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UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

LECTURER IN CREATIVE WRITING

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, MUSIC & VISUAL CULTURE

Closing date: 16 September 2022

Interview date: 30 September 2022

Reference number: LAN131A



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Version: Sep21

INTRODUCTION

The School of Language, Literature, Music & Visual Culture seeks to appoint a Lecturer in Creative Writing in the area of creative non-fiction. Expertise in any area of creative non-fiction will be welcomed, although interest in life writing or environmental humanities would be an advantage.

Located within English Studies (which includes Creative Writing), the postholder will contribute teaching to relevant undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes in the School, including both Creative Writing and English Literature. The postholder will undertake practice-led research in creative writing. Applicants should have postgraduate qualifications up to PhD level in creative writing or a related area; have a track record of practice-led outputs and/or publications appropriate for the career stage and suitable for submission to the UK Research Excellence Framework; have a clear plan of research activity (outputs, publications, external funding, public engagement/impact); and have experience of teaching at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level. The postholder will contribute to the development and promotion of public engagement activities and relevant research centres in the School and University. Interdisciplinary research interests aligned with the University's Interdisciplinary Challenges research areas would be an advantage (Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Energy Transition; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing).

The role will be undertaken within the School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture. More information on the School can be found below.

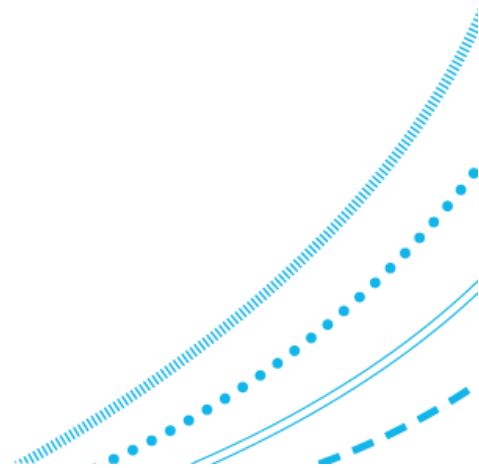
We would particularly welcome applications from candidates from Black, Asian or other minority ethnic groups as they are currently underrepresented in the subject area.

English Studies has a long tradition of excellence at Aberdeen. In the last national assessment of research (REF 2021), 89.5% of research outputs were rated as world leading or internationally excellent. Areas of strength include creative writing, early modern studies, environmental humanities, medical humanities, national and transnational literatures, textual editing and trauma studies. Creative Writing has performed disproportionately well relative to the small size of the teaching team, often ranking in the top five programmes nationwide. The Creative Writing team has a long and successful history of public engagement activity, including the Creative Scotland-funded WayWORD festival.

English leads or contributes to a number of research centres hosted by the School, including the WORD Centre for Creative Writing, the Centre for the Novel, the Walter Scott Research Centre, the Grierson Centre for Textual Criticism and Comparative Literary History and the Washington Wilson Centre for Visual Culture. Alongside its undergraduate programme in English, it offers a range of Master's programmes, including MLitts in Literatures, Environments and Places; English Language and Literature; and Creative Writing. The postholder will have the opportunity to contribute to interdisciplinary initiatives within the School and across the University, such as the Research Centre for Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity.

Staff profiles in English can be viewed here:

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sll/people/index.php#panel1285>



JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The successful candidate will undertake research as creative practice in an area of creative non-fiction. Research interests or teaching experience in a relevant area of literary studies would be an advantage. They will contribute to the undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes offered by English Studies, including teaching across both Creative Writing and English Literature sides of the programme. They will undertake supervision of postgraduate research students, will, where appropriate, contribute to School and University research centres, and will pursue external funding opportunities. Responsibilities will also include administrative roles as agreed with the Undergraduate Programme Co-ordinator for English and the Head of School in Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture.

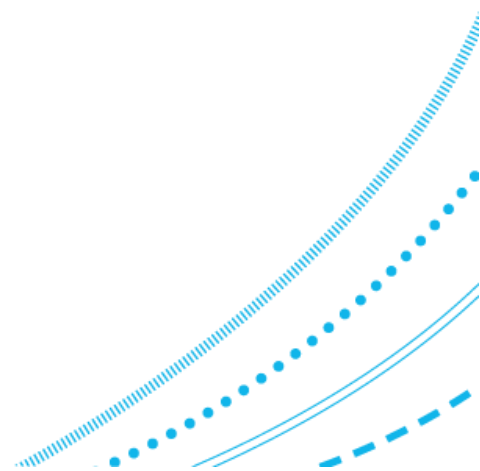
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Practice-based research in a relevant area, including publication, grant application, public engagement and impact-related activity.
- Teaching, examination and assessment at undergraduate and taught postgraduate levels in English Studies.
- Recruitment and supervision of postgraduate research students.
- Administrative duties as agreed with the Undergraduate Programme Co-ordinator and the Head of School.
- Other relevant activities in the School, College and University as agreed with the Head of School.
- See also the Person Specification below.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

You will hold a PhD in a relevant area of Creative Writing or area of English Literature relevant to the post. You will have a record of excellent research and publication appropriate for the career stage, a clear plan of research activity for the coming years, including plans for obtaining external research funding and research impact, and experience of teaching at undergraduate level. You will have excellent written and spoken communication skills and be able to engage with students and promote student learning in a range of ways.

Your covering letter should set out how you would envisage making a contribution to Creative Writing at the University of Aberdeen.



TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the appropriate point on Grade 7, £42,149 – 50,296 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on an occasional or regular basis. For more information please refer to our [Homeworking Policy](#).

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Storey, HR Adviser (e-mail: lauren.storey@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 7

£42,149 – 50,296 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:

Full time

CONTRACT TYPE:

Substantive

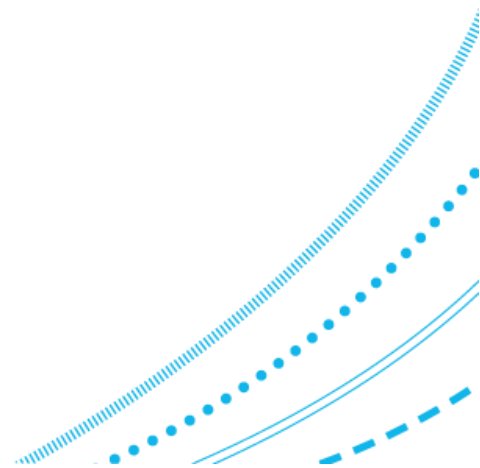
LOCATION:

Aberdeen



PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PhD in Creative Writing or related area relevant to the requirements of the School. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PG Certificate in Higher Education or equivalent qualification • Fellowship of the UK Higher Education Academy
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A track record of excellent research and publication in a relevant subject area, appropriate to the career stage • A well-developed plan of research, including plans for publication, research funding and impact-related activity • Experience of teaching activity at undergraduate level in creative writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of teaching in UK Higher Education • Experience of teaching at postgraduate level • Experience of public engagement or impact-related activity • Experience of university administration • Experience of teaching activity at undergraduate level in modern and contemporary literature • Interdisciplinary research interests
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent communication skills (oral and written) • Ability to work independently and as part of a team • Ability to build a rapport with students and impart enthusiasm for the subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Other e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.		



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.



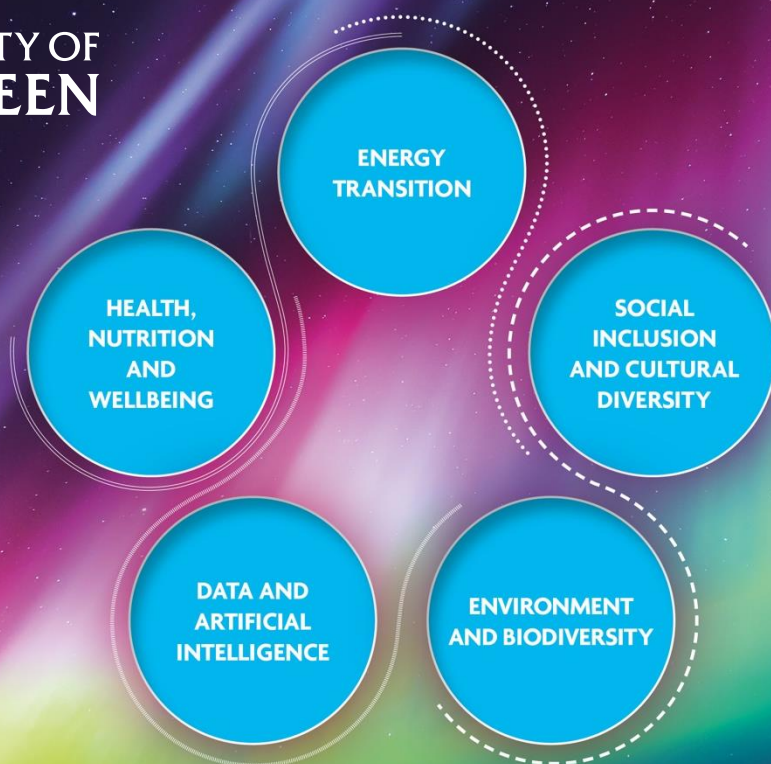
CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on its achievements. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen's estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts and in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched [Aberdeen 2040](#), our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- Inclusive**
 We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- Interdisciplinary**
 We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- International**
 We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- Sustainable**
 We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances. We work responsibly.



OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in e.g. Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 31st in the world for International Outlook². The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to deliver programmes on a dedicated campus in Qatar in partnership with AFG College. Phase 1 has successfully recruited over 600 students and Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus visit www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT

Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.

¹ QS World University Rankings 2022

² Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022



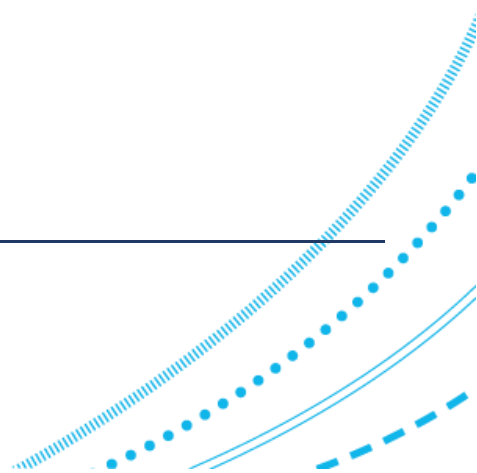
In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, MUSIC & VISUAL CULTURE

English Studies is one of nine disciplines in the School of Language, Literature, Music & Visual Culture. The School brings together a broad range of arts and humanities disciplines, including Celtic & Anglo-Saxon Studies, English Studies, Modern Languages (French and Francophone Studies, Gaelic Studies, German Studies and Spanish & Latin American Studies), Language & Linguistics and Film & Visual Culture. The School welcomed the Department of Music and the Elphinstone Institute (previously within the School of Education) in September 2015, consolidating a number of links and collaborations established over the years.

The School is home to one of the largest undergraduate cohorts in the University, and runs a diverse series of Masters programmes reflecting the research and teaching interests of its staff. It has a long history of excellent research across all its disciplines. The School's research strengths and interests are reflected in its various research centres. It holds approximately fifty academic posts, accompanied by a further fifty part-time and temporary staff (including language assistants), and is supported by ten administrative and secretarial staff.

³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021



ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [Music Hall](#), [Art Gallery](#), [the P&J Arena](#), [Museums](#), and [Beach Leisure Centre](#). The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen has ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, and was recently named the happiest city in the UK to live and work in⁴.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com

⁴ Shawbrook Bank Happiest Cities Index 2021



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php>.

The University's commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using [contact SCOTLAND-BSL](#).

The University is delighted to be accredited as a [Disability Confident](#) employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is **16 September 2022**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Dr Elizabeth Anderson, Undergraduate Programme Co-ordinator for English

01224 272555

sarahelizabeth.anderson@abdn.ac.uk

Please do **not** send application forms or CVs to Dr Anderson.

Please quote reference number **LAN131A** on all correspondence

