

# MASTER OF ARTS **CREATIVE WRITING**

**MODE**

Full-time / Part-time  
Classes will be conducted mostly  
in the evenings.

**DURATION**

Full-time — 1.5 Years (3 Semesters)  
Part-time — 3 Years (6 Semesters)

**INTAKE**

January

# DEVELOP YOUR LITERARY VOICE AND CREATE STORIES THAT COME ALIVE FROM PAGE TO STAGE AND SCREEN.



Image:  
MA Creative Writing students at the 23rd Annual Australasian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP) Conference in Perth, Australia.

Timeless philosophical questions about identity, knowledge, individuality, work, community, family, nationality, love, ethics and meaning arise through sustained, informed and self-aware writing.

## OVERVIEW

The MA in Creative Writing is the first-of-its-kind in Singapore and Southeast Asia focused on graduating publishable authors, critical writers and producing new literature and written work.

In this one and only taught creative writing programme in Singapore, you will acquire a deep appreciation of the written word and the construction of written forms such as poetry, creative non-fiction, fiction, screenplays and ficto-critical writing through taught modules, regular writing workshops and peer study.

The programme prepares the writers, editors, publishers, cultural curators and writing teachers of tomorrow who develop narratives that migrate from page to stage and screens, while aligning Singapore and Southeast Asia to the world's exponentially growing market for literary production, publishing and pedagogy.

You will 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 your choice. This sustained study of writing, editing and publishing 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 human nature. Timeless philosophical questions about identity, knowledge, individuality, work, community, family, nationality, love, ethics and meaning 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.

You will have an opportunity to participate in local and regional writing festivals to build an awareness of networks, circulation and reception of the written word. The programme also features workshops and dialogues with visiting writers from around the world, including Asian and Singapore writing voices.

Graduates of the programme have already made a significant mark being published by international literary publishers and winning awards particularly in Singapore.

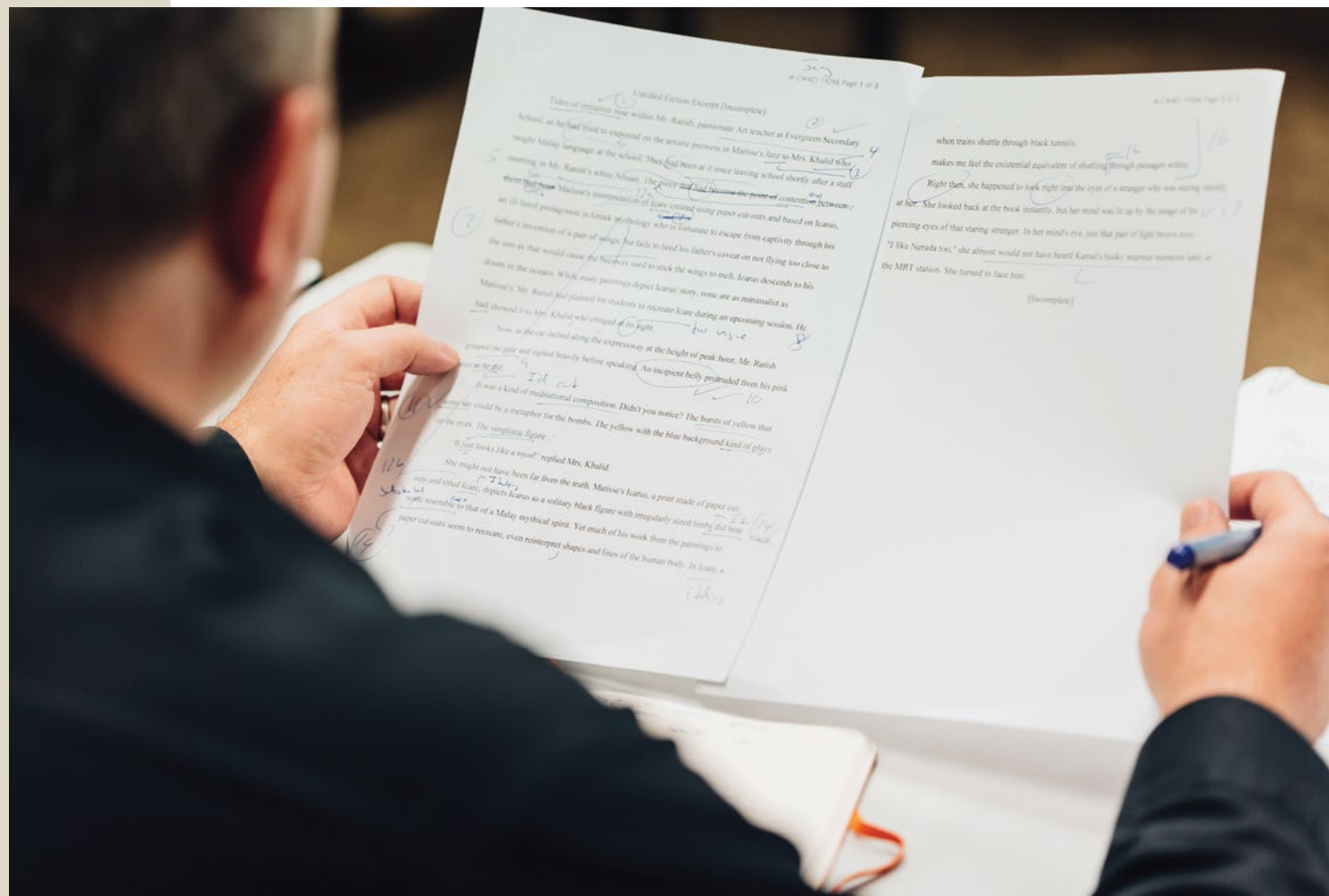


Image:  
Alumni Prachi Topiwala-Agarwal (right) and Vicky Chong (left) won First and Third Prize respectively in the fiction category at the inaugural Asia-Pacific Nick Joaquin Literary Awards.



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 allow you to develop a thesis or a practice-based project/exhibition based on your research interests.

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 three-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 two 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 is an introduction 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 methods to investigate and probe issues.

Story

This module informs and interconnects with all other modules on the Master’s 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, for example, to gain new insights into developing compelling dialogue sequences and dramatic plot progressions. Poets can share a dramatist’s love of juxtaposition (e.g. between action and dialogue) but also between the line- or stanza-break and the screenwriter’s cut.

Language, Poetics and 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 your 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 a single extended piece of writing or 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 as well as 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.



^ Image: Filmmaker and MA Creative Writing alumnus Mohammed Saleem Abdul Hadi, winner of the Golden Point Award, sharing his ideas during a weekly workshop.

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 (seven 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 also 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 of powerful knowledge and a wide set of skills by the time you graduate. You will have opportunities to develop expertise in accordance with your research interests.

Image: Reading by MA Creative Writing students at Singapore Writers Festival, 2018. v



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 around the world) through seminars and workshops. Where possible, you will attend and participate in various writers’ festivals and literary events in Singapore and the region. In 2017, MA students 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 as well as poetry 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 develop the ability to evaluate your own work and 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.



# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## Academic requirements

- A Bachelor's degree from a recognised local or international institution.
- A minimum of IELTS 7.0, TOEFL iBT 100 or PTE Academic 65 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.

## Statement of purpose

In 500 – 1,000 words, highlight your reasons for applying to this programme and how they relate to your future plans. You may also include a brief description of your research interest(s) that you are keen to explore.

## Reference letter

Provide a reference letter to support your application.

## Portfolio

Your portfolio may 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 overall potential as a creative writer. You are required to upload your portfolio online.

## Interview

All applicants will attend an interview. During the interview, you are required to participate in a dialogue regarding the purpose of your application. Please be prepared to talk about your background, what inspires you and your influences. We would like to find out what motivates you to learn, explore and experiment in your areas of interest. You should also share how you think the programme will benefit you in your future career choices or develop your research interests.

## International applicants

If you are unable to attend the interview at LASALLE, an online interview will be arranged for you.



Image:  
MA Creative Writing student, Seema Punwani, with her debut novel, *Cross Connections* (2018).

# CAREER PATHS

Novel, short story and poetry writing, playwriting and dramaturgy, screenwriting and filmmaking, journalism (print and broadcast), arts criticism, digital games, writing for industry and business, copywriting for advertising and marketing, editing, arts administration, business administration and academia.

Image: MA Creative Writing student, Chen Cuifen, posing with the anthology *In This Desert, There Were Seeds* (2019), in which her story appears.



Image:  
MA Creative Writing students at the George Town Literary Festival, 2019.



# THE FACULTY



**Dr Rosslyn Prosser**  
Programme Leader

- PhD (Gender Studies/Creative Writing) University of Adelaide, South Australia
- MA (Writing) University of Technology, Sydney
- BA Communications Studies, University of South Australia

Dr Rosslyn Prosser is an academic and writer who publishes in a range of forms and genres from academic publication to life-writing, prose and creative non-fiction. Rosslyn has taught creative writing, literary studies, media and communications and gender studies in Australian universities for over 20 years.

Prior to joining LASALLE, she was Head of Department, English and Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide and taught in the Creative Writing Major, Honours in Creative Writing, and has supervised a number of Masters and PhDs in Creative Writing.

Rosslyn has a passion for experimenting with form and structure as well as enabling and encouraging students to work across the many fields of writing that are available to them. She is an innovative academic, and has developed a range of initiatives to encourage learning, writing and community building. One of the initiatives was an online publication for Undergraduate Creative Writing students produced in their final year course, which allows students to undertake all aspects of editing and publishing.

Rosslyn has successfully published interdisciplinary research and writing, and has publications in peer reviewed journals, curatorial and non-traditional outputs. She has received substantive Australian Research Council grant that demonstrates her capacity for engagement with external bodies and community engagement with demonstrable outcomes. She has convened and organised successful engagement events with the galleries, libraries, archives and museums sector and convened and organised significant writing symposia and events.

Rosslyn also gives presentations at national and international conferences and symposiums. Rosslyn has extensive contacts and links in the creative writing sector.

# ABOUT LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Asia's leading tertiary institution in contemporary arts  
and design education and practice.

LASALLE College of the Arts offers 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.

LASALLE provides a nurturing, interdisciplinary learning environment to inspire the next generation of forward-looking, globally engaged artists, designers and leaders of creative industries.

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.

Founded in 1984 by the late De La Salle Brother Joseph McNally – a visionary artist and educator – LASALLE is a non-profit private educational institution. The College receives tuition grant support from Singapore's 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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admissions@lasalle.edu.sg

www.lasalle.edu.sg

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

## CONNECT WITH US

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Partner Institution:



Cert No.: EDU-1-1002  
Validity: 01/10/2019 – 30/9/2023

LASALLE College of the Arts is registered with the Committee for Private Education (CPE). The Committee for Private Education is part of SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG).  
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Validity: 25/03/2019 – 24/03/2023

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