Since September 2006, the University of Guelph has offered an innovative Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Program in Creative Writing, housed in the University of Guelph-Humber building in Toronto, the most richly diverse city in the country. The program welcomes and is structured to nurture and support many voices and wide imaginaries. Our distinguished faculty and our many acclaimed graduates recognize the power of language to summon a different world. Defining characteristics include the plenary courses Writers on Writing and Writers in the World, the participation of a diverse range of writers from Canada and abroad, class visits from industry professionals, and alliances with a number of cultural organizations in the Toronto area.

Required courses include three intensive semester-long workshops, two reading-based plenary courses, and an individual study course with a professional writer. The program culminates in a book-length thesis project. Workshops address the following genres: creative nonfiction, drama, fiction and poetry. The CW MFA is a full-time program and has been designed to facilitate completion within two years.

The program provides students with various opportunities to connect with the arts and culture community, and especially to make contact with well-established writers from across Canada and abroad. In its curriculum and with respect to the writers who participate as workshop instructors, mentors, and visitors, the MFA program has both a national and an international reach while taking full advantage of its location in Toronto. We offer fall Master Classes in partnership with Harbourfront’s International Festival of Authors and provide extra-curricular pedagogical opportunities such as the Parkdale Project, a community outreach initiative in downtown Toronto schools. Numerous other links – with the Eden Mills Writers’ Festival, the Humber School for Writers, Humber College, and Toronto theatres, for example – provide MFA students with extraordinary possibilities for professional development.

Location

The program is located at the University of Guelph’s satellite location in Toronto. All classes are held in the Guelph-Humber building on the Humber College North campus.

To Apply

Applicants must submit an application form, an academic transcript, a letter of intent, two letters of reference, a CV and a portfolio of 25-40 pages. The application deadline for fall 2017 is December 5th, 2016. For more information, please contact Mahak Jain at 647.459.1331, or jainm@uoguelph.ca.

Program Highlights

- Students are offered an immersive opportunity to develop as writers in a professionally stimulating and intellectually challenging environment.
- Unique reading-based plenary courses, Writers on Writing and Writers in the World, bring together all students in the program for dynamic debates on the writing life and craft.
- Semester-long opportunity for one-on-one study with a professional writer
- Guaranteed funding for the six semesters of enrollment
- Work opportunities through the Humber Writing Centre

Graduate Faculty
Dianne Brand
Catherine Bush
Judith Thompson

Associate Faculty
Margaret Christakos
Karen Connolly
Camilla Gibb
Kathryn Kulinterbruewer
Shani Mootoo
Michael Redhill
Russell Smith

Mentors & Visitors
Gil Adamson
Ken Babstock
Anita Rau Badami
Suzanne Buffam
Lynn Coady
Emma Donoghue
Deborah Eisenberg
Francesco Goldman
Alessandro Hemon
Sheila Heti
Helen Humphreys
Karl Ove Knausgaard
Dennis Lee
Ben Lerner
Daniel MacIvor
Yann Martel
Don McKay
Claire Messud
John Mighton
Daniel David Moses
Lisa Moore
Colleen Murphy
Michael Ondaatje
Heather O’Neill
Michael Redhill
Nina Ricci
David Adams Richards
Leon Rooke
Shyam Selvadurai
Karen Solie
Michael Winter

Affiliate Faculty
Gregor Campbell
Michelle Elleray
Alan Flavel
Mark Fortier
Sky Gilbert
Stephen Henighan
Karen Huda
Ric Knares
Daniel O’Quinn
Pablo Ramirez
Jennifer Schacker

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