

**Newcastle University**  
**School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics**  
**MASTERS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – MA WRITING POETRY**  
Eligibility Criteria and Application Guidelines

The School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at Newcastle University, UK, is seeking outstanding outstanding MA Writing Poetry applicants for a scholarship award for September 2024 entry worth £10,800 (full fees).

Successful applicants will join our thriving School in which the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 placed our research in English Literature and Creative Writing 1st in the UK (Times Higher Education) and our research in Modern Languages and Linguistics 7th in the UK (Times Higher Education).

This accredited MA uniquely combines masterclasses, workshops and individual teaching with a core footing in the professional poetry world, encompassing all aspects of creative practice. There is expert tuition from nationally and internationally renowned poets: Glyn Maxwell and Meryl Pugh (London); Tara Bergin, W.N. Herbert, Sinéad Morrissey and Jacob Polley (Newcastle). Students come together for a one-week summer school in July, alternating between Newcastle and London each year.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis to applicants who, at the time the application for the Scholarship is submitted, have completed an application on the [admissions portal](#) for 2024/25 entry on the MA Writing Poetry (either London (4155P) or Newcastle (4154P)).

Scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants should have achieved, or be predicted to achieve, a **first-class or 2:1** undergraduate degree or, where relevant, a lower qualification with professional practice that provides equivalent academic and research skills. Applicants are expected to outline why Newcastle University or the Poetry School in London is the best place to undertake Postgraduate study and how Masters level study will lead to doctoral study or otherwise support their future career aspirations.

#### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Applicants must submit the following documents to Scott Burdon ([scott.burdon@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:scott.burdon@newcastle.ac.uk)) by the deadline:
  - An up-to-date CV (no more than 2 pages in length)
  - A transcript of undergraduate marks
  - A proposal for funding of 750 words (excluding bibliographies/list of references)\*
  - A sample of creative writing (a portfolio of up to ten poems)

#### AND

2. Applicants must ask one academic referee to send a reference letter to Scott Burdon by the deadline. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that referees meet this deadline.** Your reference should be from those who are best placed to comment in detail on your undergraduate work and potential for postgraduate study. Referees will be asked to comment on past performance, deservedness for funding, predicted results (if applicable), as well as their potential and preparedness for postgraduate study.

\*The proposal for funding should, where relevant, consider the following questions:

- Why is the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at Newcastle University or the Poetry School in London the best place for you to embark on postgraduate research (e.g. in terms of resources, research strength, research Centres and Institutes)?
- How have your undergraduate studies – or equivalent professional experience – prepared you for your chosen Masters programme?
- How will your chosen Masters programme aid your career development:
  - How do you envisage your Masters programme leading to an application for a Research Council funded PhD?
  - If you are interested in a career outside of academia, how do you envisage your Masters programme supporting your future career plans? For example:
    - What skills would you hope to acquire from PG study?
    - How will you contribute to the School's postgraduate community?

Shortlisted applicants may be invited for interview, with all successful and unsuccessful applicants notified by the end of June.

#### **CONTACT**

Melanie Birch (Newcastle) or Tessa Foley (London)

#### **DEADLINE**

The deadline for applications and references is **7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 by 5pm.**

Applications that are late or incomplete will not be considered.