Southeast Asia to the world's exponentially growing market for literary production, publishing and pedagogy.

Write here.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

This full-time programme spans three consecutive semesters within a 1.5-year duration. Semesters 1 and 2 each have two 30-credit modules. In Semester 2, a 30-credit elective module option is made available to you with a choice to take the module offered by your respective programme or, in consultation with your Programme Leader, select a module offered by another MA programme. The 60-credit module in the final (3rd) semester will support you to develop a final writing project or portfolio complemented by an extended critical essay.

FULL-TIME

SEMESTER 1	CREDIT POINTS
Research Methods in Creative Arts	30
Story	30
SEMESTER 2	CREDIT POINTS
Dramatic Writing	30
Language, Poetics and the Writer's Craft	30
SEMESTER 3	CREDIT POINTS
Final Research	60

In the part-time mode, the programme spans six consecutive semesters within a 3-year duration. You are required to complete one 30-credit module each in Semesters 1 to 4. The Final Research 60-credit module will span the last 2 semesters in the final year. Part-time students will begin with the Research Methods in Creative Arts module as this establishes core principles and skills necessary across all MA programmes, while also introducing techniques of research, and enables you to present and write analytically and critically across relevant issues in your field of study. You will undergo academic guidance from your Programme Leader to organise your course of study.

Research Methods in Creative Arts

This module introduces you to arts research through a thorough study of research methods and analytical techniques informing artistic and critical practices at the MA level. Research operates within a critical context and this module aims to prepare you to confidently articulate your practice, formulate your own critical arguments, and formulate methods to investigate and probe issues. Creative Writing students will also devote at least the second half of this module to writing creative non-fiction.

Story

This module informs and interconnects with all other modules on the Masters programme, focusing on the nature of stories and storytelling, which is a fundamental element of all forms and genres of Creative Writing, including non-fiction. You will examine the origins, histories and theories of story, the art of storytelling and the imaginative creation of fiction, with particular reference to narrative prose fiction. You will also consider some of the complex relationships that underlie storytelling, including between writer and reader, and text and subtext. The close examination of case study texts develops in students a comprehensive understanding of how different story elements and structures have been employed across different cultures and historical periods, including examples of cutting-edge contemporary works.

Dramatic Writing

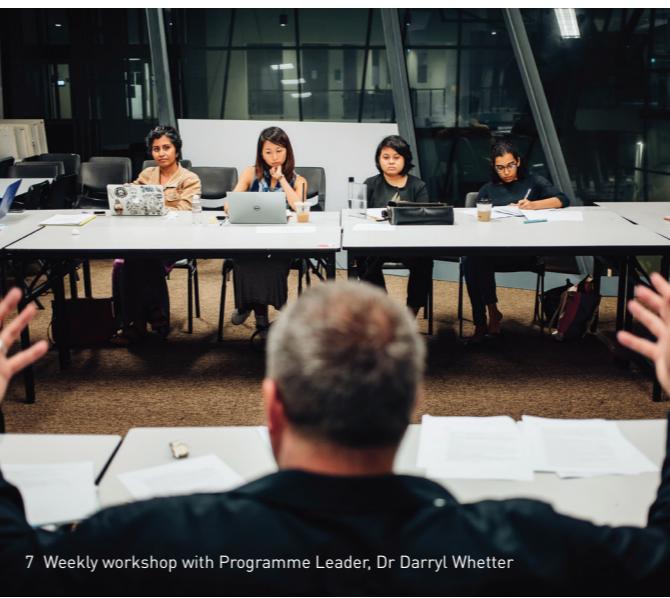
This module enables you to examine and analyse the fundamental elements and techniques applied in writing drama, including plays for theatre and screenplays for film and television, and to consider how these principles can also be used effectively across all other forms of Creative Writing. A sophisticated understanding of dramatic forms, structures and techniques allows the novelist or poet, for example, to gain new insights into developing compelling dialogue sequences and dramatic plot progressions.

Language, Poetics & the Writer's Craft

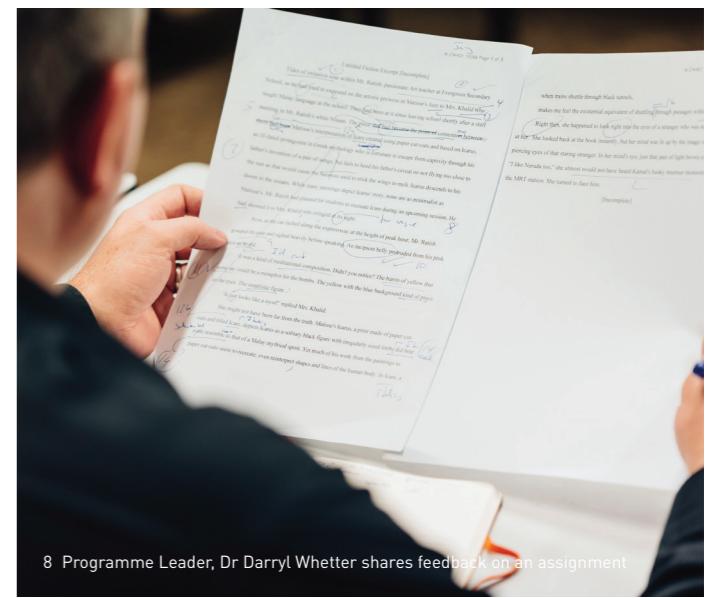
The purpose of this module is to provide students with an appreciation of the power of language and how the key concepts and techniques that are the foundations of poetry can be effectively applied to enhance the impact and eloquence of all forms and genres of Creative Writing. You have the opportunity to read, perform, analyse and deconstruct their work in workshops as well as to offer and receive critical feedback with your peers.

Final Research

This module focuses on the research, preparation and delivery of either (1) a single extended piece of writing or (2) a portfolio of thematically connected writing. The creative component will demonstrate and apply the detailed and systematic understandings, skills and techniques developed through the programme; and your ability to creatively interrelate and synthesise ideas and techniques across different forms. The creative element of the project is complemented by an extended critical essay, which interrogates the research processes undertaken and analyses pertinent critical, theoretical and contextual issues and debates.



7 Weekly workshop with Programme Leader, Dr Darryl Whetter



8 Programme Leader, Dr Darryl Whetter shares feedback on an assignment

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

LASALLE has a long tradition of practice-led research in art and design. The College aims to assume a significant role in Singapore for practice-led research in visual, performing and literary arts, and aspires to add the distinctive viewpoint of Singapore to research into artistic practice in the 21st century.

The Research Methods in Creative Arts module is a common module which all students are required to undertake. You will have the opportunity to interact with one another in the first term (7 weeks), to network with peers in other MA programmes and foster a stronger community of research practice that enhances your respective discipline of study as well as within the College.

You will be introduced to relevant professional methods of research and creation which may include profiles of and/or dialogue with creative professionals, critical/theoretical discourse, action research, visual object analysis, textual analysis, case studies, historical and ethnographic research, interviews, life-stories/autobiographies, etc. You will be introduced to research practices such as literature reviews, process-based discovery, bibliographical searches, quantitative & qualitative methods, citations and the construction of research questions.

Postgraduate students are constantly exposed to first-hand experience in current practices of research and creation, leading to the acquiring powerful knowledge and of a wide set of skills by the time you graduate. You will have opportunities to develop expertise in accordance with your research interests.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

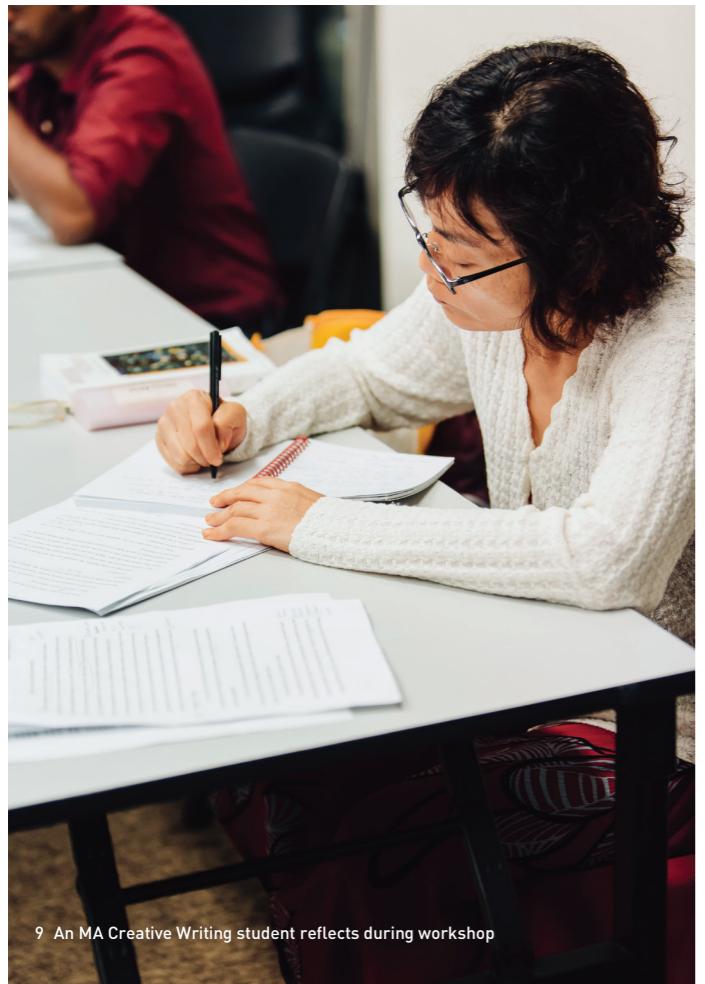
The programme explores in detail theoretical understandings, practical approaches and professional techniques applied in creative writing across multiple forms and genres; you develop and apply these through your own creative exercises and projects. Your writing is shared, discussed and critiqued by both tutors and peers in regular group workshops. Workshops are an important element of the programme, providing continuing constructive feedback, practical editing experience and ideas for further development and enhancement.

Alongside coursework, you will engage with established and emerging writers (from the region and the world) through seminars and workshops; and where possible, attend and participate in various writers' festivals and literary events in Singapore and the region; in 2017, MA candidates were invited festival authors at the George Town Literary Festival in Penang.

The programme takes a multicultural approach, examining Eastern and Western approaches, practices and traditions. Singaporean and Southeast Asian writing practitioners and industry professionals are invited to host seminars and workshops, to discuss their own work and the work of others that have influenced them.

You will develop a comprehensive and practical understanding of how different modes of research and enquiry are used both to create and develop works of fiction, non-fiction, drama and poetry, and to interpret, illuminate and 'deconstruct' them. You will examine how major developments within literary and philosophical theory such as structuralism, poststructuralism and postcolonial studies have not only shifted understandings and interpretations of texts, but have also impacted on how writers approach their craft, and how writing is itself perceived.

LASALLE's pedagogical philosophy contends that there is no artificial separation between 'theory' and 'practice' – both are imbricated together and inform one another. The teaching and learning methods highlight a continuous interplay and interrelationship between practical explorations, critical enquiry and theoretical reflection. As a student in the MA Creative Writing Programme, you will be encouraged to reflect on your writing practice and theory both individually and as part of formal and informal writing workshops. You are expected to be self-motivated, to engage in independent research, as well as to develop the ability to evaluate your own work and to expand your awareness of the critical developments in Creative Writing and contemporary arts. You will be exposed to good professional practices in order to increase your potential success and potential as a creative writer.



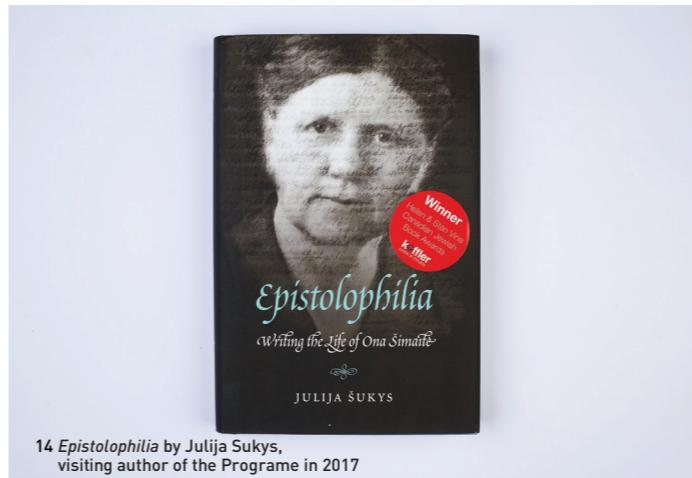
9 An MA Creative Writing student reflects during workshop

10 Award-winning film-maker and MA Creative Writing student
Mohammed Saleem Abdul Hadi sharing his ideas during a weekly workshop

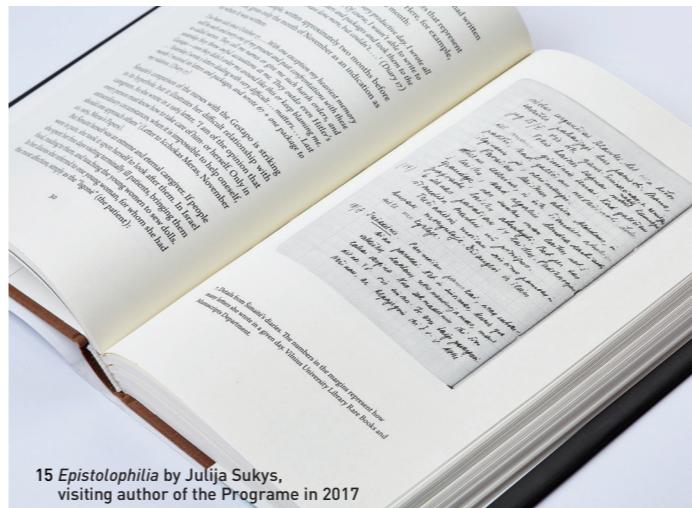
11 Visiting author Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan



12 Keeping Things Whole



13 Sarong Party Girls

15 Epistolophilia by Julija Sukys,
visiting author of the Programme in 2017

THE FACULTY



Dr Darryl Whetter
Programme Leader

- PhD in English, University of New Brunswick, Canada
- MA in English and Creative Writing, University of New Brunswick, Canada
- Diploma in University Teaching, University of New Brunswick, Canada
- Bachelor of Arts, Honours, (English, Drama and Creative Writing), Queen's University, Canada

Dr Whetter is a novelist, poet, essayist, scholar, short story writer and critic from Canada. His first book, the story collection *A Sharp Tooth in the Fur*, was named to *The Globe and Mail's* Top 100 Book of 2003. His novels include the multi-generational smuggling epic *Keeping Things Whole* and the bicycle odyssey *The Push & the Pull*. His first book of poems, *Origins*, concerns evolution, energy and extinction. His second poetry collection, *Search Box Bed*, examines our wired world. He has published or presented literary essays in France, Germany, Sweden, USA, Canada, England, India and Iceland. His book reviews appear in numerous papers, including *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star*, *The National Post*, *The Montreal Gazette* and *The Detroit Times*, as well as on national CBC Radio.

A range of international experts will provide lectures and seminars.

GRADUATE CAREER PATHS

Publishing (in all forms); Novel, Short Story and Poetry Writing; Theatre Playwriting and Dramaturgy; Screenwriting and Filmmaking; Journalism (Both Print and Broadcast); Arts Criticism; Digital Games; Writing for Industry and Business; Copywriting for Advertising and Marketing; Editing; Arts Administration; Business Administration; and Academia.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A good honours degree or equivalent.
- A satisfactory score in written and spoken English OR a minimum of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL iBT 100 for applicants from countries where English is not the first language or whose qualifications are obtained from institutions where English is not the medium of instruction.
- A Creative Writing portfolio between 2000 and 3000 words. The portfolio can contain prose fiction, poetry, a script, journalism, or a combination of any of these. The writing will be appraised according to its strength of originality, imagination, fluency, language and style, and your perceived ability to satisfactorily achieve the Master's level award having completed the programme. While it is acknowledged that some students will learn and assimilate creative skills at a faster rate than others, applicants' work will be assessed according to their overall potential as creative writers.
- Applicants will then have a face-to-face interview, or one conducted by telephone or Skype.

PHOTOS

[page 2:](#)
2 to 5. © Courtesy Michael Toh

[page 6:](#)
11. © Courtesy James Veall

- [page 7:](#)
- 12. Whetter, Darryl (2013) *Keeping Things Whole*. Vagrant Press, Halifax.
ISBN 9781771080309
 - 13. Lu-Lien Tan, Cheryl (2016) *Sarong Party Girls*. HarperCollins Publishers, New York. ISBN 9780062448965
 - 14. Šukys, Julija (2012) *Epistolophilia*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. ISBN 9780803236325
 - 15. Šukys, Julija (2012) *Epistolophilia*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. ISBN 9780803236325

ABOUT LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore is a leading tertiary institution in cutting edge contemporary arts and design education and practice. The college offers more than 30 diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in fine arts, design communication, interior design, product design, film, animation, fashion, dance, music, theatre, arts management, arts pedagogy and practice, art therapy, Asian art histories, and creative writing.

Its faculty is led by a community of award-winning artists, designers, educators and researchers, and their practice-led research sets LASALLE apart as an international centre of excellence. Critically acclaimed alumni form the core of the cultural and creative sectors in Singapore and increasingly, internationally.

Founded in 1984 by De La Salle Brother Joseph McNally – a visionary artist and educator – LASALLE is a not-for-profit, private educational institution. LASALLE receives tuition grant support from the Singapore Ministry of Education. Its degree programmes are validated by Goldsmiths, University of London.

CONTACT US

For Programme consultation or to schedule a guided campus tour, contact our Admissions Office.

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Monday – Friday, 9:30am – 5:30pm
Closed on weekends and Public Holidays

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Partner Institution



Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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