

# Doctoral Programme Profile

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## English and Creative Writing

Awarding Institution	University of Chichester
Teaching Institution	University of Chichester
Final award	PhD
Name of academic discipline	English and Creative Writing
FHEQ level of final award	Level 8
Research Degree Coordinator for area	Professor Fiona Price
Date Programme Profile was last revised	26/08/2018

All PGR Programme Profiles should be read alongside the [University of Chichester's Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy and the Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

## Programme Outline

### Brief outline of the programme

The research degree programme aims to provide students with an outstanding learning experience in a supportive community of learning. The department is known nationally and internationally for excellence in research and teaching and all of its staff are engaged in conducting their own research. Information on staff research interests and achievements can be found on the Departmental web pages. Please see <https://www.chi.ac.uk/humanities/public-humanities>.

English and Creative Writing at the University of Chichester is part of the thriving research culture. Research students benefit from training sessions and reading groups aimed at postgraduates, and also have the opportunity to attend the annual programme of visiting national and international speakers.

Postgraduate students are supervised by active researchers who regularly publish in prestigious academic journals, write textbooks and monographs, and speak at international and national conferences. Students can also benefit from the Sussex Centre for Folklore, Fairy Tale and Fantasy, Thresholds, the International Short Story Forum, and the Chichester Romanticism and Eighteenth-Century Seminar Series, all of which aim to provide a dynamic research environment for students working in those fields.

In the area of English and Creative Writing we offer programmes of study leading to the award of the higher degrees of MPhil (circa 50,000 words) and PhD (circa 75,000 words). These programmes are available as full-time and part-time study options. As well as the MPhil or PhD in Creative Writing, candidates may consider the possibility of a joint critical/creative an MPhil or PhD in English and Creative Writing.

Expert supervision for these is available in the following areas:

- Creative writing (contemporary fiction, poetry and drama)
- Shakespeare and Early modern drama
- Romantic period and eighteenth-century women's writing, including Wollstonecraft and Austen
- Historical Novel
- Eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century novel
- Children's literature
- Fantasy literature
- Twentieth-Century literatures
- Contemporary literature
- Post colonialism
- Critical Theory
- Ecocriticism

### Aims of the Programme

The main aims of the programme are:

- a) the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, or of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication;
- b) a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of the academic discipline;
- c) the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- d) a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry appropriate to the discipline.

## **Programme Outcomes**

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

Having successfully completed this programme you:

- have demonstrated a systematic understanding of a field of study and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field;
- have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity;
- have made a contribution through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication;
- are capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
- can communicate with your peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about your areas of expertise;
- can be expected to be able to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge-based society.

### **Learning and Teaching Methods**

The PhD programme is delivered through a supervised research project. Each student will have a supervisory team of at least two appropriately qualified academic staff, one of whom will be the Director of Studies. A description of the responsibilities of the supervisory team can be found in the [Code of Practice](#).

### **Assessment methods**

The award of MPhil or PhD is assessed through submission of a written thesis or equivalent for practice based disciplines and an oral examination with a panel of examiners (*viva voce*). The viva is compulsory for PhD and optional for MPhil.

### **Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

The majority of subject specific intellectual and research skills are gained through the process of doing research within the context of supervisory meetings and support. On occasion it may be helpful for a student to undertake specific research skills training such as that taught as part of Masters programmes or as part of the postgraduate research training programme coordinated by the Research Office.

### **Professional Development and Transferable Skills**

Those completing their doctoral programme will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

Research students have access to the University's Staff Development Programme as well as a range of other formal and informal training activities coordinated at the department, area or University level.

# Programme Structure

## Admissions

MPhil/PhD students can register either at the start of October or the start of February. Admission requirements are described in the [Code of Practice](#) (in particular see clauses 11 to 25).

## Candidature

Maximum candidature is 48 months in Full Time registration, 84 months in Part Time Registration.

## Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's [Higher Degree Regulations](#) as set out on the University website.

During the programme there are a number of academic milestones that the student will need to complete.

These include:

- Confirmation of research project (2000 word proposal and completed Form 1) after three months (full time) and six months (part-time)
- Satisfactory Annual Progress reports
- Satisfactory Major Review (only for PhD programmes).

## Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning. Some of these are accessible to students across the University and some of these will be geared towards students in your particular Faculty or discipline.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high-speed access to online electronic learning resources from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. A wide range of application software is available from the PCs in each LRC.
- computer accounts that connect you to a number of learning technologies including the Moodle virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the University's intranet.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online support and a dedicated helpdesk at the SIZ at each of the LRCs.
- Enabling Services offering assessment, guidance and facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- Student Support Services to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards ([studentadviser@chi.ac.uk](mailto:studentadviser@chi.ac.uk))
- Careers support, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.
- a Research Office which coordinates a programme of professional development and skills training ([pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk](mailto:pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk))
- An appropriate research environment, as set out in the [Code of Practice](#)

The Students' Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of elected Student Voices in every department, Academic Representatives for both campus', and the SU President and Vice President. UCSU provides training and support for those who represent students' views to the University.
- extracurricular activities and volunteering opportunities

- free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal or apply for mitigation
- opportunity to thank and reward staff through the SU Teaching Awards

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

### **The Sussex Centre for Folklore, Fairy Tale and Fantasy**

At the heart of the Sussex Centre is a focus on folklore, fairy tales and fantasy as creative forces in literature and culture.

The Centre provides a forum where writers, scholars, performers, artists and aficionados can explore folk narratives, fairy tales and fantasy in various forms including print, film, and the visual and performing arts. The project's scope is geographically and culturally inclusive. However, its founding impulse is related to Sussex, an area rich in folk narrative, fairy tales and works of fantasy by Blake, Farjeon, Gaiman, Keats, Kipling, MacDonald, Peake, Shelley, Tennyson and Wilde, all of whom have Sussex connections, as do the fantasy illustrators Peake, Rackham, and Shepard.

Best-selling British fantasy (Tolkien, Lewis, Pullman, Rowling) may seem to rule the waves, but its sources and audiences are international. It is the diversity and exuberance of folktales, fairy tales and the fantastic imagination that the Centre seeks to explore, discuss and celebrate in a range of ways.

#### Chichester Romanticism and Eighteenth-Century Seminar Series

CRESS was founded in 2009 to promote academic research into all aspects of the long eighteenth century. The group aims to facilitate interdisciplinary debate and discussion between researchers and students in the region's academic institutions. It holds and advertises a range of events, including academic seminars, conferences, postgraduate fora, and public events.

In addition, the group is developing a number of publication projects and research initiatives, drawing on the expertise of scholars of the long eighteenth-century in this region and nationally.

The group's wider iteration, SCERRG, was launched by the University of Chichester, in partnership with Chawton House and the universities of Kent, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Winchester. It will also prove of interest to scholars, students and members of the general public who wish to advertise or attend events relating to the study of the long eighteenth century.

#### **Postgraduate**

One of the key aims of the CRESS Group is to encourage dialogue amongst the South Coast postgraduate community. Postgraduates from any discipline are warmly invited to attend group events, seminars and conferences, as well as any events targeted specifically at postgraduates.

Students also have access to extensive online resources, inter-library loans, computers and office space.

#### **Fees information**

Current information about the fees for postgraduate research degree programmes are available on the University's website <http://www.chi.ac.uk/study-us/fees-finance/tuition-fees>

#### **Further information**

For general queries about research degree programmes please contact the research office using [pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk](mailto:pgrsupport@chi.ac.uk)

For queries specific to the Department of English and Creative Writing please contact Professor Fiona Price <https://www.chi.ac.uk/staff/professor-fiona-price>