PART-TIME AND SHORT COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

January to July 2023
Welcome to our Spring and Summer 2023 programme of short courses.

We offer a variety of short courses in English Literature, creative writing, history and more. They aim to support, inspire and create new opportunities.

Our courses, including our part-time undergraduate degree in English Literature and Community Engagement are inclusive and open to all adults, with no prior qualifications required in most cases.

Whatever your experiences or qualifications, I hope we can look forward to welcoming you to one of the courses listed in this booklet.

Marie-Annick Gournet
Associate Professor in Lifelong Learning and Inclusive Pedagogy
Booking details

The majority of courses take place at the University of Bristol Arts Complex on Woodland Road. Our short courses run across three terms during the academic year, in Autumn, Spring and Summer, with breaks for school half-term and University vacation periods. You must pre-book online via the University of Bristol secure online shop to attend any of our courses. Places on our short courses are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and payment is required at the time of booking. We are unable to accept reservations for our courses, however payment by instalment can be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

Please visit our website for further information and links to book: bristol.ac.uk/part-time-english-courses

Please note, details for our Spring and Summer 2023 courses are subject to occasional change due to circumstances outside of our control. Please always check our website for the most up-to-date information.

Get in touch

Email: english-lifelong@bristol.ac.uk
Phone: 0117 928 8924
We run three 8-week taster courses per year for adults who would like to try University-level study in an open and supportive environment. These are free to join, with no prior qualifications required. The tasters are held at community organisations across the city of Bristol, and priority is given to residents of the local area.

**SPRING 2023**

**Imagining the World through Storytelling: An Introduction to World Literature** with Sophia Ioannides

📅 30 January to 27 March 2023  
(no class 13 February half-term)  
🕒 Mondays, 6 pm to 7:30 pm  
📍 St Paul’s Learning Centre

What do we mean when we speak about ‘world literature’? This 8-week course for adults will introduce you to a range of literature from across the globe, guided by a University tutor. You will explore how stories travel across time and space, and how writers imagine the world in different ways.

**SUMMER 2023**

**Community Past and Present: Studying Social History** with April Gallwey

📅 15 May to 10 July 2023  
(no class 29 May half-term)  
🕒 Mondays, 1 pm to 3 pm  
📍 The Greenway Centre, Southmead

This taster will introduce participants to the study of Social History, which unlike other forms of historical enquiry places the experiences of ordinary people, in particular, the working-class, women, and children, at its centre. It will explore the history of everyday life – family, education, work – in Britain, since 1900, and look at some of the major changes to people’s lives across the 20th century, up to the present day. We will discuss the idea of ‘community’ too: was community more stable in the past or does it continue to have strong meaning for people today?
Short Courses in Creative Writing

SPRING 2023

Write Now with Joanna Nadin

📅 24 January to 21 March 2023
(no class 14 February half-term)
⏰ Tuesdays, 6 pm to 8 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

Course fee: £160

Write Now uses excerpts from award-winning contemporary novels as a springboard for discussions about the current craft and context of creative writing, as well as prompts for your own work, from prose to verse fiction and life-writing. Each week will include in-class exercises, and dedicated time to work on your own pieces, culminating in a celebration session of reading and feedback.

“I loved the course. Jo is a delightful teacher. She is very knowledgeable and encouraging. I loved the combination of learning about writing through discussing books.”

WRITE NOW STUDENT, AUTUMN 2021

SPRING 2023

Introduction to Freelance Journalism with Lesley Gillilan

📅 1 February to 29 March 2023
(no class 15 February half-term)
⏰ Wednesdays, 4 pm to 6 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

Course fee: £160

This course will introduce you to the nuts and bolts of journalistic writing. The course will explore how to formulate, pitch and research ideas, how to sell your work (and to whom), as well as exploring editorial genres and experimenting with various forms of journalism; from interviews and reviews to features and travel writing. As well as a toolkit of insights and practical information, the course will include writing exercises, feedback, discussion, homework and, of course, deadlines.
SPRING 2023

Memoir and Life Writing
with Rachel Bentham

📅 22 February to 26 April 2023
(no class on 5 and 12 April)
⏰ Wednesdays, 2 pm to 4 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex,
Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

Course fee: £160

How can we write about our lived experience? This course aims to encourage, support, and excite participants in engaging with creative writing in a safe and informal space. You will be introduced to a variety of approaches to memoir and life writing through a discussion of different texts, and we’ll do writing exercises to explore your material in a confidential space. There will be opportunities to share your work and get feedback if you wish.

“A excellent course that inspired me to start writing the book I had imagined writing for years!”

MEMOIR AND LIFE WRITING STUDENT,
SPRING 2022

SPRING 2023

A World of Poetic Forms
with Carrie Etter

📅 1 February to 29 March 2023
(no class 15 February half-term)
⏰ Wednesdays, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
📍 Online

Course fee: £160

This course explores an array of poetic forms with origins from all over the world: haiku, ghazals, pantoums, pastorals, prose poems, odes, and one of the most recently invented forms, the golden shovel. Students will read and discuss a range of engaging examples before trying the form themselves. The course will culminate in a discussion of next steps, including approaches to revision, and a celebratory reading of students’ best work.
SUMMER 2023

Writing your World (for beginners) with Billy Kahora

📅 10 May to 5 July 2023
(no class 31 May half-term)
⏰ Wednesdays, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB
Course fee: £160

This is an exciting course which enables students to use their experiences to write their own piece of creative writing over eight weeks. Combining this with your own imagination, close reading skills and their application, and working with others, you will learn how creative writing works. The course also draws on examples of the craft of short story writing from writers around the globe including Bristol.

“An engaging, thought-provoking, superbly structured course led by a dynamic and encouraging teacher. I would recommend this course to anybody interested in developing their creative writing skills.”

WRITING YOUR WORLD STUDENT, SUMMER 2021

SUMMER 2023

Nature Writing (for intermediate/advanced) with Steven Lovatt

📅 3 May to 28 June 2023
(no class 31 May half-term)
⏰ Wednesdays, 6 pm to 8 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB
Course fee: £160

This 8-week course provides a rich and supportive forum for you to develop your ability as a writer of environmental creative nonfiction, whether for personal enrichment or with a view to publication. During this course you will learn how to capture the character of a landscape or experience of nature in words, techniques for training your senses, narrative technique and style, as well as practical skills such as editing, proofreading and the publishing process. Drawing on the heritage of nature writing, yet looking for ways to extend and enrich it, this course provides practical immersion for those with some experience as nature writers.
Creative Writing Mentoring Scheme for intermediate writers

📅 February 2023 to May 2023
🔍 Agreed between mentor and mentee

Course fee: £300

Our mentoring programme is designed to provide writers with focused support to help address specific issues they are facing in their writing. You will be matched with a mentor who has expertise in one of the following genres: writing for young readers; women’s (commercial) fiction/romance; literary fiction; science fiction; fantasy; nature writing; travel writing; memoir; crime (mystery/thriller); poetry and more. Your mentor will offer three 50-minute one-to-one sessions and feedback on up to 10,000 words or six pages of poems.

The sessions will be structured as follows:

- **First session** – you will discuss the issue and the mentor will provide guidance. You will be invited to submit 5,000 words after two weeks of initial meeting.

- **Second session** – within three weeks of receiving first submission, the mentor will evaluate, discuss, and provide feedback and pointers on the 5,000 words. You will then be invited to submit another 5,000 words after two weeks of the second mentoring session.

- **Final session** – you will discuss the work and plan next steps with your mentor.
The Monthly Read: Faces and Fortunes
with Stephen Derry

- 22 February, 22 March and 19 April 2023
- 2 pm to 4:30 pm
- University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

Course fee: £120

Join our monthly seminar-style sessions led by a University tutor to discuss popular and little-known fiction. Faces are of central significance in all three of these Victorian fictions of double lives: Ellen Wood’s melodramatic romance, possibly the best-selling novel of the 19th century, Anthony Hope’s adventurous intrigue, which introduced the word “Ruritanian” into the language and Oscar Wilde’s scandalous tale of fin-de-siecle damnation.

February: East Lynne, Mrs Henry Wood (1861)

March: The Prisoner of Zenda, Anthony Hope (1894)

April: The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde (1891)

“The course has been a beacon of purpose, focus, excitement, intellectual enlightenment and inspiration. I love that I learn something new each time and go away with ideas of other texts to read. I feel that the course has given me intellectual inspiration and lifted me up.”

THE MONTHLY READ PARTICIPANT, AUTUMN 2021
**SPRING 2023**

**Detective and Crime Fiction: The Scene of the Crime**
with Emma Crowley, Stephen Derry, Tim Gao, Sian Harris, Jo Parsons, Deborah Lam and special guest playwright Dan Rebellato.

📅 1 February to 29 March 2023  
(no class 15 February half-term)
🕒 Wednesdays, 6 pm to 8 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

**Course fee:** £160

This 8-week course explores detective and crime fiction with a focus on ‘the scene of the crime’. From the US to the Antarctic, Paris to London, our team of lecturers’ expertise spans from the 19th century to the golden age and hard-boiled fiction to modern crime. They will take you on an exploration of place and space to consider how and why the ‘where’ is important in these fictions.

**SUMMER 2023**

**Literature and Environmental Challenge**
with Sue Edney. This course will feature a special guest lecture session with author Professor Terry Gifford on the poetry of Ted Hughes.

📅 9 May to 27 June 2023
🕒 Tuesdays, 6 pm to 8 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

**Course fee:** £160

The environmental crises we face pose unprecedented challenges for all species, resulting from human activity over several centuries and across the globe. How do we write about loss and damage, and underlying fear, while continuing to celebrate the wonder of the nonhuman world, and to find hope? In this short course, we’ll look at the background to present-day ‘environmental’ writing by tracing its origins in previous centuries, and how 20th-century fears manifest in new kinds of writing.
Reading English Literature

📅 25 January to 3 May 2023
⏰ Wednesdays, 6 pm to 8:45 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

**Entry requirements:** No prior qualifications are required for this course.

**Course fee:** £390. Payment can be made in instalments. Funding support is available to those on benefits or a low income.

Reading English Literature (REL) is a short 20-credit course designed to help mature students progress to a part-time degree in the English department or to explore other opportunities for further study. It enables students to develop skills in literary study, critical thinking and essay-writing, whilst providing an enjoyable introduction to the study of classic and modern literature. Share your ideas, explore poetry and gain a greater understanding of Shakespeare. Students will have full access to the University library and student study centres.

“It was a great confidence boost to have an essay marked after 15 years out of education and know that I can write something that is worthwhile reading and got good marks. I would recommend it to anyone who feels like they aren’t sure if they’re clever enough for university-level work, your confidence and knowledge is built up slowly and in a fun and engaging way.”

READING ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDENT, 2022
Black History: Revisited

Wednesdays, 6 pm to 8:45 pm, with breaks for half-term and Easter

25 January to 8 March 2023 at St Paul's Learning Centre, 19 April to 24 May 2023 at University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

Entry requirements: No prior qualifications are required for this course.

Course fee: £252. Payment can be made in instalments. Funding support is available to those on benefits or a low income.

This course will provide you with historical knowledge and critical skills to understand contemporary debates around black history. You will explore the value of evidence, ways of interpreting evidence and the role of bias including when approaching historical sources. We will draw on archives from a diverse range of sources including art, literature, film and music.

This course will be led by Dr Edson Burton, with guest lectures by academics at the forefront of research into the history of the transatlantic trade of enslaved Africans, the sociology of race and post-colonial discourses.
Courses for graduates

JANUARY 2023

Mastering English Literature

📅 25 January to 26 April 2023 with breaks for half-term and Easter
🕒 Wednesdays, 6 pm to 8 pm
📍 University of Bristol Arts Complex, Woodland Road, BS8 1TB

Entry requirements: An undergraduate degree in any subject, from any university.

Course fee: £440. Payments can be made in instalments.

Mastering English Literature (MEL) is for graduates of any discipline. The course will support students to analyse texts and write essays to graduate standard. The programme is for those wanting to explore literature as an academic pursuit or as preparation for application to MA programmes in English Literature, Medieval Literature, Black Humanities and Creative Writing offered at Bristol. MEL allows graduates to sample the University’s expertise in the fields of medieval literature; Shakespeare and renaissance literature; romantic and Victorian literature; 20th-century and contemporary literature; literature and the environment; and creative writing.

The course is designed to prepare students for postgraduate scholarship, and participants will have the opportunity to work with specialist tutors on an academic essay that could be submitted in support of an application for postgraduate study in a literary discipline.

Students will have full access to the University library and student study centres. Guidance will be provided for students who wish to progress to an MA in English.

“The course has really been life-changing. I had no idea that would happen when I signed up. Rediscovering academic study, falling in love with reading again and discovering texts I would never normally have come across, has all been an absolute joy. It’s also given me back confidence I’d lost and the opportunity to focus on something I feel passionate about. My hope now is to complete an MA and a PhD.”

MASTERING ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDENT, 2021
Welcome to our flagship part-time programme, the BA in English Literature and Community Engagement (ELCE). This degree is aimed at those who may need to balance work or other commitments alongside their studies. No prior qualifications are needed for entry.

The BA in ELCE offers you the opportunity to gain a University of Bristol undergraduate degree by studying one night per week. The course benefits from a unique lower tuition fee. The course is inclusive and open to applications from all those aged 21 and over at the time of enrolment. Applications from those with no prior educational experience or those wanting to return to education are encouraged.

The BA in ELCE is designed to give you the flexible opportunity you need to pursue undergraduate study as a mature learner.

To apply

Applications are open for entry in September 2023. The deadline for applications is 11 June 2023. To apply, please visit: bristol.ac.uk/elce.

Contact us:

Marie-Annick Gourmet (Programme Director)  
Craig Savage (Programme Deputy-Director)  
Email: elce-ptp-director@bristol.ac.uk  
Telephone: 0117 428 3747  
Web: bristol.ac.uk/elce

To find out more, please scan the QR code or visit bristol.ac.uk/elce

Finance

The BA in English Literature and Community Engagement meets the criteria for funding from Student Finance England. Prospective students can apply for both a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan.
On the BA in English Literature and Community Engagement, students have the opportunity to study literatures from throughout history and across the globe, as well as exploring the role of literature in society through a community-engaged project.

Through period modules, students are introduced to literature from the Medieval, Renaissance, Restoration, Romantic, Victorian, Modern and Contemporary eras, while thematic units explore subjects, such as American Literature or the Politics of Gender, and genres, like Poetry and the Short Story.

The community engagement aspect of the degree supports students to learn how literature can benefit society. The modules taught think through how the arts, and specifically literature, can make a contribution to the wider community, as well as a student’s own local community. Students also receive practical support and guidance for their community-engaged project.

**Jen’s Story**

“I always wanted to go to university but the right time and the right opportunities did not present themselves when I was younger. That all changed when I came across an ELCE flyer at my local Sainsbury’s. The programme ticked all the boxes: no previous qualifications, part time and evening study and, most importantly, the prospect of studying the books taught on the course. ELCE radically transformed my life. I discovered I had an undiagnosed learning difficulty: dyspraxia. Disability Services were a tremendous support. ELCE helped me realise that was capable of academic work and that I could learn in a way that suits me. The course amplified my love of literature and reading, gave me confidence and developed so many of the skills I use in my working life. I’d recommend ELCE to anyone!”
Get in touch
Email: english-lifelong@bristol.ac.uk
Phone: 0117 928 8924