

Lecturer in Scottish Literature and Creative Writing

School	English and Creative Writing (https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/subjects/english/)		
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/)		
Staff Category	Academic	Reference No	385377
Reports To	Head of School	Grade:	7
Salary Range:	£36,914 per annum	Contract Type:	Open Contract
FTE:	1 (Full time)	Closing Date	Sunday 22 August 2021

Job Advert

The School of Humanities seeks to appoint a Lecturer to join our English & Creative Writing subject team, on a full-time open-ended contract. English has been taught at the University of Strathclyde since 1964, when the university received its Royal Charter. Creative Writing has been taught at Strathclyde since the 1980s, with notable alumni and staff including Andrew O'Hagan, Zoe Wicomb, Margaret Elphinstone and David Kinloch. We are ranked 5th in *The Guardian* university subject league table for English & Creative Writing (2021) and 5th for English in the *Complete University Guide* (2022).

We have a number of active research projects and have recently attracted funding from the AHRC, The British Academy, and The Leverhulme Trust. The unit currently teaches two undergraduate pathways (English and English & Creative Writing), and two postgraduate degrees (Creative Writing and Interdisciplinary English Studies). We have PhD students from across the globe working across areas from the early modern period to contemporary literature. Our past and present PhD and MRes students in Creative Writing have produced fiction and poetry drawing on varied resources, including oral history. Strathclyde has expertise in a range of approaches to literary production including animal studies, experimental writing, linguistic and cognitive literary studies, postcolonial writing, queer theory, and literature as heritage. In terms of period, we have a particular expertise in the Renaissance, the Victorian, and the contemporary. We have Creative Writing expertise in fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and screen-writing.

In the area of Scottish Literature, we have research interests in 19th and 20th century literature, periodical publishing, hybrid writing, creative non-fiction, and historical fiction. Strathclyde will be jointly hosting the 2nd International Alasdair Gray Conference in 2022. At an undergraduate level, Creative Writing is integrated into all core provision of English Literature. We are looking for a candidate who can make a distinct contribution to research and teaching in Scottish Literature and Creative Writing at Strathclyde. Ideally, the candidate will contribute equally to teaching in Scottish Literature and Creative Writing. Applicants should have a strong research publication profile in Scottish Literature and Creative Writing (this will normally be a combination of research publications and creative writing). We are open to candidates working in any area of 20th century and contemporary Scottish Literature who have an established track record of teaching and research in Creative Writing. We particularly welcome candidates whose research sits within the School's broad research themes: Heritage, Culture and Place; Communication, Language and Translation; or Gender. Applicants should have an ability to secure research funding, including experience of contributing to grant applications. A track record and/or potential to lead research bids, as well as a track record and/or potential in KE/impact activities would be advantageous.

Candidates should have a PhD in English/Scottish Literature and/or Creative Writing. They should have substantial relevant teaching experience at undergraduate and postgraduate level (including experience of assessing student performance and providing student feedback). Candidates should be able to contribute teaching to a range of existing undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Literature and Creative Writing, as well as designing and convening classes based on their research expertise.

Job Description

Brief Outline of Job:

To deliver a range of established teaching modules and undertake student assessment activities, with support and guidance from senior colleagues as required; to collaborate with colleagues on course development and curriculum changes; to engage in relevant scholarship, professional and knowledge exchange activities; and input to administrative activities.

Main Activities/Responsibilities:

1.	Engage in individual and collaborative research, establishing a distinctive programme of research and disseminating results through regular publications in high impact journals, books and conference proceedings.
2.	Apply, as Principal- or Co-Investigator, to appropriate external bodies for research funding and manage grants awarded. Supervise research students and staff as required, providing direction, support and guidance.
3.	As part of the teaching team, contribute to existing teaching in Literature and Creative Writing in coordination with colleagues.
4.	Design and deliver a range of teaching materials at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including contribution to curriculum review and enhancement, in a manner that supports a research-led approach to student learning.
5.	Undertake student assessment and examination activities, including the provision of appropriate feedback to students.
6.	Develop knowledge exchange activities by, for example, establishing research and/or educational links with industry and influencing public policy and the professions.
7.	Balance the competing pressures of teaching, research and administrative demands and deadlines, with support and advice as required.
8.	Carry out School, Faculty and/or University administrative and management functions, for example through membership of committees and/or by acting as class/module/year co-ordinator.
9.	Engage in continuous professional development.

Person Specification

Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

E1 Good honours degree and PhD (or equivalent) in appropriate discipline

D1 Membership of relevant Chartered/professional bodies (including the Higher Education Academy)

Experience

E2 Research interests consistent with the strategic direction of the Department/School

E3 A body of published research in high quality publications demonstrating standards of excellence

E4 Relevant teaching experience at undergraduate and/or postgraduate levels, in particular Literature and/or Creative Writing

D2 Experience of managing research/teaching activities and teams

D3 Experience of student assessment activities

D4 Experience of curriculum development

Job Related Skills and Achievements

E5 Commitment to quality and innovation in teaching Scottish Literature and Creative Writing

E6 Ability to work within an academic team environment and lead teams where required

E7 Ability to secure research funding, including experience of contributing to grant applications

D5 Track record of securing research funding

D6 Track record in knowledge exchange related activities

Personal Attributes

- E8 Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to listen, engage and persuade, and to present complex information in an accessible way to a range of audiences
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Application Procedure

Applicants are required to complete an application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted before interview without further permission, unless you indicate you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job as well as a Research Plan outlining your research strategy for the next 5 years. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

Other Information

Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<https://www.strath.ac.uk/workwithus/vacancies/>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Elspeth Jajdelska, Subject Leader in English and Creative Writing (elspeth.jajdelska@strath.ac.uk).

Conditions of Employment

Conditions of employment relating to the Academic staff category can be found at: [Conditions of Employment](#).

Rewards and Benefits

Our staff have access to a wide range of outstanding benefits that include financial rewards, family friendly and wellbeing benefits and career development opportunities, details of which can be found [here](#).

Probation

Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 9 month probationary period.

Pension

The successful applicant will be eligible to join the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

Relocation

Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the Relocation Policy.

Interviews

Formal interviews for this post will be held on Tuesday, 31 August 2021.

Equality and Diversity

We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

The University currently holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award, recognising our commitment to advancing gender equality in academia across all academic disciplines and professional and support functions.

University Values

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. [Our Values](#) have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.



Conditions of Employment

Non-Professorial Academic Staff

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Members of staff are subject to the Charter and Statutes and the Ordinances and Regulations of the University, published in the Calendar, and to any amendments or additions thereto approved by the University Court and, in the case of the Charter and Statutes, the Privy Council. Staff are also expected to familiarise themselves with, and adhere to, general University policies and procedures, as published on University web pages.

The University Court recognises Strathclyde Universities and Colleges Union (SUCU) as the sole body with which it will negotiate and consult on all collective issues concerned with the terms and conditions of employment of Academic Staff. Such terms and conditions may be varied by the University Court after negotiation and consultation with SUCU.

Each member of staff is responsible for the proper performance of allocated duties to the person or persons specified in the member of staff's letter of appointment and any accompanying papers.

The University is committed to ensuring that its business is conducted in an open and transparent manner and will take all appropriate steps to address risks of bribery or corruption. Members of staff are required at all times to act honestly and with integrity and to safeguard the resources for which they are responsible. The University has in place a robust Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy to enable concerns to be brought to its attention. This is available at www.strath.ac.uk/publicinterestdisclosure. Other relevant policies, e.g. Fraud Prevention and Conflicts of Interests, can also be found on the University's website.

Any member of staff may at any time be exposed to commercially sensitive information, information related to potentially valuable intellectual property or information which may otherwise be of a confidential nature. This information, which could be found anywhere in the University, may be written or disclosed orally, can include information of a commercial or technical nature, and may be owned by the University or by third parties. The University requires all employees to keep any such information confidential in the first instance and not disclose, publish or otherwise disseminate it without prior consent of the University. Such confidentiality obligations are commonplace and in the commercial interests of the University. When in doubt advice should always be sought from Research and Knowledge Exchange Services prior to disclosure.

The University operates probationary periods for new staff. The probation period for posts in this staff category is 12 months. Further guidance on probationary procedures is published at www.strath.ac.uk/hr.

Further information on the terms and conditions specified in this document and other staffing policies and procedures can also be found at www.strath.ac.uk/hr.

2. SALARY

Appointments are made at an appropriate salary point on the University's grading structure, with initial placing determined according to qualifications and experience. Increments are paid to staff on 1 April each year, when the employee has a minimum of 6 full months of service at the appointed grade, allowing progression to the next point on the salary scale until the top guaranteed point of the scale is reached.

Salaries are paid directly to staff members nominated bank account, normally on the second last working day of the month.

3. HOURS OF WORK

Working time is that required to fulfil the duties of the post. The duties are: research, teaching, knowledge exchange and administrative activities organised by agreement with the Head of Department/School/equivalent to produce a reasonable balance of commitment between these duties. The University Court recognises that Academic Staff carry out these duties in a wide variety of ways, but expects student contact to take place on the campuses during normal working hours on week days. There are exceptions to this pattern which may involve student contact at other locations or in the evenings, or at the weekends, but these arrangements will be made with the agreement of the member of staff concerned and may involve additional payment.

4. HOLIDAYS

Annual leave entitlement is 31 days per year to be taken by agreement with the line manager. For staff members working on a part-time basis, holidays will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

In addition to annual leave there is an entitlement to eleven public holidays per year which should be taken on days that the University is closed for this purpose. The University presently closes for four additional days over the Christmas and New Year period. **These additional days count against the annual leave entitlement.**

For staff members working on a part-time basis, public holiday entitlement will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

Annual leave and public holiday entitlements should be taken in the leave year to which they relate. Up to five days leave can be carried forward into the new leave year subject to line management agreement. In exceptional circumstances, Heads of Department/School/equivalent may approve carry forward of accrued annual leave in excess of five days.

The University's expectation is that staff take all accrued holidays prior to their termination date. If staff have exceeded their entitlement the University will deduct an equivalent number of days pay from final salary payments.

5. SICKNESS ABSENCE

During any period of absence through illness or injury provided the appropriate notification and certification procedures have been followed the University will pay a member of staff (having taken account of the aggregate of all periods of absence due to illness during the twelve months immediately preceding the first day of the current absence) as follows:

Period of Continuous Employment at start of absence from work	Full Pay	Half Pay
Less than 1 year	1 month	1 month
1 year but less than 2 years	2 months	2 months
2 years but less than 3 years	4 months	4 months
3 years but less than 5 years	5 months	5 months
5 years or more	6 months	6 months

In order to manage the University's sick pay scheme the University requires to maintain sickness absence records on individual members of staff. When making payments after the expiry of statutory sick pay the University will deduct an amount equivalent to any benefit normally payable by the Department of Work and Pensions. For full details on the general University policy in this area please refer to the Sickness Absence Management Policy at www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/hr

6. PENSIONS

If you are under age 75 at the date your appointment commences you will automatically become a member of the pension scheme operated by the University – the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). You will be admitted to the career revalued benefits scheme called the USS Retirement Income Builder, the contribution rate that currently applies is 9.6% of pensionable salary. A threshold applies to the maximum salary that counts towards the USS Retirement Income Builder. From 1 April 2021, the threshold is £59,883.65 per year. Contributions based on salary above the monthly equivalent rate of the threshold are paid to the defined contribution section of the scheme called the USS Investment Builder. Information regarding USS can be found in the scheme booklet located on the website: https://www.uss.co.uk/-/media/Project/USSMainSite/Files/For_members/Guides/Your_guide_to_Universities_Superannuation_Scheme.pdf. The scheme booklet is called 'Your Guide to the Universities Superannuation Scheme'.

The University operates a salary exchange arrangement, Pensions Plus, for members of the USS. Pensions Plus enables pension contributions to be made in a manner so that both employees and the University can benefit from available National Insurance Contribution savings. You will be automatically included in Pensions Plus, provided it does not adversely affect your take-home pay or your ability to claim certain state benefits. If your earnings fall below the Pension Plus pay protection limit you will be opted out of Pension Plus. This will not affect your membership of the USS.

New members of staff may opt out of USS within three months of taking up appointment and will then be treated as if they had never been a member of the scheme. After three months members of staff who wish to withdraw from USS during their employment will be required to give a minimum of 28 days' notice in writing to the University. Any member of staff who wishes to opt out should contact the Pensions Section, Finance, in the first instance (pensions@strath.ac.uk). Please note that if you are a member of Pensions Plus and withdraw from USS with less than two years of membership, or cease employment with the University and have less than two years of USS membership, the option of a refund of pension contributions will not be available to you. Instead, USS must provide you with a pension benefit that is payable from your Normal Pension Age. Regardless of whether you participate in Pensions Plus, if you are a member of the pension scheme for two years or more you are not entitled to a refund of pension contributions on leaving the scheme, you will be entitled to a pension benefit.

The University reserves the right to alter or withdraw Pensions Plus as it sees fit or as required to comply with legislative changes. Withdrawal or amendment of Pensions Plus will not affect your membership of USS. If you do not wish to participate in Pensions Plus but wish to remain in the pension scheme please contact the Pensions Team who will provide you with a non-participation form.

Information regarding pension scheme membership can be found on the Pensions pages of the University's website. Full information regarding USS can be found on the USS website – www.uss.co.uk

7. PLACE OF WORK AND RESIDENCE

Members of staff will be based on the John Anderson Campus, unless otherwise stated in the letter of appointment. The Department/School in which the post is initially placed will be specified in the letter of appointment although there will be an expectation to work at such other places as required in the course of employment.

If the need arises for members of staff to work outside the UK for a period (or periods) of more than one month then such arrangements will be subject to mutual agreement. Members of staff would then be provided with a statement in advance setting out the terms covering such periods of employment.

The University does not normally place specific restrictions upon the place of residence of members of staff. All staff are, however, expected to reside in a location which is compatible with the satisfactory fulfilment of all the duties associated with their appointment.

8. CONSULTANCY/FURTHER ACTIVITIES

To support the strategic objectives of the University and to facilitate individual professional development, the University encourages staff to engage in professional activities with outside bodies related to their field of work. In many cases, such activity will be approved on the basis that it represents University knowledge exchange activity and should therefore be treated as part of the individual's overall workload and managed through the University's systems. It is also recognised that there will be some cases where an activity is entirely separate from the University and should thus be notified/approved as a personal business activity. For further information please refer to the "University Procedure in relation to Work for Outside Bodies including Consultancies", which forms part of the employment contract and can be accessed at www.strath.ac.uk/hr

9. DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Further information on the University's disciplinary and grievance procedure can also be found at www.strath.ac.uk/hr or on request from Human Resources.

10. NOTICE AND TERMINATION

The employment of a member of staff is terminable by at least three months' notice, in writing, on either side; termination dates are normally 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December. If notice is being given by a member of staff earlier release may be granted if this can be arranged without detriment to the work of the department or area. If the appointment is for a fixed term it will expire at the end of the period without the necessity for notice. Staff whose appointment has so terminated shall not normally be regarded as having been dismissed or removed from office in circumstances to which the terms of Ordinance 4.3 shall apply. Fixed term contracts may be terminated by either party short of the expiry date by the serving of three months' notice in writing. The University is not obliged to continue a fixed term appointment beyond the employment period.

Revised April 2021